

Harvey LENNON

FOR MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, HOBART

For experienced, credible leadership and a sensible balance.



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 18 September 2026

Ending ratepayer-funded snacks first step in rebuilding trust in Hobart City Council: Lennon

Independent candidate for Hobart Mayor Harvey Lennon has pledged to end ratepayer-funded refreshments for Hobart councillors, if he is elected, and has urged other candidates to join his pledge.

Mr Lennon said the issue had been regularly raised in his campaign to date, and he believed ending the arrangement could help rebuild Council's credibility with ratepayers.

"Having ratepayer-funded snacks and beverages is completely out of step with workers and volunteers across our City, so I will move to end it if elected," Mr Lennon said.

"It sends the wrong message to ratepayers, it sends the wrong message to Council employees, and it sends the wrong message to our key stakeholders," he said.

"The 'snacks' issue has seriously eroded trust in Hobart City Council, and this will be an important first step in rebuilding that trust.

"If we want Hobart to be serious about delivering value for money for ratepayers then we have to lead the culture from the very top.

"These refreshments might be free for councillors, but they come at a cost to the community - and an even bigger cost to Council's credibility.

"If I'm elected Mayor, I will ask my fellow councillors to demonstrate practical leadership, set the standard and support this change. And I believe the other candidates for Mayor should make this commitment as well," he said.

Robert Mallett, General Manager of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, said ratepayer-funded refreshments were way out of step with small businesses and their workers across Hobart, and the practice should cease.

"This move is way overdue and I congratulate Harvey on his plan to end the free snacks arrangement, because it really does send the wrong message to workers and is not a good use of ratepayers' money, including Hobart's small businesses that pay substantial commercial rates," Mr Mallett said.

Mr Lennon said there was no way ratepayers should be picking up the tab for Councillors' snacks, beer and wine.

"If I'm elected Mayor it will be **BYO Snacks** from now on (**Buy Your Own or Bring Your Own**)," Mr Lennon said.

"The people of Hobart deserve a Council focused on Hobart's needs - not on themselves - and they deserve a Council far more careful with ratepayers' money."

ENDS

Media enquiries Vince Taskunas 0417 005 647