

Leadership and other governance

I'm not standing as a mayoral or even deputy mayoral candidate. I know almost all who do, are doing so simply to get more attention to themselves. Some of them are also engaged in party politics, or factional politics, in order to boost their chances. I know that all political parties and factions are putting their party or factional affiliations ahead of their constituents.

Recently there has been some discussion about the role of mayor, and I am firmly of the opinion that it is the alderpeople's roles to push debate, to further public discussion of important issues to Hobart. In comparison a mayor is a spokesperson for the whole of council, and as such a figurehead, plays a leading role in marketing our city. It's wildly irresponsible for a marketing spokesperson to sabotage the marketing efforts of our city, a serious waste of rates and also damaging to our cultural reputation. A debate about how many tourists are enough or too much, is a worthy debate to be had by anybody other than a mayor, and preferably at any other time than the middle of winter – the time when tourism and hospitality related businesses struggle the most and lay off thousands of casual workers.

There has also been some criticism of alderpeople's travel expenses: to which my response is simple: I barely travel outside of Hobart, because I have done too much travelling already: I travelled to something over 45 countries before turning 15 – and mostly against my will. I have no desire to travel for aldermanic reasons, and cannot yet imagine a situation where I would be forced to. You will not see me wasting rates on travel expenses when facebook video and skype exist.

Another issue is reports, often costing in the area of 20-50 grand each, if not much more. These are useful for keeping council employees busy, but otherwise most of them result in no action being taken anyway. I have no desire to call for pointless studies and reports. I can do my own research (I regularly do informal surveys), and find research to support strong arguments.