

## RESPONSES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN DORSEY TO BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL INC QUESTIONS

### **Qu 1: How would you describe the impact on the city in the wake of the decisions announced in May 2021?**

The impact was huge for a specific group of people - but not everyone. It created angst in the city and brought forth real concerns for a specific group of people. I think it helped congeal the art community into a recognisable force. I try to find the positives - passionate people drive a city, the more united the better for the affected groups and the city. With regards to the Council decision - no one dissented and only one showed up to listen to your concerns - me.

### **Qu 2: The 'spirit' of the city feels broken and trust in council is at an all-time low. What is your plan to rebuild community trust and civic pride?**

I think we have been a below average Council and whilst confidence has been bruised - the sun will rise tomorrow and the city will progress. There are Councillors investing in the city and plans that have taken too long may come to fruition soon? The one thing that will restore civic pride is the perception that this Council acts. We are being left for dead by our neighbours - I am disappointed - we lack courage or conviction and the belief we can't do is debilitating.

### **Qu 3: Our reputation within the Tasmanian arts sector has taken a serious blow. What are your plans to salvage this, given the unveiling of the refurbished Arts and Function Centre (or whatever it will be called in the future), is unlikely to be completed until 2024?**

Plans to repair our damaged image - it will pass. We have good people on board with Mark, Scott, 10 Days and BNW who are passionate and working for the betterment of the city. The best Council can do is fund them appropriately but therein lies the problem - many councillors believe the city is broke. If we fail to fund we will fail to achieve.

### **Qu 4: With the benefit of hindsight, what key decisions, or actions which flowed from those decisions, could have been handled differently?**

I could give you a hypothetical answer that sounds good but the bottom line is that everyone in the room agreed without dissension. It may have been the meekest surrender in the history of council.