

## **1.**

**First off, if you haven't already heard, the weather outside is set to remain very similar to what it is now, leading into the weekend.**

**Hobart will be gearing up to endure a wintery storm with temperatures no greater than 10 degrees, accompanied by strong south-south westerly winds of up to 40 to 60 kilometres, significantly heavy rainfall between 10 to 20 millimetres in some areas and snow falling to as low as 500 metres.**

**The Bureau of Meteorology has issued a warning to all farmers that lambs and sheep exposed to the increasingly cold weather will be at serious risk, while several marine and gale wind warnings have been issued for the Far West Coast, Lower East Coast, South East Coast and South West Coast.**

**The conditions today have already grounded several aircrafts coming in and out of the state, while also delaying many others. But it's Saturday that is looking to be the worst of the weekend, with the low-pressure system moving away from Tasmania on Sunday but dumping some possible hail and heavy rain as it dissipates.**

## **2.**

**UPC Renewables, the company behind the current proposal to construct a 200-turbine wind farm on Robbins Island off the coast of far north-west Tasmania, are proposing a 1.2-kilometre bridge to be built in order to link the two islands.**

**The initial proposal of a causeway and bridge structure has been overlooked, instead opting for a new and innovative design in the form of a straight 1.2-kilometre bridge in Robins Passage.**

**This would connect mainland Tasmania at Montagu to Robins Island, where a 170-kilometre transmission line will carry power from the wind farm to another UPC Renewables proposed energy park at inland Jim's Plains, and then fed into the grid at either Sheffield or Hampshire.**

**The proposal for the wind farm is set to be lodged in the coming months, while more details of the bridge and connector cables will need to be approved by the Circular Head Council and TasNetworks.**

### **3.**

**A Tasmanian paper mill is leading the way in an environmentally friendly process that's attempting to use paper wastage to power old electric-vehicle batteries. The Norsk Skog paper mill at Boyer, in conjunction with the Circa Group, now processes a non-toxic solvent called cyrene, a by-product of the papermaking process.**

**The company hopes to replace the pre-existing harmful solvents used in pharmaceutical manufacturing to essentially create a bio-solvent. But it is through the UK's Research and Innovation funding, as part of the Faraday Battery Challenge, that Norsk Skog will develop the cyrene to be used to create cost-effective, recyclable lithium ion batteries that will power electrical cars.**

**With the number of electric cars across the world passing 5.1 million last year, and expected to reach 130 million by 2030, the amount of spent batteries that will need recycling will keep Norsk Skog busy well into the future.**

**4.**

**And in breaking basketball news, the Southern Huskies have made a shock withdrawal from both the New Zealand NBL and the NBL1 competitions just one year into their five-year agreement.**

**Club officials sent a press release out this afternoon saying the decision was effectively immediately, and although the three Huskies' teams had a difficult start in their first season, officials say they are proud in what they have achieved, unfortunately mentioning, quote "circumstances over the past month, have made it impossible to remain a part of the basketball program in Tasmania."**

**And lastly, in state football, Saturdays TSL top of the table clash between Lauderdale and North Launceston will see the battle of the bombers take place at Lauderdale oval.**

**Conditions at the oval will be incredibly tough due to the rain, wind and cold weather, but the winner will most likely be crowned minor premiers going into the finals, which also grants the first week off and a home ground advantage.**

**And that's the news for the 9<sup>th</sup> of August**