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1. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

As the recently appointed Chair of the RDA Tasmania Committee, I must commence my report by acknowledging the role and commitment of my predecessor, John Klug, and his Deputy, Chris Jones, for their guidance and governance of the Committee over the past two years. I also take this opportunity to recognise the role of Committee members, Heather McGee and Kym Goodes, who stood down from the Committee throughout the year.

The profile of the Committee has changed throughout the years, as has the focus of the organisation. This is reflected in the revised Regional Plan, which identifies the following key areas of focus for the coming year:

1. Regional Health;
2. Small Business and Emerging Industry;
3. Industry Transition;
4. Skills and Training;
5. Regional Economic Support and Renewal; and

I look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with the Tasmanian Government, particularly through the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Arts, and the Regional Reference Groups in the implementation of the State’s Economic Development Plan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to make it known that the RDA Tasmania Committee will continue to work with the Tasmanian community as the Forestry Intergovernmental Agreement is implemented, and to support those communities to maximise economic diversification opportunities.

Mr Tom Black
Chairman
2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The 2010 – 11 financial year proved to be an extremely busy for the RDA Tasmania Committee and staff.

Following the 2010 Federal Election, the Committee made a deliberate choice to review its activities to ensure we were able to maximise opportunities that arose from new government programs and policies, particularly those reflected in the Commitment to Regional Australia contained with the ALP-Independents Agreement.

I would like to acknowledge the activities of the RDA Tasmania staff of Brigid Rawlings, Gale Singline, Greer Sakul and Jen Newman throughout the year. In particular, I would like to thank them for embracing the new opportunities and demonstrating their commitment in supporting the RDA Tasmania Committee in building, strengthening and understanding its role in regional development.

The importance of understanding our role cannot be understated. As 2010 - 11 unfolded, the Committee and staff have become more deeply engaged on a greater number of issues and changes within Tasmania, and we expect that this will continue. As a small organisation we must continue to carefully consider which activities we should participate in. We must understand where and how we can make a difference, and step away from challenges where others can more effectively support positive change and growth of our community, Tasmania.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking the personal support the staff received from both John Klug and Chris Jones, who stepped down from the Committee as Chair and Deputy Chair at the 30 June 2011, and also from John Borojevic from the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development & Local Government for his ongoing support.

Mr Craig Perkins
Chief Executive Officer

1 The Australian Labor Party & the Independent Members (Mr Tony Windsor and Mr Rob Oakshott) (‘the Parties’) Agreement
3. HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2010 - 2011

Commitment to Regional Australia

In September 2010, an agreement was signed between the Australian Labor Party and the Independent members, Mr Tony Windsor and Mr Rob Oakeshott. Within the Agreement, there is a specific focus on its ‘Commitment to Regional Australia’.

This commitment highlights a number of program and policies with specific reference to Regional Australia. These include:

New Regional Commitments
- National Broadband Network Extensions;
- Regional Health Investments;
- Regional Education Investments; and
- Regional Infrastructure Investments.

Existing Regional Commitments
- Regional Infrastructure;
- Regional Telecommunications;
- Regional Local Government;
- Regional Development Australia;
- Regional Agriculture;
- Regional Water;
- Caring for our Coast;
- Regional Health; and
- Regional Education.

These commitments provide a number of investment opportunities for Tasmania as a region. RDA Tasmania’s Regional Plan identifies opportunities to align our activities to maximise opportunities that will arise from this Agreement.

Regional Development Australia Fund

In March 2011 round one of the Regional Development Australia Fund was opened. When the round closed in May 2011, RDA Tasmania had assessed 34 applications against the alignment of our Regional Plan. Of these, 27 were formally lodged, requesting funds to the value of $80 million. Two projects from the region were successful in their application for funding.

The successful projects for Tasmania were:
$2.32 million Glenorchy City Council for the $15.9 million Glenorchy Art Sculpture Park Stage Two project.

$4.31 million to the St Giles Society Inc for the $5.81 million project to build a new multi-purpose Paediatric Regional Centre of Excellence in West Hobart.

There were over 550 applications nationally. Due to the response, the Australian Government increased Round 1 funding to $150 million, investing in 35 projects worth $418 million. The Department has advised that Round Two of RDAF is expected to open in November 2011.

RDA Tasmania submitted feedback to the Australian Government, with suggestions to make the program guidelines and process more effective.

**Forestry Industry**

In March 2011, RDA Tasmania hosted a workshop with Bill Kelty, Facilitator of the Forest Principles Agreement; Dr Jacki Shirmer, CRC for Forestry; Professor Jonathan West, Australian Innovation Research Centre; and Greg Le’Strange and Calton Frame from Gunns Ltd. The workshop enabled RDA Tasmania to gain an understanding of the challenges faced through the transition of the forestry sector.

RDA Tasmania has remained involved in the forestry restructure and the Statement of Principles processes. This involvement has assisted RDA Tasmania to understand the diverse opinions and impacts from changes in the industry.

**NBN and Broadband**

RDA Tasmania has been active in engaging with relevant stakeholders regarding the National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout for Tasmania.

RDA Tasmania has worked closely with NBN Co over the last year, including coordinating two forums in the north and north west regions, enabling NBN Co to provide information on the project to their stakeholders. RDA Tasmania has also attended numerous council presentations undertaken by NBN Co. Through this involvement, RDA Tasmania was able to liaise with NBN Co to ensure the Bell Bay precinct, in northern Tasmania, would receive fibre optic cable as part of the rollout for the State.
RDA Tasmania facilitated two NBN workshops, targeted towards local government. These workshops informed local government on the opportunities enabled through the infrastructure project. The workshops, held in the northern and southern regions, included presentations by Ros Hill, eHealth Advisor for Northern Area Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), John McGee, Director Digital Futures, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (DEDTA), and David Haynes, Manager: Kids Come First project, DHHS.

RDA Tasmania is a member of the NBN Northern Tasmania Regional Consultative Committee. Through this committee, the Digital Region Plan: Connecting Northern Tasmania was developed, which includes various demonstration projects and programs able to be implemented across northern Tasmania. This plan was presented to Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

RDA Tasmania liaised with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) regarding the NBN and the various funding program opportunities to support community engagement in Tasmania. In addition, RDA Tasmania provided support to the Department through conducting a series of surveys, on behalf of the Department, in the three Tasmanian communities that received the NBN in stage 1 of the project. The information sought and collated provided guidance to the Department with regards to future funding programs available to these Tasmanian communities.

Employment and Skills
RDA Tasmania has continued to participate on the Keep Australia Working Advisory Committee, an initiative of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Through this committee, the organisation has maintained a close working relationship with the Local Employment Coordinator (LEC).

RDA Tasmania remains active participants on the two Partnership Brokerage Committees, coordinated by Tasmanian Lifelong Learning, in the north and northwest regions of Tasmania. The Partnership Brokerage Committees are an initiative of DEEWR.

RDA Tasmania was a key stakeholder in the Brighton project, ‘Literacy Alive’, which was successful in $103,000 from the Tasmanian Community Fund program.

Local and State Government engagement
RDA Tasmania has maintained strong relations with local and state government. Tasmania is the only
state that has one RDA committee within its jurisdiction.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Tasmanian Government has continued to support the collocation of the southern RDA staff member within the State DEDTA. This model will be extended to the north-west in 2011-2012.

An example of activities involving these two tiers of government include:

Local Government
- Facilitated three forums
  - Two on NBN
  - One on Social Enterprises
- Sponsored the Tasmanian LGMA conference in October 2010
- Member of the southern council’s Community Sector Reference Group

State Government
- Remained actively engaged with key Tasmanian Government convened initiatives
  - Tourism Tasmania’s National Landscape’s proposal. National Landscapes are an Australian Government initiative.
  - Development of Economic Development Tourism and Arts Economic Development Plan for Tasmania
  - Participation on the North East Working Group in Scottsdale to support the community through the impacts of timber mill closures

Community engagement
RDA Tasmania
- Sponsored two Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA) events
  - Agribusiness – Could this be Tasmania’s future?
  - Growing economic sustainability in northern Tasmania
- Facilitated fifteen (15) Grant Writing Workshops
- Facilitated one (1) Project Planning Workshop
- Sponsored Dr. Ernesto Sirolli Workshop in Burnie
- Hosted Working Women Workshop (two conducted)
- Conducted Local Leaders’ Forums (Westbury and Smithton)
Support
RDA Tasmania provided letters of support to:
- Anvers Confectionary Pty Ltd; and
- Tranquilles Bed and Breakfast, Café and Gallery

Both of whom were successful in supporting tourism development projects through the 2011 Tourism Quality Projects (TQUAL) grant round.

Submissions
RDA Tasmania provided input to:
- House of Representatives Inquiry on NBN
- House of Representatives Inquiry on Forestry
- Tasmanian Economic Development Plan
- Our Cities Discussion Paper
- Sustainable Population Strategy

Sponsorships
Through the year, the RDA Tasmania Committee was pleased to support the following events:

- The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) *Growing Economic Sustainability in Northern Tasmania* Forum;
- Local Government Managers Australia (Tasmania) 2010 Conference;
- Rural Women in Business Week;
- Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council *Working on the Water*;
### Participation

In addition to the development of our Regional Plan throughout the year, RDA Tasmania participated in the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOST ORGANISATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN (Plus)</td>
<td>Anglicare</td>
<td>Communities for Children funds organisations to develop and facilitate a whole of community approach building on community strengths and the existing infrastructure of organisations, networks and resources, making use of strong evidence of what works in early intervention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL LANDSCAPES STEERING COMMITTEE</td>
<td>Tourism Tasmania</td>
<td>Australia’s National Landscapes is an initiative that aims to achieve conservation, social and economic outcomes for Australia and its regions via the promotion of superlative nature based tourism experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEANDER VALLEY ENTERPRISE CENTRE</td>
<td>Meander Valley Business Enterprise Centre Inc.</td>
<td>MVEC provides a business advisory and information service to support existing and intending enterprises throughout the Meander Valley, is partially funded by both the Australian Government and the Meander Valley Council and is an affiliate member of Business Enterprise Centres of Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIP BROKER</td>
<td>Tasmanian Life Long Learning 3</td>
<td>The School Business Community Partnership Brokers (Partnership Brokers) program is focused on building partnerships to support young people to attain Year 12 or equivalent qualifications and reach their full educational and social potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEEP AUSTRALIA WORKING COMMITTEE</td>
<td>DEEWR</td>
<td>Supporting the Local Employment Coordinators, the KAWAC has developed a Local Employment Plan for North/North West Tasmania. The plan set out the employment priorities for the Local Employment Coordinator and Keep Australia Working Advisory Committee. The Plan aims to maximise the Nation Building– Economic Stimulus Plan, increasing skills and creating jobs and business opportunities for local people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. COMMITTEE PROFILE

The RDA Tasmania Committee membership in 2010 – 11 was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE MEMBER</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Klug</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>State Manager, Able Australia Inc.</td>
<td>Term expired 30 June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tom Black</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>Term expires 30 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Chris Jones</td>
<td>Deputy Chair</td>
<td>CEO, Anglicare Tasmania Inc.</td>
<td>Term expired 30 June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Lisa Nelson</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Strategy Facilitator, Circular Head &amp; Waratah-Wynyard Councils</td>
<td>Term expires 30 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Louise Clark</td>
<td>Deputy Chair and RDA Treasurer</td>
<td>Community Relations Specialist, Rio Tinto Alcan</td>
<td>Term expires 30 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Warren Butler</td>
<td>Committee Member</td>
<td>Teacher/Facilitator, Tasmanian Polytechnic</td>
<td>Term expires December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Shandell Elmer</td>
<td>Committee Member</td>
<td>Senior Project Officer, Quality Management Services</td>
<td>Term expires December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Kym Goodes</td>
<td>Committee Member</td>
<td>Director - 3P Consulting</td>
<td>Term expired 30 June 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tom Black replaced John Klug as Chair in June 2011.
### 5. STAFFING

Staffing levels for the financial year were unchanged from the previous year. RDA Tasmanian presented a business case for increased resources to support a Community and Strategic Development position on the North West Coast. RDA Tasmania welcomed the announcement that additional funding was announced in the May Federal Budget to provide the additional staffing resources from the commencement of the 2011/12 financial year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>STAFF MEMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>Craig Perkins</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Community and Strategic Development</td>
<td>Greer Sakul</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Newman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brigid Rawlings</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
<td>Gale Singline</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### 6. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for the year ended 30 June 2011 is attached.