

Hobart rental prices have now jumped higher than that of Melbourne, placing the small city only just behind Sydney and Canberra in most expensive housing.

According to *CoreLogic*, Hobart's median weekly rental prices now sit at 464 dollars, jumping 7 dollars a week above Melbourne since the September quarter, making it now one of the most expensive places to rent in the country.

With around 1 in 4 Tasmanians renting, Shelter Tas chief executive Pattie Chugg is concerned about these escalating prices, consolidating the fact that Tasmania has THE lowest average income in Australia.

She says quote "the era of cheap rent in Tasmania is long past."

The Hobart City Council are one step closer to passing a by-law into the banning of single-use plastics in the city and surrounding areas.

The proposal was first made back in March, that would seek to ban all petroleum-based plastic containers and cups, utensils, lids, straws and condiment sachets as of next year.

Just yesterday, Director of Local Government Alex Tay approved an impact statement and revised proposal from the Hobart City Council, which now allows the council to begin a 21-day consultation process with the public.

Following this procedure, the council will still be required to publish the by-law in the Tasmanian Government Gazette, and have it observed and approved by all members of the parliament.

To the states north-west, and after several years of restricted access to Stanley's Old Wharf Jetty, TasPorts has decided against demolishing the historic structure. The once popular tourist and fishing spot has been off-limits due to the anchors under the wharf rusting, causing the cement slab on top to droop downwards into the sea, making it unstable.

TasPorts were initially going to tear the wharf jetty down, but instead, had a series of engineering and safety assessments carried out, and are now putting together plans for a multi-million-dollar refurbishment of the Old Wharf Jetty.

Work is expected to begin in the coming months.

As and a Hobart judge has sentenced a 20-year-old man to one-year suspended jail time and 100 hours of community service for attempting to smuggle 19 ecstasy tablets out of the state, inside of his underwear.

Samuel Adrian Webb pleaded guilty last month on one count of drug trafficking and appeared in front of Justice Gregory Geason this morning, where his sentence was briefly handed down.

Webb had been partying in Hobart for several days, allegedly purchasing 252 ecstasy tablets whilst here, and, had two thousand, two hundred dollars in cash on his person when he arrived at the airport early on February 25th.

Webb was said to have been intending to sell the rest of the pills on the mainland to pay off his thirteen-thousand-dollar drug debt, but was instead apprehended at the airport after acting suspiciously.

To sport, and with Tasmania's second Sheffield Shield match currently underway against New South Wales, the Tasmanian selectors chose to drop former captain and international superstar George Bailey from the side.

Beau Webster was instead brought in off the back of Bailey only making 10 runs in the Shield opener against Western Australia, while Jackson Bird was also ruled out due to the birth of his first child, allowing Alex Pyecroft to come into the side.

Tasmania won the toss this morning and elected to bat against a Blues side brimming with test stars like Steve Smith, David Warner, Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon. Only an hour ago, Tassie were four wickets down for two hundred and twenty-five runs after 78 overs. Webster was not out on 55 and Jewell not out on 4.

And that rounds out the news headlines for the 18th of October