



City of **HOBART**

Enquiries to: Sophie Calic



23 September 2019

Aboriginal Heritage Act Review
GPO Box 44
HOBART TAS 7001

Via Email: aboriginalheritageact@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

REVIEW OF THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT 1975

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to the information and questions presented in the Discussion Paper. The City of Hobart is pleased to see progress on the review in conjunction with Aboriginal people in Tasmania. We recognise that we have much to learn from the contemporary Aboriginal community.

The City of Hobart recognises the importance of protecting Aboriginal Heritage in Tasmania and welcome moves to strengthen and improve our Aboriginal Heritage practices through a renewed *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (the Act).

The City of Hobart recognises and values the strong, spiritual connection that Aboriginal people have to this place and support recognition of intangible values within the definition of Aboriginal Heritage under the Act.

The review provides an important opportunity to review and update the language used within the Act to ensure that terminology is respectful and contemporary as guided by Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The City of Hobart supports a move towards the use of the term 'custodian/custodianship' in place of 'owner/ownership' and a move away from the term 'relic'. We would like to see Tasmanian Aboriginal people guide the language included within the Act.

The City of Hobart supports strengthening and enhancing the engagement and participation of Aboriginal people in the management of every aspect of Aboriginal Heritage management. The City also supports further efforts to raise awareness and understanding of Aboriginal heritage and culture amongst the broader community, highlighting the significance of heritage sites and the value in caring for these.

I note that the City of Hobart participated in discussions between Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and the Southern Technical Reference Group (TRG) in relation to this review. The City supports the recommendations of the TRG pertaining to planning and development matters within the Act.

Specifically, the City would be pleased to see additional supports and resources provided to engaging Aboriginal Heritage practitioners to assist Councils, Developers and the like, in the process of identifying and managing heritage sites prior to works commencing. The City also supports work to align the Act with the Resource Management and Planning System, noting that this would likely elevate the importance of respect and consideration of Aboriginal Heritage within planning and development processes.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

Yours faithfully

(N. D Heath)
GENERAL MANAGER