



22 April 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: New Bridgewater Bridge**

The Tasmanian Government is seeking substantial Commonwealth funding for a new Bridgewater Bridge that does not provide for future rail access. The rail action group acknowledge the strategic importance of this river crossing, thus we ask you to intervene and ensure the new bridge design makes provision for future passenger, tourist, and freight rail transport.

The Tasmanian Government claims, *Rail access will be maintained via the existing bridge.* This is a shallow promise since no future rail operator(s) will have the capacity to maintain the old bridge and its problematic lift span. Indeed a decision will have to be made between rail thoroughfare or river thoroughfare when (not if) the lift span is declared inoperable.

Hobart has been continuously connected to the intrastate rail network since 1875. It would be a travesty and extremely short sighted to sever the rail network 21 km north of the CBD, indeed making Hobart a unique Australian capital city for all the wrong reasons.

The Hobart Light Rail project is smart and good value as demonstrated in the attached fact sheets. We'd be delighted if you or one of your officers were to contact us for further information on the rail project.

Yours sincerely,

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Cc: Eric Hutchinson, Member for Lyons  
Kristie Johnston, Glenorchy Mayor  
Martin Evans, Derwent Valley Mayor  
Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor of Hobart  
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Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania