



Major step forward for Redevelopment Plans

It's been 10 years of planning, but on March 30, Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein announced government support for the redevelopment of the Hobart Showground, with a \$42 million commitment to the vision.

The project will now soon go to DA (Development Application), and once that is processed, work can commence.

Showground CEO Scott Gadd says COVID allowing, this year's Royal Hobart Show will still proceed as usual, but potentially next year the 2022 Show will need to find a temporary new home.

The full \$235 million project will occur over several stages and will cover an area equivalent to several Hobart CBD blocks. It has received bipartisan support at the political level.

The project will include a completely new Showground for the staging of the Show, a mix of accommodation, an emergency centre for people and animals in times of natural disaster, and even a new visitor centre showcasing Tasmanian agriculture, wine and food. The event precinct for the Show will be the first priority.

Roger Jaensch, Minister for Housing, said the redevelopment would be the "poster child for what we can do in infill housing in Tasmania. It is the most important urban renewal project Hobart has seen".

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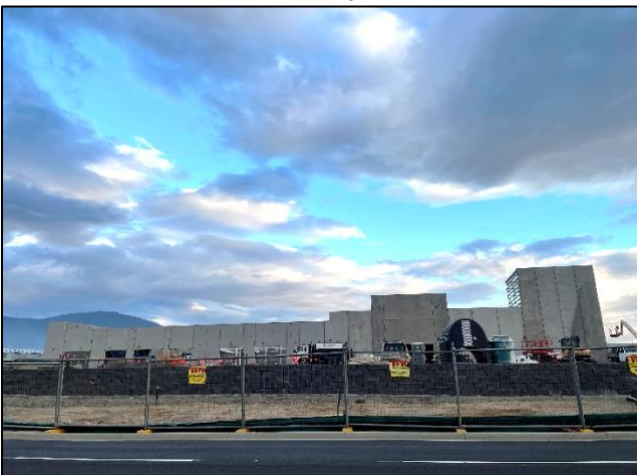
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What the Redevelopment Achieves

- Secures the future of the Society
- Secures the future of the Royal Hobart Show, which is the oldest Royal Agricultural Show in Australia
- Turns an under-utilised showground into a vibrant community asset
- Retains space for community clubs, sports and activities
- Provides Hobart with a crisis refuge for people and animals in times of civil disruption such as bushfires
- Provides significant relief to Hobart's affordable housing crisis
- Increased community utilisation of the Showground
- ESD - Ecological Sustainable Design – principles mean the precinct will be set in an area which is more than 40% dedicated to green space.
- Not a project driven by commercial developers, but a project by a community organisation that delivers community benefits

Designing the space is a nationally-award winning architectural firm, Partners Hill, which has experience in large complex projects, and is renowned for bringing life to places in sustainable, economical and functional ways.





Department of Health Cooperation Sought

As we reported last month, the state government has re-activated an election promise to build a new ambulance depot at Glenorchy on land opposite the Showground, which is on a 99-year lease to the Society. The Government intends resuming most of the land for this purpose.

The parcel of land, on the river side of the Brooker Highway, is used for public parking during the Show. The Department of Health, which had earlier indicated it would require under half the site for its ambulance depot, has now advised the RAST it wants to resume two thirds of the site.

However, the Department has so far offered no solution for the enormous parking problems this will create during Show time and other major events at the Showground. Instead of off-road parking, the public will be forced to seek parking spots in public streets to the detriment of local neighbours and residents.

The Society maintains an extensive file on this issue, dating as far back as the Gray Liberal Government when compensation and assistance was provided when the Government resumed a small portion of the land for a fire brigade depot. The Society will be looking to the Department of Health to provide a similar, workable solution on this occasion, too.

With no parking available, it's not just the Show that's affected. The entire \$235 million redevelopment of the Showground could be affected if nearby off-street parking becomes unavailable.

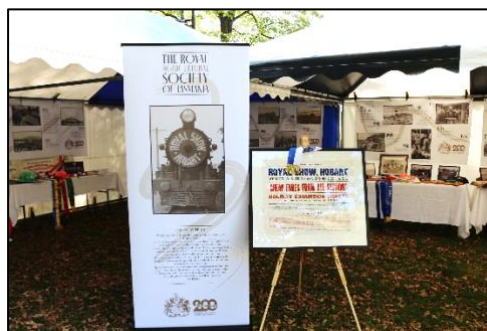


200 Years of Agricultural Showing in Hobart

200 years of agricultural showing in Hobart was celebrated this month with a mini Royal Hobart Show on the lawns of Parliament House where the Show first began.

The Show is one of Australia's oldest annual events. The day featured a petting zoo, a draught horse, bullocks, a mini-Carnival, vintage machinery, and a historical display.

Originally organised for April 14, a weather bureau severe weather warning prompted a move to Friday April 16 when children turned out in droves to enjoy the day.





Easter Carnival

The Easter Carnival at the Showground was a great success, providing children with a rich choice of entertainment options during the holiday period.

Covid-safe sessions at the Carnival were all but booked out and more than 4,000 people attended the event.

Cracker Night 2021

Fast approaching is another big event at the Showground for children: The Bright Star Cracker Night.

Cancelled last year due to the onset of Covid-19, it's on again on Saturday May 29th from 5pm-8.30 under a Covid safe plan.

Expect to experience a great evening of entertainment, including sword swallower Samora Squid, culminating with the lighting of a huge bonfire and fireworks. The evening is designed so that parents can get their children to bed at a reasonable time.

Entry for children 12 and under is \$2 and adults is \$10.

Food and drinks, including alcohol, will be available for purchase from the 'Grandstand Bar' in the main grandstand and food vans onsite.





Tasmanian Fine Food Awards

The first event in this year's Royal Tasmanian fine Food Awards is now underway with entries open for the Bakery and Preserves and Dairy, Plant Based and Other Products categories.

Entries opened on March 31 and judging will take place on 19 and 20 May

If you are a food producer and wish to enter this year's Awards, four other categories will be judged following the Bakery and Preserves section. Here is the timetable:

- 19-20 May Bakery and Preserves
- 11-12 June Dairy, Plant Based and Other Products
- 2-3 July Beverages/Sweet and Spicy
- 7 August Seafood/Delicatessen
- 21 Sept Olive Oils/Major Awards
- November Best of the Best

You will find all the information you need at: www.hobartshowground.com.au/royal-tasmanian-fine-food-awards

Now in their 25th year and one of the major dates in the Australian food making calendar, the Awards allow Tasmanian producers to benchmark their prowess against food and beverages entered from every corner of the nation.



**ROYAL
TASMANIAN
FINE FOOD
AWARDS**