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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MARITIME INDUSTRY CALLS FOR A MASTER PLAN FOR THE PORT OF HOBART**

The Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) and the Tasmania Maritime Network (TMN) have urged the State Government to prepare a comprehensive Master Plan for the Port of Hobart which gives priority to the Working Port.

The TPN and TMN have made the request in a joint response to the New Royal Project's plans for the preferred option for a new hospital on the Macquarie Point Railyards site.

Chairman of the Tasmanian Polar Network, Bill Lawson, said a Master Plan was needed to consider the wider context of industry requirements in relation to the entire port system and its facilities.

“It is the cumulative impact of individual decisions that reduce port capacity which can be significant and detrimental to future port operations and the industries that rely on the port.”

Mr Lawson said the TPN and TMN's response to the New Royal Project Progress Report clearly outlined the concerns raised by the maritime industry users of the Port of Hobart.

The submission includes a schedule of direct questions asked of the New Royal Project Team.

“We anticipate that the responses to these questions, as well as the clarifications and confirmations sought, will require a further round of review and comment,” Mr Lawson said.

Chairman of the Tasmania Maritime Network, Chris Edwards, said the TPN and TMN appreciated the opportunity to make this input but noted that it was the first such opportunity available to both Networks regarding the New Royal Project Progress Report.

Mr Edwards said the TPN and TMN had made a joint response because of the close alignment of their interests and the current and future needs of the Port of Hobart.

“In preparing the response we have relied on an incomplete set of documents made available to us or accessible within the public domain, as well as briefings to both the TMN and TPN by the Minister and her team of advisers.”

Mr Edwards said it was a widely held view of members of both the TPN and TMN that if the new hospital were to be built on the proposed site it would have an adverse impact on the future of the Working Port, the future of the Antarctic shipping industry and other important Maritime activities.

He said the industries based at the Port of Hobart were growing and had the potential to grow further. However, a development such as the new hospital would marginalise these industries which have taken many decades to establish.

“The Government needs to understand that if they continue to encourage the disintegration of the port the polar, maritime and cruise industries will suffer. More significantly, it could become impossible for Antarctic shipping to operate from Tasmania. This would result in a huge economic loss to the State,” Mr Edwards said

Mr Edwards said the TPN and TMN had made its response wholly transparent in the public domain in the interests of best assisting the RHH Project Team whilst protecting the Port of Hobart as a priceless asset handed down to current Tasmanians.

“The TPN and TMN believe open public debate is in the best interests of both Tasmania and Tasmanians”.

Other key points in the combined TPN/TMN Review Report include:

- The TPN and TMN do not believe the proposed siting of the New Royal adjacent to the working Port of Hobart is appropriate due to the conflict of incompatible uses which will inevitably threaten the future of the working port.
- The continued degradation of the Port of Hobart by both lack of maintenance and a set of seemingly uncoordinated developments must cease and be controlled in a manner which values, preserves and enhances, not reduces, the working port's capabilities and efficiency.

Both Chairman's said the Network's had also prepared the report within the limited resources of the TPN and the TMN and therefore with a significant voluntary effort by our members.

Please view the TPN/TMN response to the New Royal Project Progress Report at:  
<http://www.moonraker.com.au/newroyal.htm> or <http://www.tpn.aq/>

*For further comment please contact Chairman of the Tasmanian Polar Network, Bill Lawson on 0418 123 293 and Chairman of the Tasmania Maritime Network, Chris Edwards on 6273 1533.*