



David Bartlett, MP

Premier

Monday, 23 February 2009

Action on the Waterfront

Premier David Bartlett today announced \$1 million for a range of measures to improve public access to the water's edge in Sullivans Cove, including the development of a broad waterside walk, and better connections between Salamanca Place and Hunter Street.

He made the announcement at the release of the consultation document *Managing Franklin Wharf as a Shared Space*.

Also attending the launch was the renowned Danish architect and urban design consultant, Mr Jan Gehl.

Mr Gehl has been influential in improving the quality of urban life for many cities around the world. In particular he is an advocate for urban areas to develop a bicycle and pedestrian culture and ensure that urban forms facilitate public space to the greatest extent possible.

"I have clearly stated my vision for the Hobart Waterfront is to develop a meeting place for the Tasmanian community.

"I want to see a waterfront that includes a greater emphasis on public amenity, public utility and public thoroughfare," Mr Bartlett said.

The document was released today by the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority for exhibition and public comment.

"I've said before public consultation will be a prerequisite for this and other developments on the waterfront. This is following through on that commitment.

"This funding is a signal that we are ready to move ahead on the waterfront.

"I am determined to get things moving.

"The improvement of public amenity in Franklin Wharf will be a catalyst for attracting new investment on the waterfront.

“As Mr Gehl has said it is often the life between the buildings that is just as important as the buildings and I am keen to incorporate those ideas into the renewal of the Hobart waterfront.

“Franklin Wharf is a significant public space linking the Hunter Street and Salamanca sides of Sullivans Cove.

“The waterside walk will require rearranging some car parking and rethinking furniture and urban details, like bollards and signs.

“There will also be the opportunity to introduce better bicycle parking and other amenities.

“I want Tasmanians to be involved in making these and other decisions that affect this important area. I encourage people to come and see the exhibition and have their say.

“The issues and responses presented in the consultation paper are aimed at making the Wharf a safer and more attractive place for pedestrians and bicycles while maintaining a working port.

“While the focus needs to turn to public spaces and public amenities a working port has and always will be a vital part of the waterfront.

“I believe commercial, cultural and public space can coexist and in fact complement each other.”

The Premier said 2009 will see substantial progress on a number of developments on the waterfront including Parliament Square, Princes Wharf No. 1 and Macquarie Wharf No 1.

“Parliament Square is currently in the third and final stage of the tender process, with final submissions due in early April. There will be a public exhibition of the shortlisted designs with a view to finalising the preferred design before the end of the year.

“I am also very pleased that initial consultation on design objectives for Princes Wharf No. 1, which included the establishment of a partnership approach with Hobart City Council, has almost concluded.

“The waterfront is an iconic area which needs to remain a place for all Tasmanians and a place all Tasmanians are proud of. That is why we have created a development template which makes public consultation a mandatory part of the process.”

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