



## Campaign Update



**Damon Thomas**  
for Hobart City Council

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

### **2nd EDITION 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

#### **IN THIS EDITION**

- Damon's policy position on rates
- Ron Banks' reflections on Damon's candidacy
- Margaret Reynolds on why Hobart Council needs Damon Thomas
- Damon and the Salvation Army

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

#### **RATES – THERE CAN BE A FAIRER SYSTEM**

A matter that continues to trouble me, and an increasing number of Hobart ratepayers, is how the Hobart City Council raises revenue. *If I am elected to the Council in October I will advocate for a thorough and early review of rating.*

Hobart City Council's current rating policy is totally based upon the value of property. Rates comprise a straight calculation of 8.6 cents in the dollar of assessed annual value regardless of the services provided. This method of raising rates is unfair and almost unique in Tasmania.

*Simply raising rates on property values has no relevance or regard for the actual services the Council provides.* Most councils have adopted flat charges for a range of services or charge an amount

that equates to the cost of the service provision, especially in waste management and recycling functions. This seems fair. In recent years the Brighton and George Town Councils have gone even further and introduced a flat charge for all council services. I am reliably informed that this system works well for those communities.

In Hobart every property is charged 0.7 cents in the dollar of assessed annual value for waste management. This can lead to waste management service rates as low as \$70 for some residences and as much as \$200 or more for others, yet all properties receive exactly the same service. *It costs no more to collect and dispose of waste for a property that pays \$70 to another that pays \$200 for the service. Sometimes different charges apply in the same street yet it's the same truck and the same personnel! This is simply not fair.* Just because a home has been lovingly improved over time and is re-valued cannot be the justification for increasing the charge for a service.

Just because things have always been done the way they have been cannot and should not be a justification to continue past practices without challenge. It may well be appropriate to bring in any changes to current Hobart City Council rating practices over a number of years but the system must change. It must if Councilors are to be able to look their ratepayers in the eye and say fair is fair.

*We need to act now to remove rating anomalies. LEADERSHIP is required to bring about change. I will provide that leadership when I am elected to Council at the next election.*

#### **RON BANKS' REFLECTIONS ON DAMON THOMAS AS A CANDIDATE**

Damon Thomas has enjoyed a comprehensive educational and employment background ideally suited to the role he seeks as an alderman in Hobart.

Articulate, experienced and measured in his approach to issues of importance to rate payers and tenants and, importantly, to the business community, Damon will be a strong voice in our community when elected, as I am sure he will be. With a comprehensive knowledge of the workings of Australia's largest municipality, Brisbane, his recent employment as CEO of TCCI, his Justice Department work and many community activities, Damon Thomas can be relied on to provide a balanced viewpoint and strong advocacy when needed most.

We should be grateful Damon was willing to stand for Council as the many attributes he offers are those most needed in local government. Damon Thomas will be an outstanding contributor on the Hobart City Council.

**Ronald T. Banks AM**

## MARGARET REYNOLDS ON WHY HOBART COUNCIL NEEDS DAMON THOMAS

I know Damon Thomas for his work in supporting a number of organisations in the community sector. He has a range of experience working with government, business and community organisations which would greatly benefit the people of Hobart.

- **Hobart City Council needs Damon Thomas** to bring fresh ideas about planning and protecting this city's special heritage
- **Hobart City Council needs Damon Thomas** to develop new public transport options that recognise alternatives ways to access our city centre
- **Hobart City Council needs Damon Thomas** to build partnerships with State and

Federal Governments to strengthen opportunities for innovation and excellence in local government

And **the people of Hobart need Damon Thomas** to speak out for change in our community so that we all can access improved local services.

**Margaret Reynolds**  
Former Federal Local Government Minister


## THE SALVATION ARMY AND DAMON THOMAS

I have known Damon for five years in his capacity as head of the Army's Development Council in Tasmania. Damon assumed the position from Ray Groom and his enthusiasm and personal support for the Salvation Army here in Tasmania, as a person with strong links to the business sector has been fantastic.

Our funding needs can only increase with community pressure for emergency services. Damon's network and selfless commitment in opening doors of influence through the Red Shield Appeal and assisting promoting and being part of events such as the recent Sleeping Out for the Homeless – which raised over \$30,000 - was a true reflection of a commitment to those less fortunate in our community. As a member of the Citizen's Advisory Board, Damon has introduced governance reform which has allowed that body to be far more effective as a community link.

Damon will bring to the Hobart Council a wonderful balance between interest and interest groups. While Damon knows business and will take that knowledge to Council, he will also ensure all of the needs of a diverse city community will be listened to and acted upon. The Salvation Army supports Damon and wishes him the best in his bid to be elected to Council in October.

**Stuart Foster**  
Public Relations Secretary, Salvation Army  
Tasmania Division



# Vote 1 Damon Thomas For Hobart City

**Damon Thomas...  
good for business  
and great for our community**

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1864  
**HOBART CITY MISSION**  
A Division of the Salvation Army

THE SALVATION ARMY

cerebralpalsy tasmania  
Creating Possibilities Together

AUTHORISED BY AG KEMP A.M.  
33 NORFOLK CRES SANDY BAY

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...**

**Local Government elections take place from 13 to 27 October 2009. Voting is by postal vote.  
Polls close at 10am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

**In order to have your say, you must be enrolled to vote. More information about eligibility and enrolling to vote is available from the Hobart City Council website: <http://www.hobartcity.com.au/HCC/STANDARD/ELECTIONS.html>**

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

If you want to support positive change in Hobart and be involved in Damon's campaign, send an email to Damon at [damon@damonthomas.com.au](mailto:damon@damonthomas.com.au)

- Ask your friends and family if they would like to receive the newsletter and let us know their email address so we can add them to the mailing list
- Check out Damon's web site for the latest campaign news and information, and refer your friends and family too: [www.thomas4hobartcity.com.au](http://www.thomas4hobartcity.com.au)
- Want to get stuck in? To get your sticker, send Damon an email at [damon@damonthomas.com.au](mailto:damon@damonthomas.com.au)

