

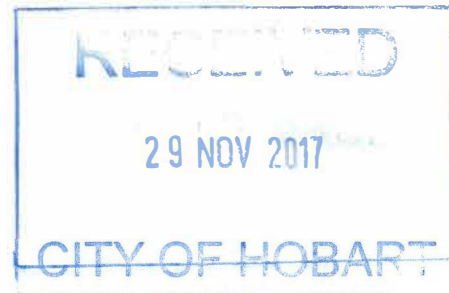
**Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management**

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27 NOV 2017

Alderman Sue Hickey
Lord Mayor
City of Hobart
GPO Box 503
HOBART TAS 7001




Dear Lord Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 2 November resulting from the River Derwent Ferry Forum held at the Town Hall earlier in the year, in which you request support for the development of a business plan.

As you noted, the Tasmanian Government is progressing its own plan for trans-Derwent ferries, initially between Bellerive and Sullivans Cove, in conjunction with Metro Tasmania.

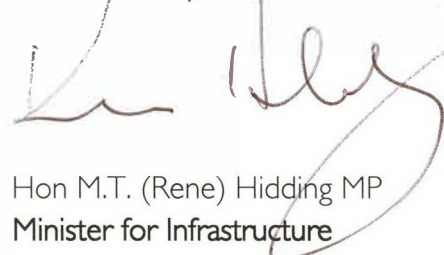
It was at your forum that there have already been a number of studies and reports commissioned over several years on the feasibility of Derwent River ferry transport. The Government has analysed the report generated from the Council stakeholder forum as well as earlier studies, including the January 2014 Tasmanian Government report and the Parsons Brinckerhoff report. With this existing body of information, the Government is confident that an initial ferry service between Bellerive and Sullivans Cove is a modest, but realistic first step in the revival of passenger transport on the Derwent. Even this first step would require the cooperation of Metro Tasmania and significant capital investment by the Tasmanian Government. It would also require ongoing operational support, at least through the establishment period.

I have been encouraged by the enthusiasm you have expressed as Lord Mayor for improved pedestrian links between Sullivans Cove and the CBD, by way of a tunnel or elevated walkway. This would be a significant contribution by the Hobart City Council to the success of a passenger ferry service into Sullivans Cove.

While the Government is committed to progressing its Derwent Fast Ferries Plan, that should not deter your Council from garnering the support of neighbouring Councils for the development of ferry infrastructure beyond that planned by the Tasmanian Government.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely


Hon M.T. (Rene) Hidding MP
Minister for Infrastructure