



THE HON DUNCAN KERR SC MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DENISON

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 6 December 2009

Hobart return for passenger rail

Find attached a flyer for the Hobart Northern Suburbs Railway proposal

A possible return for Hobart passenger rail is on the cards thanks to the entrepreneurial work of a young Hobart family, Ben and Kristie Johnston.

The proposed railway would feature a state of the art fast rail line from Mawson's Place through to Granton with estimated travel time of 24 minutes – far below that of a car travel for the same journey during peak hour.

Federal Member for Denison, Duncan Kerr, showed his support for the proposal today, arguing that greater investment in public transport is necessary to reduce our carbon footprint and move people around growing cities.

“Hobart is the only capital city without passenger rail and with the need to reduce our carbon emissions, battery-powered rail is an obvious solution,” Mr Kerr said.

Mr Kerr and the Johnstons are holding a public information night on Wednesday 9 December to help drum up public support.

“Our railway proposal is a cost effective and sustainable use of existing infrastructure that provides a platform for significant future economic and social development in the Northern Suburbs,” Mr Johnston said.

“It could get a family from our beautiful waterfront out to the world class museum at Moorilla in fifteen minutes.”

Mr Kerr added, “This project has the potential to be a major tourist drawcard as well as a real help for families in the Northern Suburbs who struggle with our clogged roads.”

Glenorchy City Council will debate a motion put by Councillor Luke Martin to support the proposal at their monthly meeting tomorrow night (Monday 7 December).

The Johnstons have a facebook page, “Hobart Northern Suburbs Railway,” with more than 500 fans for the project.

“Support from the public has been fantastic,” Ms Johnston said. “We’re hoping that we can take this project further through an optimisation study that would take the project further.”

Media enquiries: Ben McKay – 0400 101 847

A public information session will be held at Moorilla on Wednesday 9 December at 4:30pm. Members of the public are invited to RSVP by calling 6234 5255.