

In the light of Premier Will Hodgman's announcement earlier this week to step down from all parliamentary duties, the decision of who will take his place is expected to be voted on in a Liberal Party meeting on Monday.

Speaking earlier today, the outgoing Premier mentioned that he would not be involved in the voting process at all, claiming it to be "inappropriate", thus leaving the decision to the remaining 14 members of the party.

This now has the potential for the leadership showdown between Peter Gutwein and Michael Ferguson to result in a draw, to which Mr Hodgman again mentioned he would not be involved in, nor would he be asked to be the deciding factor if this were to be the case.

Mr Hodgman ended by saying whoever takes his position as Premier, he is confident and without a doubt, they will put Tasmanians first and do the best job possible.

A proposal for a brand-new pizza restaurant in Battery Point has caused major uproar within the community, claiming that the development will result in the loss of property value and degrade the existing heritage in the prestigious area.

Formally Bahr's Chocolate Shop and Milk Bar on Hampden Road, the institution for many generations until its closure in January 2017, looks to become a quaint, 12 seated, dine-in and takeaway pizza restaurant, following new development application put forward to the Hobart City Council.

The application to extend business hours, erect new signage and conduct minor demolition and alteration works will be considered at a HCC planning committee meeting on Monday night.

The prospective new owners hope to have the Bahr's sign removed and replaced with their own, reading

Lord of Pizza and Café, but residents have voiced their concerns and raised a number of objections to this proposal.

These objections range from such inconveniences like traffic chaos along Hampden Street and Stowell Avenue, the new illuminated sign would degrade the heritage value of Battery Point, even going as far as mentioning the smell of the pizza oven would be unreasonable and adversely affect the community.

The conditions of a pedestrian who was struck by an on-coming police vehicle earlier last week, that also killed her partner, has begun to improve, with doctors mentioning her vital signs coming back within normal limits.

The incident took place at the intersection of St John and Patterson street in Launceston on the 6th of January, where the police car collided with another vehicle as it sped through a red light on its way to a callout in Youngtown.

The male officer had the emergency lights flashing, but did not have the sirens turned on, and upon impact with the second vehicle, the police car flipped and spun multiple times, hitting a middle-aged couple as they crossed the road.

The man died at the scene, however the woman was flown to the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne with life-threatening injuries, until yesterday, when she was confirmed to be in a stable condition.

While the policeman and driver of the other vehicle escaped unharmed, circumstances surrounding the crash and a formal investigation, could take some months to be resolved, due to the multiple avenues of inquiry.

Of utmost interest is the law that allows police to decide on a case-by-case basis whether or not to use either the siren or lights, or just both.

Aaand just lastly, in sports news, Tasmania's newly formed Devils girls under-18 football side, will make its debut in the NAB League at the AFLW curtain-raiser match between the Kangaroos and the Adelaide Crows on March 7.

With the inclusion and debut of the boys Tassie Devils team in last year's NAB season, it was only fitting to welcome the girls into the competition, said AFL Head of Talent Pathways and State League Competitions, Tristan Salter.

The Tassie girls will play a total of six matches in the state, with three of them as curtain-raises for North Melbourne at North Hobart Oval.

And that's what's making news headlines on the 17th of January