

RICHARD
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for Legislative Council Seat of Nelson

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The Hon Jeremy Rockliff
Infrastructure Minister

Alderman Anna Reynolds
Hobart Lord Mayor

Councillor Dean Winter
Kingborough Mayor

Dear Mr Rockliff, Ms Reynolds and Mr Winter

Congratulations on your respective re-elections this year.

I write with the following proposal that I ask you consider taking to your colleagues in council and government for discussion - creation of a joint venture between State Government, Hobart City Council and Kingborough Council to trial free peak hour Metro buses on the Southern Outlet and Channel Highway/Sandy Bay Road.

As you will be aware, traffic congestion on each of these roads is an increasing problem facing commuters.

The State Government are investigating adding a fifth lane to the Southern Outlet and establishing clear-ways on key Hobart CBD roads as one measure to address the problem. However, more can be done to proactively tackle congestion. The time between now and when a decision is made on the fifth lane presents the perfect opportunity to trial more innovative solutions such as free peak hour buses.

A long term trial of free peak hour buses would:

- encourage more people who live in Kingborough and work in Hobart to take the bus and leave the car at home. Previous short term Metro trials have led to a 14% increase in patronage;
- reduce the number of cars on the Southern Outlet, Channel Highway and Sandy Bay Road in peak hour;
- reduce the number of cars heading into the Hobart CBD and parking there for the day, thereby freeing up existing car parking for shoppers; and

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Authorised by Nick Griggs, 6 Chesham Place, Sandy Bay



- enable better data to be gathered on the impact free bus travel has on patronage and congestion (compared to short term trials conducted previously).

The three participants in the joint venture could contribute in different ways.

For example, the State Government could contribute financially by compensating Metro for foregone revenue as a result of fares being made free, Hobart could contribute data gathering technology and expertise to align with its 'Smart City' policy currently being developed and Kingborough could assist by advertising the initiative in communications to its ratepayers.

With the election of two new Mayors in Anna Reynolds and Dean Winter the timing really is ideal for an innovative approach to be taken to beating traffic congestion. May I ask that you do consider taking this initiative to your respective councils and Cabinet for discussion?

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you at any stage.

Yours sincerely



Richard Griggs