

7 October 2009



**VOTE 1**  
**DAMON**  
**THOMAS**  
FOR HOBART CITY

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Thomas opposed to banning cars in North Hobart**

Damon Thomas, Hobart City Council candidate, has warned of the economic and social consequences that would result if the Greens had their way in banning cars from Elizabeth Street in North Hobart on Sundays.

“While the concept for trialling exclusive pedestrian access in North Hobart might sound nice it has not been thought through properly. The reality is that restricting vehicle access will cost jobs.

“There are very serious concerns from North Hobart traders about the effect on business and the inconvenience for customers. A particularly concerning example will be people needing to get hold of prescription medicine from the pharmacy, many of whom have a disability and would not be able to make the walk,” Mr Thomas said.

Mr Thomas said that the Greens need to go back to the drawing board and should think through their policies more carefully.

“There is no evidence of a rational cost/benefit approach to this issue. To close the street for staged events would come at a significant budget cost to the Council. Is it really in the interests of ratepayers to have to fork out money to restrict vehicle access because the Greens don’t like cars?”

“I am concerned that this so-called trial is just the thin edge of the wedge and that the Greens would seek to impose more vehicle bans if given the opportunity,” Mr Thomas said.

Damon Thomas will attend the public meeting tonight in North Hobart (373 Elizabeth St) to seek a response on behalf of concerned residents and traders.

**For comment:**

**Damon Thomas on 0419 355 115**