



**EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
CANBERRA**

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07 July 2017

**Ms. Sue Hickey  
Lord Mayor  
City of Hobart  
Town Hall, Macquarie St  
Hobart, Tasmania**

**Dear Lord Mayor**

Thank you for your letter of 28 December 2016. It was a great pleasure to attend the Lord Mayor's reception and meet the Deputy Lord Mayor, other Alderman and guests that have been part of Timor-Leste's journey over the past 35 years.

I wish to thank your Council's recommendation to explore a potential relationship in Timor-Leste with the Hobart City Council Friendship program. I understand that representatives from the Tasmania to Timor-Leste Friendship Network met recently with Council alderman and staff to discuss a friendship city relationship and pilot project.

The Friendship Network met prior with the Tasmanian Timor-Leste Honorary Consul Dr Nitin Verma, to establish an appropriate area in Timor-Leste with a particular need that Hobart City can provide assistance to. The problem of waste products impacting on the health and economic potential was seen as a priority. The impact has a special connection to the tourism industry in Timor-Leste.

I would like to propose a relationship for Balibo with Hobart City and initiate a waste management region project for the area. The Friendship Network from Tasmania has visited Balibo which has special significant interest for Australians and made contacts with the Balibo House Trust and the dental clinic. Through the familiarization tour the proposal to initiate a waste management strategy demonstration project has received regional endorsement from the local officials.

Following the meeting the Tasmanian Friendship Network in conjunction with Dr Nitin Verma and Recovery consultant Brad Mashman of Recovery (TAS) Pty Ltd, have drafted a broad scope proposal of the proposed project (see attachment A). I have asked Dr Nitin Verma to work with me.

This is a significant start to the friendship and making contacts with the local people between the sponsors and partners involved and the regional authorities in Balibo in the Municipality of Bobonaro.

I will recommend to the Minister for State Administration responsible for all Timor-Leste's Municipalities to sign the MOU or specifically the Administrator of the Municipality of Bobonaro who will sign the MOU on behalf of Balibo.

I look forward to making progress with Council and Alderman in developing the relationship and sharing a future partnership. I would encourage the role of the Tasmania to Timor-Leste Friendship Network for their support and advice when appropriate.

Yours sincerely



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Abel Guterres  
Ambassador