



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Government Supports Brighton Bypass

There is a high level of support for the position of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources in relation to the Brighton Bypass and the proposed bridge crossing at the Jordan River amongst Tasmanian councils, says Mayor Barry Easter, President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT).

At a recent General Meeting, councils gave extensive consideration to the issues surrounding the proposed route of the bypass. Mayor Easter said whilst acknowledging the important historical significance of this heritage site to the Aboriginal community, the majority of councils reached the conclusion that the DIER proposal provided the best possible solution to what is a difficult and sensitive issue; one that protects the significant Aboriginal cultural, heritage and archaeological values and will not result in an unreasonable impact on the Brighton and broader Tasmanian community.

“The view was reached at the General Meeting that the alternative alignment proposed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre would result in an unsafe highway and impact on another levee that has not been investigated as yet,” Mayor Easter said. “It would also require either extensive demolition of homes, or relocation of rail infrastructure into the heritage site that contains the second levee – thus impacting adversely on the Brighton community.”

“The Brighton Bypass has been subject to considerable media attention and broad community interest. Notwithstanding the existence of this very important heritage site, it is important that the vital safety issues surrounding the need for the bypass are also considered. Brighton Council and the broader community have been lobbying for 30 years to upgrade the dangerous section of highway between Bridgewater and Dysart, and improved safety and transport efficiency are the principal reasons behind the need for the bypass,” Mayor Easter said.

“A balance needs to be struck between the protection and enhancement of this important archaeological site and the need for improved safety and increased efficiency of the national highway system in Tasmania,” he said.

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**For further information or interviews, please contact
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