

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
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Gross ineptitude from the Premier

The Premier, David Bartlett's, handling of the Brooke St Pier redevelopment has taken another farcical twist, with his release today of information related to the proposal that he says he had no knowledge of Wednesday – the day he announced the preferred developers.

The State Government's handling of this issue has been beyond inept.

It is a mystery why the government has been tying itself up in knots on this issue and making itself such a laughing stock with the claims that it would have the Tasmanian public believe.

Last week, Mr Bartlett announced preferred developers of the Brooke St Pier, but said he didn't know what the proposal entailed and whether it involved a 100 room hotel as speculated, which beggared belief.

Under pressure, Mr Bartlett then gave the impression that he would be able to provide more details within a couple of weeks.

Meanwhile the Tourism and Economic Development Minister confirmed she's seen a proposal but couldn't recall the details.

And businesses in the waterfront area condemned the government's secrecy on the issue.

Now, miraculously on a Saturday afternoon, details of the development have been released. And the

State Opposition understands the document is stamped by the Department of Economic Development, and dated January.

“The Premier is treating Tasmanians like fools if he expects anyone to believe that he knew nothing about this proposal before he announced the preferred developers, when a proposal has been with government since at least January and was able to be produced when the pressure really started to mount,” Mr Hodgman said.

“The government looks dodgy on this issue, which is the last thing we need after ten years of stagnation on the waterfront. The community may be put offside simply by the way the government has handled this issue, irrespective of the merits or otherwise of the proposal.

“Mr Bartlett has unfortunately already established a pattern of being loose with the truth and just a bit too smart by half, and this farcical effort will only compound that.”

Mr Hodgman said it was very unfortunate that the government’s inept handling of this issue had distracted from the wider debate about the proposal itself.

“The State Opposition supports appropriate development of the waterfront and looks forward to studying the details of the proposal.”

Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073

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