

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Sunday July 27, 2008

Hobart's stagnant waterfront development

The development of Hobart's waterfront must be done in a sensible way, involving key stakeholders, planning and design experts and also the Tasmanian community.

But expectations raised by the Acting Premier, Lara Giddings, that the preparation of a master plan could take about 12 months is another clear sign that progress will be slow.

A waterfront authority was established to progress the appropriate development of the waterfront.

Since 2004/05 the Government has spent over \$7.6 million on the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority, but little progress has been made.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said one would expect that preparing a master plan would have been one of the principal tasks of the waterfront authority.

"It is now considered necessary by the Government - why wasn't it before?," Mr Hodgman said.

"And now the Government is saying development might occur without a master plan, but whilst it is being prepared.

"This is a confusing mess, clear evidence of a lack of strategic aptitude by the Labor Government, and an appalling message to send to prospective developers.

"And the vague hope of completing a master plan in around 12 months is simply not good enough."

Mr Hodgman said the Government has had a decade, and the Waterfront Authority more than three years, to start properly developing the waterfront.

"More uncertainty, the lack of a consistent planning process and the prospect of at least another year of dithering is an appalling indictment on the Labor Government," Mr Hodgman said.

Mr Hodgman repeated his calls for the Government to provide some basic details about the master plan – including:

- who is developing it?;

- has the new State architect been appointed, and if so, will this person be involved in the development of such an important blueprint, and if not, shouldn't they be?;
- what community consultation and input will there be into the master plan?; and
- how will projects put forward for development under the plan be assessed into the future?

For further information or comment please call Kristy Mays – 0407 503 910

Ref...waterfront.july27.km

Kristy Mays LLB (Hon)
Adviser
Office of the Tasmanian Leader of the Opposition
Will Hodgman MP
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 62338715
Fax: (03) 62332779
Mobile: 0407 503 910
www.willhodgman.com.au