

13 August 2009

DAVID BARTLETT MP
Premier

Premier delivers on Hobart waterfront

Premier David Bartlett today officially announced the first stage of works to improve access to Hobart's waterfront and the quality of public space on Franklin Wharf.

"Just over 12 months ago I announced that we needed a better approach for progressing developments on Hobart's Waterfront.

"During that time the Government has:

- redefined the role of the SCWA
- appointed the State Architect who will oversee the development of the Masterplan,
- developed a best practice template that ensures the community is consulted at all stages of the development process
- progressed major redevelopments in the Waterfront such as Parliament Square, Princes Wharf No 1, and Macquarie Wharf No 1.

"In February I announced \$1 million dollars to improve access to the water and the quality of public spaces – we are delivering on that commitment right now," Mr Bartlett said.

"The focal point of this project will be a Heritage Crane Plaza on the northern side of the Constitution Dock Bridge."

The development will incorporate the existing waterside landing with new tiered seating and a viewing platform, while a graphic treatment on the Wharf apron will highlight the 1897 heritage steam crane.

“Works will be completed in early December in time for the summer tourist season and will become an iconic home for the festivities associated with the finish of the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.”

The new plaza is the first stage of a series of improvements planned for Franklin Wharf.

Additional improvements include:

- A consistent 30km/h speed limit across the Wharf to improve safety
- Creation of a broad walkway for pedestrians at the water’s edge
- Conversion of long-term car Government parking to short-term voucher parking available to the public.
- More space being given back to the public through an overall reduction in parking
- New modern public furniture
- Resurfacing of the Constitution Dock footpath adjacent to the fish punts
- Alterations to the Elizabeth Street Pier Service Structure.
- Redesign of access point to the docks from Davey Street to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Mr Bartlett said construction works will be staged to minimise impacts to businesses during the peak summer tourist season, and it’s anticipated that all public space improvements will be completed by June 2010.

“The improvements program, which has been managed by the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority in conjunction with Tasports, has been developed following a comprehensive consultation process with the community and key stakeholders.

“It will not only improve the quality of the public space, it will also enhance the historic and cultural values of the waterfront and support the working port,” he said.