

HCC MNSB Submission – Ian Johnson

I attended a consultation session with HCC staff at the Sandy Bay Bowls Club.

I came away from the consultation session feeling disappointed and disillusioned with the HCC management and staff who orchestrated and ran the session. The consultation involved placing coloured dots against defined subjects including biodiversity value, leafy and green environments, connection to country, heritage, waterfront etc. The coloured dot Council report would draw conclusions of the number of coloured dots in each section.

The consultation, appallingly, ignored the biggest community issue that faces the Sandy Bay and Mt Nelson, that is the HCC blatant encouragement of the University's move into the city and the conversion of University education zoned property to housing and mixed use. In fact, the audience were cautioned at the start about being too negative. As the session wore on, I realised those participating were just instruments in a sham community consultation. Most people in the room I think would have agreed with my opinion.

For the Council, its employees, its management, in the face of the 74% who voted against the University move into the city, to orchestrate this shabby type of consultation, speaks of duplicitous conduct I believe. I expect honesty and competence from the Hobart City Council. In this action, to waste precious employees, contractors and ratepayers' money and time is both naïve and incompetent in my opinion.

The Hobart City Council do so much that is to be applauded. Its employees are to be admired for the good work that is done for the ratepayers of Hobart overall. I believe the public do appreciate the efforts of staff to make Hobart, the magnificent city that it is.

However, this current tack by the Council to subvert the will of the people, following a democratic plebiscite in which 74% voted against the University moving to the city, is I believe unethical and dishonest and not fitting for an otherwise excellent Council. Many employees, I believe work for long and often unpaid hours in service of the citizens of Hobart. But that should not excuse the above. Unfortunately, this reflects poorly on all in Council.

Ian Johnson
84 Grosvenor Street, Sandy Bay
Retired Architect