



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Historic Heritage Summit 17 MAY 2024

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**TODAY, the Tasmanian Heritage Council (THC) will host its second Historic Heritage Summit, bringing together sector stakeholders to identify priorities for the coming year.**

THC Chair, Brett Torossi, said this year's event followed the very successful inaugural Summit held in May 2023 which was championed by the current portfolio Minister, Madeleine Ogilvie MP.

“Once again, the Summit will provide the opportunities for the built heritage sector stakeholders to come together, identify collaboration opportunities and share experiences within the heritage community.

Ms Torossi said recent research demonstrated that built heritage contributes nearly \$1 billion annually to Tasmania's economy (Gross State Product).

“Nearly half a million visitors come to Tasmania attracted by our heritage assets and more than 5,000 jobs are supported by the existence of the sector.”

“Our built heritage is much more than timber, sandstone, bricks and mortar – it underpins a vital component of our economy, it is a major drawcard for visitors, it supports the retention of valuable building and conservation skills in the state and adds significant value to land and property values, and our brand.”

Ms Torossi said a key focus for the THC over the past year had been to strengthen connections with community with the Summit providing an opportunity to share the THC's communication and engagement strategy for the coming year.

“Regardless of what stakeholder “hat” we wear – property owner, trade specialist, tourism operator, or government official – we must work together and focus on the stories attached to the timber, sandstone, bricks and mortar.

Ms Torossi said there were many layered stories waiting to be told about listed places, the people and their connections with the built heritage.

“We have a job to do to tell the stories of the people who lived and worked in our beautiful heritage listed places. Ordinary people raising families, forging professional pathways, plying their trade or farming their land and generally creating a foundation for the contemporary society we live in today.



Ms Torossi said that keynote speaker, nationally-renown heritage professional, Tasmanian Dr Jody Steele, reminded the Summit of the importance of the value of genuine, respectful, engagement.

“If there was ever anyone to inspire people about the power of stories to recognise our past, shape our present and inspire our future, it is Dr Steele.”

Ms Torossi said a key component of the Summit included discussion of outcomes from sector focus groups, an initiative of the inaugural event.

“We have identified a range of challenges and opportunities for the sector - maximising investment in built heritage, heritage skills, engaging youth, management of industrial heritage and engagement with our local government colleagues - which will all be discussed and prioritised at the Summit.

Ms Torossi said that Tasmania, by its very nature, is inextricably linked to built heritage.

“Heritage is woven into the fabric of almost everything we do, what we revere, how we live and love, our recreation habits, our socialisation, where and how we work across the state.”

“Our task is to protect and activate our built heritage, encourage investment and strengthen the value of heritage across our communities and in doing so, continue to ensure Tasmania’s built heritage and the stories attached to these important places, remains at the heart and soul of our community, now and into the future.”

**ENDS**

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## **EVENT DETAILS**

**Friday 17 May 2024 (9-3pm)**

**Tramsheds Function Centre – 4 Invermay Road, Launceston**

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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