



Media Release
June 21, 2020

Hobart Showground redevelopment gaining bipartisan support.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania (RAST) has welcomed the Labor Party's support for the redevelopment of the Hobart Showground. It means the Society now has bipartisan support for the redevelopment.

It would be one of the biggest development projects in Hobart in recent decades, covering the equivalent of several city blocks. The project would cost about \$200 million and return \$1 billion to the Tasmanian economy over 10 years. It would create up to 200 long term construction jobs and 50 FTE jobs on an ongoing basis.

“It addresses a number of important challenges for Hobart, such as affordable housing,” said Peter Spotswood, President of the RAST. “Our concept includes 505 residences housing 1,200 people, and parking for 1,000 vehicles”.

The project can proceed if state and federal backing of about \$42 million is secured to commence work on a major new event space to house the Royal Hobart Show and other activities.

The redevelopment addresses a number of issues. As well as housing, it would include a modern Showground of advanced architectural design, and a built-in role for the Showground as a secure evacuation centre for people and animals in times of civil disruption, such as bush fires.

The concept also includes a large pavilion complex which would include a new visitor destination showcasing Tasmania's excellence in agriculture, food and wine production; as well as space for a variety of community based clubs and organisations.

“We've now received the support of parliamentary parties and independents across the board, and state government agencies have also recognised the benefits this project can bring to the community, especially in Hobart's northern suburbs.”

The State Government has funded an initial architectural plan for the huge site, which the Society received only late last week. “We want to thank the State Government for funding this draft plan by award winning Australian architects, Partners Hill, based in Hobart”, said Mr Spotswood.”

The initial plan, the *Showground Redevelopment Project Consultation Draft*, will now be formally reviewed by the RAST Board, and once finalised, will form the basis of a comprehensive community consultation program.

