



**Brighton
Council**

Media Release

21 Nov 2023

Brighton becomes first Council member of Committee for Greater Hobart and endorses Bridgewater Bridge Interchange Precinct Plan

Brighton Council has become the first Council member of the Committee for Greater Hobart, with council voting to join at its November 21 Council meeting.

Brighton Mayor, Leigh Gray said, *“As a council, we see great value in the Committee providing research, solutions from elsewhere, long-term non-partisan thinking and a consideration of the whole social catchment of greater Hobart, without the arbitrary boundaries created by the City Deal.”*

“Brighton’s Strategic Plan states that we should be ‘big picture, long-term and evidence-based in our thinking.’ This is the exact approach the Committee aims to bring to the Greater Hobart Region and we look forward to engaging with them.” He said.

The Committee for Greater Hobart Chief Executive, Danny Sutton, welcomed Brighton Council as a significant voice in shaping the future of the region and he invited other councils to consider becoming part of this important work.

“One of our clear focusses in establishing the Committee has been to be open to working with organisations like Brighton Council, who can provide unique perspectives on the challenges facing the region, as well as significant expertise and resources to develop future solutions” he said.

At the same meeting, Brighton Council endorsed the *Bridgewater Bridge Northern Interchange Precinct Masterplan*, a project that was co-funded by the State Government with the purpose of considering local issues and opportunities created by the new Bridgewater Bridge and ways to address them. The process involved significant community consultation before the final plan was presented to Council.

The Bridgewater Bridge Project will result in profound changes to the urban environment on the Bridgewater side of the river nearby the Bridge. This brings with it both challenges and opportunities for the local community and for Council. Council and the Department of State Growth therefore engaged Consultants to prepare a Masterplan of the area in response to these challenges and opportunities.

“The Plan includes recommendations regarding ferry infrastructure and service, bus interchange, and importantly demonstrates a generational opportunity to leverage Tasmania’s largest infrastructure project to unlock an exciting urban renewal project – a substantial waterfront precinct with residential, commercial and public space opportunities – and better connections with integrated transport options.” Explained Mayor Gray.



“The government need to understand that while the new bridge is a fantastic investment for the state and the region, it will only be of benefit to the local community if they invest in the precinct around it. We need to seize the opportunities it presents to create a more integrated, functional and fair public transport system. A bridge doesn’t help you much if you don’t have a means to travel across it.”

“We have such an opportunity here to leverage a massive project to help to connect our communities with opportunity, tackle structural disadvantage and not repeat the mistakes as we did in the past.” Mayor Gray added.

“We call on the government to be ambitious, think long-term, and reconsider its approach to ferry and bus services for our community. The Government needs to commit funding to implement the Precinct Master Plan – helping to unlock the integrated residential, commercial and public space opportunities this waterfront precinct contains. This will truly maximise the social and economic return on the huge investment made on the Bridgewater Bridge.”

The Master Plan can be viewed here: <https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/planning/strategic-plans/>

Ends

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