



## Campaign Update



**Damon Thomas**  
for Hobart City Council

Authorised by AG Kemp A.M. 33 Norfolk Crescent, Sandy Bay.

Support positive change in Hobart, email [damon@damonthomas.com.au](mailto:damon@damonthomas.com.au)

**3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

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[www.thomas4hobartcity.com.au](http://www.thomas4hobartcity.com.au)

### THE ROAD TO CITY HALL...

*The City of Hobart is a place of possibility – it will grow and develop sustainably with shared intelligence, not acrimonious divide.*

Over the years I have worked for local and state government and the business community and taken an interest in politics. To date, I have been content to see change happen through the vision of others. I now have the time to focus my energies on making a direct contribution to vision setting at the local government level – the level that directly impacts on the quality of our day to day life as Hobart residents.

*Our current alderman contingent has considerable experience – dating back to 1988 in fact. It's time to balance that experience with new energy, new ideas, and new ways of advocating for positive change.*

My election platform is based on a new focus on safety and security, a fairer sharing of the rates burden and a new vibrancy for our depressed city heart. *I want to see Hobart restored to its former vitality – a place where people are optimistic, enjoy living and working and are keen to share city assets with visitors.*

*Regrettably, only 50% of eligible Hobart residents vote at the non compulsory postal ballot.* To be elected I need to lift the numbers sending back the ballot and to take the number one vote on the ballot. One important way in which you can help is by passing this newsletter on to others who share our concern to get Hobart back on track to being the way it should be, *"easy to live, easy to do business"*.

I acknowledge and salute your ongoing support and encouragement, thank you.

Damon

### RESUCITATING THE CITY HEART....

*The heart of Hobart city is its business community.* It has a wide ranging influence on the community of greater Hobart as a whole. Almost 28,000 people, who live outside Hobart city, work within the Central Business District (CBD) and the CBD has 40% of retail employment (ABS, 2006 Census Data).

The CBD is a central point of access to professional services and facilities – a place to shop, go to the theatre, meet friends for coffee, access professional services and dine in restaurants. The vibrancy and success of the business community influences the confidence of the people who work, live and socialise in the Hobart inner city.

*Unfortunately, the city centre is currently seen as lacking confidence, focus and direction.* It is increasingly perceived as unattractive and a difficult trading environment for businesses to obtain retail return and there are increasing public safety concerns. The central city area is in a state of continuing decline.

This decline impacts on jobs growth and retention and capital investment and re-investment. Current trends show a steady reduction of retail businesses within Hobart city (9.4% decline in 2007 from previous year) and reduction in employment by retailers (15% decrease between 2001 and 2006 census). There are threats to employment and investment in Tasmania and the business community, centered on the CBD of Hobart, needs to drive its own economic stimulus and attraction of investment.

**'Vibrancy' in a city means an eclectic mix of strong and successful businesses that grow within a responsive and innovative CBD environment.** Retail trade, accommodation, cafes and restaurants and culture and recreation services all bring a special vibrancy to a city centre. The level of investment in these sectors and the number of sustainable new businesses will have a significant impact on the experience of living and socialising in Hobart, and its vitality.

**Given the current economic challenges the local business community needs a strong driving force to promote the development of a medium and long term vision** with strategic actions that connects the CBD with all levels of government and forms a decisive strategy for fiscal and social success.

We must gain an understanding of business sentiments, levels of confidence in the future and what the business community needs to take the city forward into an environment of positive growth, vibrancy and vitality. When elected to Council I will work with traders and service providers to determine what they need to grow, to invest in their businesses and to employ and retain employment numbers.

**The city, your city, needs a strong CBD.** It won't happen by itself. It will need leadership, negotiation and financial investment. **I will provide that LEADERSHIP and VISION. I will make things happen.**

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## WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT DAMON'S BID?

**We as citizens don't take enough time with our civic institutions. When we acknowledge faults in them it is as though they are detached from us. This is clearly not the case, as our participation in government is the key to its quality and success.**

I therefore commend Damon for making the commitment to serve the people and businesses of Hobart. It is an endeavour in which he has my wholehearted support. The City of Hobart has never faced greater challenges to maintain its relevance. **The decisions being taken today will impact on the City we present to our children.** We need real vision and leadership that brings together in a meaningful way State Government, Local Government and Business.

A future for our City demands nothing less. Damon's background and skills leave him uniquely placed to deliver on such a vision.

**For those of you that have engaged in any way with Hobart City Council you will understand the truism of Damon's mantra for Hobart: "Easy to Live and Easy to do Business"**

Let's not continue to complain about the stagnation of Hobart and constraints of ever growing Local Governance, let's elect somebody who actually understands the problem and is trying to fix it.

Damon, the best of luck with this very necessary and worthwhile endeavour.

### Troy Harper

Managing Director  
Derwent Park Developments Pty Ltd

✓ VISION ✓ LEADERSHIP ✓ ACTION



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

[www.thomas4hobartcity.com.au](http://www.thomas4hobartcity.com.au)

Good quality candidates deliver good quality outcomes. **Damon Thomas brings with him a wealth of experience and a skill set that will benefit the Hobart City Council immensely.**

Damon's knowledge and understanding of the business community, as well as his interests in the broader community, provide him with an all round ability to bring good judgment and sound decision making abilities to the council table.

He has a strong track record in representing the interests of individuals and groups and he is willing to look at problems from all perspectives to achieve sensible and, where necessary, innovative outcomes. **Damon has an active mind and is willing to put his shoulder to the wheel to make things happen. Hobart has been good for Damon and Damon will be good for Hobart.**

### Allan Garcia

Chief Executive Officer  
Local Government Association

## SAFETY IN OUR CITY...

Statistically, Hobart is a really safe city. Unfortunately, statistics do not always address the concerns people have. **Business owners and operators in Hobart are concerned at the perceived level of violence and disorderly behaviour in the CBD and particularly our Malls.** The police do not keep statistics on the incidence of graffiti in our city, but it is apparent that the amount of graffiti appearing on our city buildings, signs and other structures is getting worse.

**The people who use our city are also concerned at anti social behaviour in the Mall and the Bus Mall. Just think of the difficulties stall holders setting up for Salamanca Market on Saturday mornings have when intoxicated people are leaving night clubs at the same time. Just think of the reputation that our city has when the stories of violence in and around Salamanca on a Friday and Saturday night appear in the local media.**

Council, Tasmania Police and other stakeholders are working co-operatively to address these problems. Licensing authorities and the venue operators have pledged to fix the problem, but it still happens. It must be said that while there has been much discussion, there has not been any great improvement - people remain concerned. Someone needs to take a leadership role and develop strategies and performance measures so that we can make sure things are being done to address the problems of anti social behaviour. **I have the drive to make sure the issue is addressed. I am listening and I will ACT.**

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**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! VOTING IS BY POSTAL VOTE. POLLS OPEN 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
AND CLOSE AT 10AM ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009**