



Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE! MEDIA RELEASE!

Tuesday January 23rd 2007

Pyjama wearing protestors slam 'prejudiced' Hobart City Council

The Tenants' Union and Tasmanian Greens HCC Alderman Helen Burnet will at 12:30p.m. today be joined by approximately 20 pyjama-wearing protestors at the Hobart Town Hall. Their purpose is to draw attention to and condemn a Hobart City Council decision to disallow a disused building in Fitzroy Place, Sandy Bay to be turned into housing for low income earners.

According to Aldermen Helen Burnet:

It is prejudicial that while there are thousands of homeless people in Tasmania, the majority of the Hobart City Council believe that a 27-bed boarding premise is unsuitable for Sandy Bay. This is despite the owners of the property having no problem with Anglicare leasing it from them for this purpose and the Resource Management and Planning Approvals Tribunal unanimously agreeing that the development is appropriate for the area.

Furthermore, Council is pursuing this in the Supreme Court. Not only is this again denying people who need shelter the most, but it is a sorry waste of ratepayers' money.

The protestors all of whom will be dressed in pyjamas will "sleep" in cardboard boxes directly outside the Hobart Town Hall, highlighting the lack of options currently available for those people unable to access accommodation. A giant banner will also be unfurled which states: 'Shelter People Not Prejudice'.

According to Sandy Duncanson the manager of the Tenants' Union:

There is a lack of affordable housing in Tasmania with many people turned away from shelters because they are already full. Fitzroy Place is, in many respects an ideal site with good access to the city, bus stops and shopping facilities. It is simply unconscionable that the HCC would vote against such an important development for some of our most marginalised people.

The protestors are demanding that the HCC Aldermen will overturn their decision to appeal a decision of the Resource Management and Planning Approvals Tribunal (RMPAT) to the Supreme Court. Helen Burnet will be moving the following motion at the next HCC Meeting on January 29th:

Given the shortage of suitable housing effecting many homeless and other citizens of Hobart in need of suitable low cost accommodation, the Hobart City Council immediately withdraw its Supreme Court action against the RMPAT decision for the 20 Fitzroy Place Affordable Housing project.

Photo Opportunities Available

Helen Burnet - **0417 284 267**

For further Information:

Sandy Duncanson – **0439 730 408** or **6223 2500**