

MEDIA RELEASE
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Brooke St Ferry Pier Redevelopment Opportunity

Hobart's ferry fleet is to have a new home with Expressions of Interest being invited to redevelop Brooke St Pier, in the heart of popular Sullivans Cove.

Jeff Gilmore, Chief Executive of the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority, said the current infrastructure has a limited life and needs replacing with a modern, less cluttered, visitor-friendly facility.

"The current pier is reaching the end of its life span and needs replacing," Mr Gilmore said.

"Much as we love the waterfront and its many quirks and charms, this area is confusing for tourists, awkward for passengers to embark and disembark, is unsatisfactory for buses and taxis, and has no disability access.

"A new pier will improve the visitor experience, enable ferry operators to make long-term business development decisions, dramatically improve the facilities on the pier and improve safety and security."

Expressions of Interest for new ferry pier infrastructure will be advertised by the Department of Economic Development (DED) in weekend newspapers on Saturday 23 June 2007. The Department will supervise the selection process to choose a preferred tenderer, prior to a formal proposal being submitted to the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority.

"This is a unique opportunity for an astute investor to develop a significant piece of infrastructure in the heart of Hobart's tourism precinct," Mr Gilmore said.

"Of course, any development will need to be appropriate to the size and scale of the waterfront. It won't be anything like inappropriate proposals put forward in the past."

Mr Gilmore said the new Brooke St Ferry Pier would maintain its current purpose and the Authority is committed to ensuring the ferry industry remains strong and vibrant in Hobart.

"Sullivans Cove is an integral part of Hobart's identity, for tourists and locals alike, and any redevelopment must be in keeping with the overall area. The Cove is one of Hobart's and Tasmania's major tourist attractions. Brooke St Pier has Salamanca on one side, the Henry Jones complex on the other and a number of renowned cafes, bars and restaurants close by.

"The redevelopment will include replacing the existing ferry piers with a new facility that comprises a passenger terminal, vessel-landing facilities and supporting infrastructure including ticket offices and shelter for waiting passengers. It is also expected to make a contribution to the quality of public space and to provide public facilities such as toilets.

"In addition to these core requirements, the pier is envisaged to include commercial development of a design and nature that complements the passenger ferry facilities and the surrounding precinct."

The wharf complex that includes Brooke St Pier is Franklin Wharf, owned by the Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd (TasPorts).

TasPorts proposes to offer a long-term ground lease of the site, to be negotiated between TasPorts and the successful respondent who will be responsible for designing, constructing, financing and operating the pier development.

The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority will have responsibility for assessing the suitability of any proposed development, including its size and scale.

Mr Gilmore said the Authority is generally in favour of proposals that improve the visitor experience and spread activity across the whole of Sullivans Cove.

"We are very proud of our maritime heritage and want to ensure the ferry industry remains and thrives as a valued part of the Sullivans Cove community. Provided it's done right, a pier dedicated to our ferries will create an appropriate gateway to the maritime aspects of life in Hobart," Mr Gilmore said.

Mr Gilmore said the Authority had a close working relationship with TasPorts and DED, and all organisations agree that it is beneficial to spread activity across the whole of Sullivans Cove.

The size and scale of any development at Brooke Street will need to conform with the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme 1997 and Hobart Waterfront Urban Design Framework 2004, and will be subject to scrutiny by the Sullivans Cove Design Panel.

More information on the submission requirements will be available at www.tenders.tas.gov.au from 23 June 2007. Submissions must be lodged with DED by 2pm on Friday 3 August 2007.

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About the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority

The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority is the planning authority responsible for protecting, enhancing and developing Sullivans Cove and surrounding areas. The Authority aims to preserve the unique qualities of the Hobart Waterfront, which defines the identity, vitality and image of the Tasmanian people.

Media Enquiries

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Proposed location of new ferry infrastructure at Brooke St Pier, Sullivans Cove, Hobart

