

Driving his message home (Mercury, 13 October 2009)

Damon Thomas has secured a garbage truck to help promote his candidature for Hobart City Council.

The former head of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the waste-compactor truck would do collections from businesses in the Hobart central business district, North Hobart, Battery Point and Salamanca Place.

But he insists he is not seeking election to the council this month to represent the big end of town.

In fact, Mr Thomas hates that tag.

And he made it clear he does not want people to associate him with just business.

“I see myself as very balanced, very progressive,” Mr Thomas said.

“I am just passionate about Hobart.”

Mr Thomas said he heads the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal and previously had been on the boards of the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council of Tasmania.

He has endorsements from people including former TCCI president Andrew Kemp, businessman Hank Petrusma and Salvation Army Tasmania public relations officer Stuart Foster.

“I think there has been some great stuff in Hobart, some very good things have been done but now there are some challenges,” Mr Thomas said.

“Our city has lost vitality, we need a massive injection of confidence, it’s time for a change, time for progression.”

Mr Thomas is a former state Crown Solicitor and Tasmanian Ombudsman.

He had also held a senior management post in the Brisbane City Council for some years.