

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Thursday July 10, 2008

Questions for the Premier on waterfront

It seems extraordinary that the Premier, David Bartlett, could announce a preferred developer for the Brooke St Pier area and have no idea what the proposal entails.

Yet that is what the Premier would have Tasmanians believe, according to his interview on ABC Radio this morning.

Yesterday, the Premier announced that six weeks ago, a preferred developer of the site had been selected.

He said this followed: *the acceptance of submissions to design, build, finance, lease, operate and maintain new ferry infrastructure and associated facilities at Sullivans Cove.*

And yet Mr Bartlett refuses to provide any details about the nature of the development or even the concept that has received the government's backing.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said the State Opposition strongly supports appropriate development of the Hobart waterfront.

There has been far too little progress under the State Labor Government to date.

"After ten years of nothing happening, it is surely incumbent upon the Premier to be informed about such a major development proposal for the waterfront," Mr Hodgman said.

"If the government has selected a preferred developer following a thorough and transparent process, then surely it can provide some details about the concept, and whether it includes the sort of accommodation development that has been speculated.

"Secrecy and a lack of transparency are hallmarks of the Labor Government and that certainly hasn't changed since Mr Bartlett became Premier."

Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073

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