

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Tuesday August 26, 2008

A master plan with integrity would canvas options

The Premier, David Bartlett, needs to explain whether a master plan for the Hobart waterfront will include a new hospital at the rail yards as a fait accompli.

Asked this question directly in Parliament today, Mr Bartlett skirted completely around it.

It would appear there has been little progress on this issue in the last month while one catastrophe after another has hit the government.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said Tasmanians could have little faith that ten years of Labor inaction on the waterfront was about to be replaced by any form of proper process to deliver the best result for all Tasmanians in relation to this waterfront asset.

There are mounting concerns about the suitability of a new hospital on the railyards site, but the Health Minister, Lara Giddings, says it is going there regardless.

On the other hand, Mr Bartlett says he's committed to a master plan to guide development on the waterfront, but he won't say whether or not it will include a hospital as a fait accompli.

"If the master plan is to have an ounce of integrity, it should canvas and consult on a broad possible range of uses for the railyards site, including residential, tourism, commercial and public amenity purposes," Mr Hodgman said.

"If the government hasn't even completed a business case for a new hospital, why is it so insistent that it must go on this particular piece of land, particularly as concern mounts that it is not appropriate or capable of co-existing with a working port.

“Mr Bartlett can clarify the mess he has created on this issue by answering the very simple question of whether the master plan, if and when it is finally developed, will look at all options for the railyards, or whether it will include a new hospital as a fait accompli.”

Mr Hodgman said it highlighted Labor’s incapacity to deliver outcomes that after ten years in office, and after spending more than \$7.6 million on the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority, there didn’t exist a master plan, and that now that it had finally identified the need for one, it couldn’t explain whether a hospital would be subject to the sort of planning and consultation that such a master plan should involve.

Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073

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