

North Hobart Central Area Revitalisation

In Brief

Town/Region	Hobart
State	Tasmania
Context	Suburban
Target Group	All
Organisation(s):	Hobart City Council
Timing of Project	1999 – 2009
Weblink	http://www.hobartcity.com.au
Key Outcomes	Built environments influencing active living Sense of belonging Sense of place Positive health impacts



Overview

Hobart City Council is committed to a philosophy of “community owned development aiming to make change that reflects the spirit of “people and place”. The North Hobart community was heavily involved with the planning process through surveys and workshops. Consultation and communication were continuous throughout the 10 years of design and implementation of the project ensuring that the outcomes responded to the needs and aspirations of the community and businesses. New paving materials, furniture, lighting, artworks and traffic calming initiatives improve amenity and safety for users of the area.

OUTCOMES

- The character of the precinct has been strengthened.
- Safety and amenity have been increased.
- Traffic calming initiatives have been successfully implemented.
- Public art has been incorporated throughout the streetscape.
- A cultural bollard has been installed to provide the dissemination of cultural events and local news.
- The street has been “greened” with tree planting.
- There has been a large increase in applications for occupational licenses on the footpaths for café seating.



Successes

- The reduction of traffic speed has been a great success in assisting safe pedestrian movement throughout the precinct.
- The increased café occupational licenses and the resulting additional cafe furniture activate the footpaths and add to the vibrancy of the public area.
- The cultural bollard has daily postings and is frequently referred to.
- The furniture is well used and the low level pedestrian lighting defines the central strip. Public safety and amenity have been greatly improved.

Learnings

- Communication is needed before and during the design and construction processes in order that the traders and businesses can participate in the process. Then any concerns can be relayed to the designers and construction crews to prevent design and construction hold ups.
- The special value of Integrating artworks and heritage interpretation in the footpaths and on light poles. This approach has provided an interesting and colorful pedestrian journey for locals and visitors to the central area.
- The benefit of using quality materials for paving and furniture both for the comfort of the users and longevity of the elements.
- Traffic calming initiatives have to be implemented in order that a busy street can feel safe and pedestrian friendly.



Costs

- Approximately \$3.2M. The costs are divided into new capital works costs and asset replacement costs. Many underground services were replaced and all footpaths were rebuilt with new kerb and gutter and new surfaces. The project was staged and entirely funded by Hobart City Council over a period of ten years.

Benefits

- An overriding objective of this project was to make this section of Elizabeth Street, traditionally the northern route into and from the City of Hobart, a people's street. Hobart City Council set out to design and construct a vibrant streetscape that is environmentally sustainable, physically attractive, socially successful and economically viable.