

# The need for one big plan

**P**RIME minister Malcolm Turnbull visited Hobart on Friday — the first time he has been to the state's capital since the Liberals' disastrous showing at the July 2 Federal Election.

There is still a mood of the federal Liberals licking their wounds in the wake of losing three seats, when, at best, one expected to go. But there also is a refreshing acknowledgment that at federal level they need to provide better government for our island state.

The party has been fuming since the election over Labor's so-called Mediscare campaign and the damage it did in the state's North. But the recent visit made it clear the Government has realised it is far from blameless. It recognises that it missed the obvious signs about how fundamental and important an issue health was and is for Tasmania, particularly our ageing population.

It acknowledges that it needs to provide a clear narrative — and leadership — so no vacuum can exist for such so-called fear campaigns to flourish.

The Prime Minister also expressed a keenness to work on a "City Deal" for Hobart.

This is a significant step.

Similar deals have been announced for cities such as Townsville and Launceston.

**Hobart needs a clear and overarching strategy that brings together all the different elements of the puzzle and engages everyone.**

They are potentially a powerful idea and aim to link all levels of government to provide cohesive plans which build on a city's strength and fast-track "innovative technology solutions that improve longstanding urban problems".

Hobart is perfectly poised to take full advantage of this innovation.

Construction is booming and the University of Tasmania is planning major expansions into the central business district.

Plans are building for Macquarie Point, although slower than many would like, and there are more and more hotel and development proposals coming out of the woodwork.

This will inevitably mean more and more people coming into our capital. It should also make it a more attractive place to live, work and invest. It will also inevitably bring a new set of challenges.

Already, we are being plagued by traffic chaos. We are being hampered by a lack of a modern public transport system. We are not utilising key assets, such as a potential light rail corridor to our northern suburbs, nor key cycleways.

We need to better understand the benefits of not just creating a university culture in the CBD, but how we can continue to develop the higher education and research sectors (particularly with regards to our links to Antarctica), and make the city a centre of excellence for some of these key pursuits.

We need to think about how we better link the thriving waterfront with the CBD.

Hobart needs a clear, overarching strategy that brings together all the different elements of the puzzle and engages everyone from the community, to the council, to the state, the Feds to the private sector.

This would be an important and significant step for our capital city.

All levels of government should not only embrace it, but ensure it happens.

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