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MEDIA RELEASE

TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX ART WORK CREATES DRIVE BY GALLERY

Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Rob Valentine said today the Hobart City Council is delighted to be launching '*Signal Box*', a Hobart City Council cultural initiative, managed by Urban Smart Projects, and will involve the painting of 20 traffic signal boxes (TSBs) in Hobart, each year over two years.

"Urban Smart Projects works nationwide to turn cities into brighter places by painting traffic signal boxes with original artwork.

"Painting traffic signal boxes, enhances traffic corridors, engages local communities and effectively deters graffiti. This initiative will provide many works of art on the streets, delivering an expressive outlet for the community and organisations that are the fabric of our city," said Alderman Valentine.

"Signal box artworks will create a drive by gallery - a meaningful visual element in the city."

The Lord Mayor said that, *Signal Box* is made possible by in-kind support through the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy & Resources, the owners and operators of TSBs in Hobart. The project is also being supported by partnership with RecLink Tasmania.

The involvement of RecLink, an organisation dedicated to assisting disadvantaged people in the community, will greatly assist in ensuring that the project is accessible to individuals who may not have the capacity to independently link with the project.

"A number of key Hobart community organisations are participating in *Signal Box* and there are still 8 TSBs that remain available to be painted," said Alderman Valentine.

Hobart TSBs that are available to paint can be viewed online from 9am Monday, October 11 at www.urbansmartprojects.com Go to “Paint a Box” and use the map to search or select “Signal Box” from the drop down box.

“Those wishing to take part in *Signal Box* can request a specific TSB and then design an artwork. TSB designs are then assessed and approved. Approved participants nominate their painting dates and then receive a pack of equipment including paint, mixing palettes, colour mixing chart, drop sheets, safety cones and safety vests. Artworks are painted onto TSBs over a period of one month, weather permitting. When completed, participants upload photographs of completed artworks which are displayed on the Urban Smart website.”

“*Signal Box*” artworks completed over two years will be displayed on Council’s web site and will be eligible for an award at the completion of the project,” said Alderman Valentine.

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