

CANDIDATE STATEMENT for DAVID EDWARDS

I am an electronics engineer who was educated in Hobart and have broad industry experience in Tasmania, the mainland and overseas. I am married with four adult children.

For twenty years I have provided quality service to Hobart, and have been actively involved in community activities such as Neighbourhood Watch, primary school soccer, professional associations, progress associations, land care and cycling.

I have been President of the Battery Point Sullivans Cove Community Association for many years, and I am Immediate Past Chairman of the Council of Hobart Progress Associations. For 13 years I have served in an honorary capacity on the Battery Point Advisory Committee.

I believe that the future development of Hobart must be planned. Planning schemes should be enforced in an equitable manner for the benefit of all: residents, business and government.

Better facilities must be provided for cyclists and pedestrians, our maritime and industrial heritage must be protected and promoted, and the citizens of Hobart must retain ownership of public open spaces. Access to the Derwent River foreshore must be provided in a fair and equitable manner.

I strongly support the preservation, restoration and enhancement of Hobart's unique built and natural heritage, with development appropriate to the needs of the people and businesses of Hobart.

I am firmly opposed to attempts to sell off public space, such as the reserve near Maning Reef, and think that the citizens of Hobart have been badly served by the current Council. As an example, I believe that recent decisions to allow extra floors and additional height on buildings in the city and Sullivans Cove were made to the detriment of Hobart's amenity.

I believe that the arrogant attitude of the Council in promoting developments, such as those on and adjacent to public reserves, contrary to the wishes of the public, shows the contempt with which the Council treats the citizens of Hobart.

Similarly, I believe that the ongoing attempt by the Council to cut the Battery Point Planning Scheme in half, which attracted more than 80 opposing representations, as well as the ill fated waterfront tram proposal, show how the current Council has lost touch with the citizens of Hobart.

The city of Hobart is an asset we hold in trust for our children; it requires good planning and good management. Councillors should work in harmony rather than bicker with each other. I believe that it is now time for a COUNCIL CLEANUP.

David Edwards
4 October 2005