



## DEVONPORT CITY COUNCIL

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27 August 2019

## NEW OPERATING MODEL FOR JULIE BURGESS



The Julie Burgess plies the Mersey River. Council has decided to sell, gift or enter a partnership agreement to operate the historic vessel. Picture by Greg Close

The Devonport City Council will seek expressions of interest for an alternate operator for the Julie Burgess.

Council decided at its meeting last night to either sell, gift or to enter a partnership agreement with a suitable operator for the 83-year-old historic fishing ketch.

It was told that the vessel currently has an annual operating deficit of about \$65,000.

A report to Council said that an extra 1300 full paying passengers would be required each year for it to break even, without considering any additional expenses incurred, such as increased maintenance costs due to increased utilisation.

The report said the passenger trend for two-hour sailings out of Devonport was downwards and initial interest in the vessel had waned.

Of the 46 intended two-hour sailings in the 2018-19 season, 41 per cent were cancelled with weather, crew availability and a lack of bookings the main reasons.

A total of 343 passengers were onboard the 27 sailings resulting in about 13 people per sailing, or 58 per cent capacity.

Council was told that the current business plan was to continue to operate the vessel with a volunteer crew, which exposed ongoing operations to the risk of uncertainty.

The Julie Burgess was built in Launceston in 1936 for Captain Harry Burgess to harvest crayfish in Bass Strait and regularly transited the Strait to Stony Point, in Westernport Bay, Victoria. The Julie Burgess was the last specifically built vessel of the Burgess family fishing ketches operating out of their home port of Devonport.

# COUNCIL TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR HOME HILL FOR A FURTHER THREE YEARS



Mayor Annette Rockliff at Home Hill

The Devonport City Council will enter a new three-year partnership agreement with the National Trust to ensure Home Hill's cultural collection is maintained and the property remains open to the public.

Home Hill is the former residence of Tasmania's only Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons.

## REVISED DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Council has released its revised Dog Management Policy for public comment.

The policy is designed to provide information on responsible dog ownership, identify areas within the municipal area which are available for exercising dogs and which areas for dogs are restricted or prohibited.

The policy also outlines Council's approach and responsibilities for dog management and control.

A copy of the revised policy can be found at the Speak up Devonport tab on Council's website at [www.devonport.tas.gov.au](http://www.devonport.tas.gov.au).

Members of the public have until 4 p.m. on Tuesday 10 September to provide their feedback, either on the Speak Up Devonport page or by emailing a written response to [council@devonport.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@devonport.tas.gov.au)

Home Hill was built by Joe and Enid Lyons in 1916. After Joe Lyon's death in 1939, Dame Enid remained living at Home Hill until she passed away in 1981.

It is unique to Devonport and the State and is one of only three former Prime Ministerial residences open to the public nationwide.

Council was told Home Hill delivered a range of tangible outcomes to the community which are aligned to the Devonport City Council's strategic plan. The historic asset contributes to Council's overall tourism economy as a local place of interest and attraction.

The facility is open to the public ten months of the year, closing during the quieter tourism period of July and August. Home Hill provides a range of community events including high teas, fetes, weddings and special functions.

## MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

The Devonport City Council is on target to have about 70 per cent of its public lighting inventory transferred to more energy efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs) by 2022.

Council was told that through scheduled and reactive renewal of public lights by TasNetworks, Council's public lighting inventory had increased in efficiency by about 23 per cent (reduction in average watts/lights) since 2014.

One in five lights are now LEDs, or 836 lights in total.

Council was also told that substantial progress had been made on all 13 actions in the Public Lighting Strategy Action Plan.

Six actions have been completed, six are ongoing throughout the life of the strategy and one is currently underway.

Improved lighting throughout the city is also believed to have been a contributing factor in a significant reduction in the number of night time crashes over the last five years.

The total number of night time crashes has reduced by 21 per cent - from 284 to 224 - since 2014.

Night time casualty crashes have fallen from 76 to 63, or 17 per cent, over the same period.