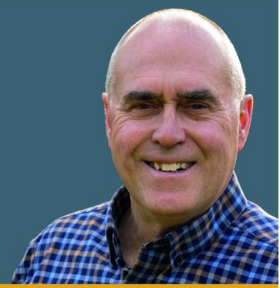


Harvey LENNON

FOR MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, HOBART

For experienced, credible leadership and a sensible balance.



MEDIA RELEASE

Ratepayers First: Lennon pledges four-year CPI limit on Hobart rate rises

Hobart mayoral candidate Harvey Lennon will ask the incoming Council to keep annual general rate increases at or below the Consumer Price Index for four years.

The commitment would be backed by an independent review of Council services and efficiency, together with an updated *Customer Service Charter* for ratepayers and residents.

"Keeping rate increases at or below CPI will require clear priorities, careful budgeting and a serious examination of how Council delivers its services," Mr Lennon said.

"Households and businesses can't treat cost increases as someone else's problem. Council must show the same discipline.

Mr Lennon said the independent review should identify any duplication, avoidable costs and opportunities to deliver services more efficiently. It would not begin with a predetermined list of service cuts.

"The purpose is to protect essential services while ensuring ratepayers receive proper value for money," he said.

The updated *Customer Service Charter* would set clear standards for improved communication, response times and follow-up when people contact Council.

"It's the ratepayers who fund Council and they deserve timely, respectful service. Better financial management and better customer service must go together," Mr Lennon said.

ENDS

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