Mac Point Precinct Plan

RACT submission to consultation draft

December 2023

The Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania

RACT enjoys a trusted position and extensive market penetration in the community.

More than 215,000 Tasmanians are RACT members. We are the largest and strongest member organisation in Tasmania and an award-winning Tasmanian owned insurance company.

Established in 1923, RACT is an apolitical and independent transport infrastructure, road safety and mobility advocate. We increasingly advocate on the impacts of a changing climate and supporting improved community resilience. We are committed to supporting and furthering the interests of Tasmanians and we do this through a comprehensive program of consultation, education, awareness and public advocacy.

RACT is represented by senior staff in a number of stakeholder reference organisations in Tasmania and undertakes structured liaison with government and other stakeholder groups.

Nationally, RACT is a constituent member of the Australian Automobile Association (AAA), which represents some eight million Australians, and is represented on the board of the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA).

RACT is a regular contributor to the committees and forums of the AAA and the ICA.

Internationally, RACT has joined with other Australian motoring organisations as a member of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) to work on road safety and related issues at a global level.

RACT's advocacy and public policy activity is defined by a series of policy documents developed and endorsed by the RACT Board.

These policies have been informed by history, experience, research, statistical analysis, consultation, industry knowledge and most importantly, through regular engagement with our member community.

Our submission

RACT welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Mac Point draft Precinct Plan (plan) presented by the Tasmanian Government. We recognise the processes that have formed the development of the plan, and the stage of planning the project is currently at.

For the past 100 years, RACT has represented the interests and concerns of our members, which currently number in excess of 215,000 Tasmanians. Growing concerns about traffic congestion, liveability and mobility, particularly for Hobart and Launceston, from our members have resulted in mobility becoming an ongoing advocacy focus for us.

In 2019 RACT commissioned and developed, with significant community consultation, a 30-year RACT Greater Hobart Mobility Vision. This proposed a vision and plan to transform the mobility landscape to one in which increased transport options provide safer, more efficient and sustainable approaches to moving in and around our capital city. We have strong ongoing interest in the mobility and road safety impacts of the Mac Point precinct development and how it impacts on the overall mobility of Greater Hobart.

A significant high-density development in a central city location can be an exciting and value adding opportunity for the social, cultural, and economic outcomes for the Hobart and wider Tasmanian community. Development of sites that create significant usage peaks require significant planning and modelling of both on and off-site elements to ensure they add amenity and value and not inadvertently decrease it.

The Mac Point site is complex on many levels, not least its central, land-locked location amongst major arterial road networks. The incorporation of the stadium since the last consultation, represents a significant uplift in the density of people in potentially high intensity peak movements associated with events when compared to previous consultation processes.

The plan identifies that walking, followed by buses will be the main means of access to the site, with very limited public car parking. This approach may provide a functional outcome should the appropriate planning and development of on-and-offsite facilities to support the movement of people occur.

The current stage of planning being consulted on does not provide enough detail to comment on the effectiveness of proposed or possible measures. We welcome the future opportunity to provide comment once modelling that incorporates peak density modelling showing on-and-offsite traffic and mobility impacts for an at capacity stadium and fully activated site for the whole precinct and off-peak modelling are complete.

Understanding of how future operations impacts the flow of existing traffic on major arterials – particularly the Davey, Macquarie streets, Brooker, and Tasman highways and the impact of Hobart's sensitive grid network, is essential to inform consultation on mobility planning. We

also welcome the future opportunity to comment on a holistic detailed traffic management plan that incorporates interactions and impacts on major roads around and leading to the stadium, bus (including event and non-event bus changes, new bus routes, changes to bus stops, bus event parking), pedestrian access (including details of links to Salamanca, Collins, Davey , Macquarie, and Elizabeth streets), ferries, bike riding and other access options that feed the Mac Point site have been completed.

A holistic overarching project plan that, outlines key delivery elements showing accountable bodies, forecasted user mapping, and funding sources, and encompasses all mobility and associated infrastructure elements required to deliver a functional outcome will provide further clarity. The project plan would include; public transport requirements (on- and offsite), non-Tasmanian Government elements - in particular Hobart City Council projects that support offsite pedestrian management, identify elements of the Hobart City Deal and Hobart Mobility Plan. This would enable an understanding of the impacts of staging and provide a timeline for final delivery.

Finally, RACT is committed to a solution for Mac Point that integrates and supports the overall mobility of Greater Hobart and delivers social, cultural, and economic outcomes for the Hobart and wider Tasmanian community. We look forward to continuing to productively engage with the Mac Point corporation as they progress the planning process.