

Hobart needs a plan: Wilkie

SIMEON THOMAS-WILSON

THE State Government must prepare a strategic plan for Hobart's projects and proposals in order to secure a City Deal, Denison MP Andrew Wilkie says.

Mr Wilkie said Hobart was the only capital city that did not have a detailed strategic plan regarding investment and projects in its area.

And he said the State Government must take the lead if items on a big-ticket wishlist are to be realised.

"As best as I can understand Hobart is the only capital city for which there is not a detailed plan," Mr Wilkie said.

"In so many regards there are so many projects, proposals and thought-bubbles and they are really being discussed in isolation.

"We run a really big risk here of the city skewing off track and making a mess for our children and their children.

He said strategic planning needed to be driven by the State Government, not local councils, and said such a plan would help Hobart follow in the footsteps of Launceston and Townsville and secure a City Deal from the Federal Government.

"One of the building blocks of a City Deal, and how to get



the money for the city, is to show them that we have a plan," he said.

"It's a bit hard to go to Canberra and ask for money when we don't have a plan."

On Tuesday, Hobart Lord Mayor Sue Hickey met with Assistant Cities Minister Angus Taylor in Launceston to push the case for a Hobart City Deal, which would have the University of Tasmania's STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) project as the centrepiece.

Ald Hickey said significant work had gone into Hobart's bid for a City Deal.

"Any way in which Andrew Wilkie could help us get a City Deal would be much appreciated," she said.

A State Government spokesman said a City Deal would provide such a strategy that Mr Wilkie was pushing for. "That's exactly what a Hobart City Deal will do," he said.