

TRAFFIC ISSUES – MEETING WITH HOBART CITY COUNCIL

On 27 April, Neil Cranston, Peter Jones (Association Committee) & Angelo Fraraccio (local business leader) met with Angela Moore (Manager, Traffic Engineering, Hobart City Council) to discuss a number of priority traffic issues in Battery Point. These included the speed (and volume) of traffic in Hampden Road (and De Witt Street feeding into Hampden Road); some specific problematic corners/junctions where near-miss traffic crashes have been reported by residents; and, on-going parking problems including seemingly inconsistent monitoring/regulation

Overall, this was a satisfactory meeting in so far as having the opportunity to raise our issues and discuss in some depth. It is clear the HCC are more likely to respond to “hard numbers” (e.g. *number of accidents* happening at intersections, *increase number of cars* using Hampden Road) than hearing anecdotes of “near misses” – this is perhaps understandable but is not necessarily a preventative approach.

The major Transport Strategy for Hobart (developed and consulted on last year) is due for release very soon – this will involve further consultation and is likely to be a significant document in determining decisions for traffic matters in Battery Point (and Hobart generally).

HCC is delivering improvements to a number of local retail precincts across Hobart (e.g. recent work in Sandy Bay and current construction in Lenah Valley). Battery Point is part of the program with work scheduled for 2021.

It was acknowledged and agreed that Battery Point is impacted by commuter traffic (flowing through as well as parking) and sits at the “centre” of many traffic issues – this impacts on decisions that can be taken as there are flow-on effects into other areas.

Actions:

The HCC has already planned actions in response to the meeting – this is welcome and encouraging collaborative outcome for all. In particular:

- HCC has arranged for traffic surveys to be undertaken in Hampden Road (between Francis Street and Runnymede Street) and in De Witt Street (between Cromwell Street and St Georges Terrace). These locations have been surveyed previously so will allow for some easy comparison! The surveys are likely to be completed over the next 4 to 6 weeks. Once the survey results are available a meeting will be held with the Association to discuss.
- The HCC will investigate crash records for the problematic junctions identified and discuss options once this data is available.
- The Association’s concerns with the apparent ineffective monitoring of parking by council officers would be raised with the appropriate section of HCC.
- The Association would be kept informed of any matters that impacted on the area, in particular the impending Transport Strategy.