

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
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Where is the waterfront master plan?

The Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, has called on the government to explain whether there is a master plan for the Sullivans Cove Waterfront area.

Mr Hodgman said it was extraordinary that more than three years after the establishment of a Waterfront Authority dedicated to handling planning issues on the Cove, the first major redevelopment proposal could come as such a major shock to the community and local businesses, and if the Premier is to be believed, the government itself.

“Many people are concerned because they do not understand how a proposal to redevelop the Brooke St pier has become a major hotel development, and how that fits into a broader plan for the area,” Mr Hodgman said.

“If it could be explained in the context of a master plan that indicates there is a well thought out a vision and a strategy for the whole area, then that could go some way towards alleviating community concerns.

“The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority received funding to the tune of \$2.39 million in 2006/07, and the very least that taxpayers are entitled to, after many years of it operating now, is an holistic plan for this area.”

In its last annual report, the authority made no mention whatsoever of an accommodation proposal for the Brooke St pier.

It said:

New infrastructure will include a passenger terminal, vessel-landing facilities, ticket offices and shelter for waiting passengers. It is also expected to make a contribution to the quality of public place and provide public facilities such as toilets.”

In the same report, the authority also seemed not to understand the implications of the government’s proposal for a new hospital on the waterfront. It said: *“the immediate task for the authority is to understand the strategic planning implications for the site and adjoining areas and to introduce appropriate statutory controls for the area.”*

“It is essential that we understand and appreciate how the waterfront is to be developed and especially in light of major projects such as a new hospital and a major hotel,” Mr Hodgman said.

“The government lacks the ability to plan strategically for the future and the current uncertainty surrounding Hobart’s waterfront is another illustration of this.”

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