



*media release*

Tasmanian Liberals

## **Will Hodgman MP**

Leader of the Opposition

## **Rene Hidding MP**

Liberal MP for Lyons

Thursday July 31, 2008

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### ***Bridgewater Bridge needs to be fixed***

The Leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman, and the Liberal member for Lyons, Rene Hidding today met with the Mayor and General Manager of the Derwent Council to discuss issues of concern to the Derwent Valley.

A key concern for the Derwent Valley is the state of the Bridgewater Bridge.

“After being closed for water traffic for years, the Government is proposing to work on the Bridge next year, with a possible completion date of sometime in 2010 in mind. One can only assume that they intend to reopen the Bridge to water traffic during the election campaign. However, there are no guarantees that the Bridge will even get that far. Successive infrastructure ministers have stonewalled calls to reopen the Bridge.

“This Government seems more than happy to let the Bridge fall into disrepair, regardless of the consequences for people in the Derwent Valley,” Mr Hodgman said.

Other topics discussed included the need for the urgent upgrade to the treacherous Lyell Highway intersection at Granton and the development of a new planning scheme for the Valley.

“The Derwent Valley has water resources and quality soils for high value horticulture, agriculture and dairying. These resources will be the focus of Tasmania’s economic future and any contemporary planning scheme will need to recognise this,” Mr Hidding said.

Further discussions were held over policy, tourism developments and bike lanes in any new Lyell Highway upgrades.

**Further information: Brad Nowland – 0439 614 893**