

Harbour plan thumbs up

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STAKEHOLDERS in the maritime sector have welcomed TasPorts' \$200 million, 15-year master plan released on Thursday.

Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania chief executive Luke Martin said the master plan would allow the Sullivans Cove area to be reimaged.

"We welcome the investment in the Antarctic precinct on the Macquarie Point side of the harbour which would allow the freeing up of the sites on the other parts of the waterfront such as Castray Esplanade and the Princes Wharf I site," he said.

"Under this vision, moving activities across to the other side with the cruise ships frees up that part of the waterfront for alternative uses such as different developments or heritage or catering to tourism."

Destination Southern Tasmania chief executive Alex Heroys said the organisation was particularly supportive of

the idea to create an Antarctic precinct because it may help with the proposal to move the CSIRO from Castray Esplanade to Macquarie Point.

"That would free up that site for the community vision of a community hub with a maritime heritage that Destination Southern Tasmania has for the Castray point area."

Destination Southern Tasmania and the tourism council last week released a plan for public parkland and a pool at the site.

Mr Heroys said the investment in cruise ship infrastructure may help attract higher-yielding visitors on slightly smaller cruise ships.

"We welcome visitors from all over the world and it is important that we target the higher-yielding visitors who appreciate what Tasmania has, which is wilderness and the pure environment."

The organisation believed it was unlikely that three massive cruise ships would be tied up in Hobart at the same time.

Tasmania's cruise ship visits have soared from 54 in 2012-2013 to 125 in 2017-2018.

A Tasmanian Cruise Ship Passenger Survey found passengers arriving in Hobart spent an average of \$172 while ashore. The Tasmanian Visitor Survey to March 2018 found visitors spent an average of \$204 a night.

Tasmanian Polar Network chairman Richard Fader said a \$60 million investment including an Antarctic logistics facility would reinforce Hobart as the gateway to the Antarctic.

Salamanca Stallholders Association president Kasha Siena said more detail was needed. "It is early days yet for a 10-15-year master plan but one thing I can say for certain is that when there is development the infrastructure such as parking and toilets needs to keep up," she said.

Burnie mayor Alwyn Boyd said the TasPorts investment of about \$80 million would increase freight capacity in the state's primary container port.