# Table of Contents

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** ........................................................................................................ 4

   1.1 **FOCUS AREAS FOR 2012–13** .......................................................................................... 4

2. **INTRODUCTION** .................................................................................................................... 6

3. **VISION FOR THE REGION** .................................................................................................. 7

   3.1 **RDA TASMANIA’S LONG-TERM VISION AND GOALS** ..................................................... 7

   3.2 **THE REGION’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES** ............................... 7

5. **AUSTRALIAN AND TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIORITIES** ........................... 11

   5.1 **DEMOGRAPHICS** .............................................................................................................. 12

   5.2 **ECONOMIC** .................................................................................................................... 13

   5.2.1 **Industry transition** ..................................................................................................... 13

   5.2.2 **Industry sectors** .......................................................................................................... 13

   5.2.3 **Infrastructure** .............................................................................................................. 14

   5.2.4 **Employment characteristics** ....................................................................................... 15

   5.2.5 **Education and skills** .................................................................................................. 15

   5.2.6 **Tertiary education and research** .................................................................................. 15

   5.3 **CULTURE, RECREATION, SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** ........................................ 16

   5.3.1 **Arts and creative industries** ......................................................................................... 16

   5.3.2 **Sport and recreation** .................................................................................................. 17

   5.4 **ENVIRONMENT** .............................................................................................................. 17

6. **PRIORITIES FOR OUR REGION** ........................................................................................... 20

   **PRIORITIES FOR RDA TASMANIA** ...................................................................................... 20

   6.1 **Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania** ............................................................ 20

   6.2 **Maximise the potential and benefit of the national broadband network (NBN)** ............. 20

   6.3 **Increase collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government** ...... 21

   6.4 **Improve literacy and education levels within the Tasmanian community** ..................... 21

   6.5 **Work to deliver improved health services to the Tasmanian community** ..................... 21

   6.6 **Maximise the advantage to Tasmania of the new carbon economy** ......................... 21

   6.7 **Facilitate place-based solutions for local communities and economic diversification** ...... 21

   **HOW RDA TASMANIA PRIORITIES WERE DEVELOPED AND FORMED** .............................. 21

7. **ACHIEVING RDA REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR TASMANIA** ............................................. 23

   7.1 **EXPAND AND GROW ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN TASMANIA** ....................................... 23

   7.2 **MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL AND BENEFIT OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK** 24

   7.3 **INCREASE COLLABORATION AND EFFICIENCIES BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** 24

   7.4 **IMPROVE LITERACY AND EDUCATION LEVELS WITHIN THE TASMANIAN COMMUNITY** 25

   7.5 **WORK TO DELIVER IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICES TO THE TASMANIAN COMMUNITY** 25

   7.6 **MAXIMISE THE ADVANTAGE TO TASMANIA OF THE NEW CARBON ECONOMY** ............. 25

   7.7 **FACILITATE PLACE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES** ............................ 26
### 8. REVIEWING THE 2012–13 REGIONAL PLAN

8

### 9. ATTACHMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>OVERVIEW OF TASMANIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>REGIONAL SOCIAL/DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Age profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Demographic change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Liveability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROFILE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Economic challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Industry transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Industry sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Employment characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Education and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>REGIONAL CULTURE, RECREATION, SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Regional arts and creative industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Regional community, sport and recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRMs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Enhancing clean energy opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Tasmanian biosecurity and wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Tasmania’s environmental future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>OVERVIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>DEMOGRAPHIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>ECONOMIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Industry transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Employment characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Education and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>REGIONAL CULTURAL, SPORT AND RECREATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Arts and creative industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Sport and recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOSSARY</td>
<td>TERMS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

ATTACHMENT ONE – REGIONAL PROFILE 28

1. OVERVIEW OF TASMANIA 28

2. REGIONAL SOCIAL/DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE 29

2.1 Population 29

2.2 Age profile 31

2.3 Households 32

2.4 Demographic change 32

2.5 Liveability 33

3. REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROFILE 33

3.1 Economic challenges 34

3.2 Industry transition 35

3.3 Industry sectors 36

3.4 Infrastructure 38

3.5 Employment characteristics 40

3.6 Education and skills 41

4. REGIONAL CULTURE, RECREATION, SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY 43

4.1 Regional arts and creative industries 43

4.2 Regional community, sport and recreation 44

5. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE 45

5.1 Environment 45

5.2 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRMs) 46

5.3 Enhancing clean energy opportunities 46

5.4 Tasmanian biosecurity and wildlife 47

5.5 Tasmania’s environmental future 47

ATTACHMENT TWO – PROGRAMS 48

1. OVERVIEW 48

2. DEMOGRAPHIC 48

3. ECONOMIC 50

3.1 Industry transition 50

3.2 Infrastructure 51

3.3 Employment characteristics 54

3.4 Education and skills 55

4. REGIONAL CULTURAL, SPORT AND RECREATION 57

4.1 Arts and creative industries 57

4.2 Sport and recreation 59

5 ENVIRONMENTAL 60

GLOSSARY OF TERMS 64
1. Executive summary

This is an annual document produced by RDA Tasmania for approval by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport. Significant consultation is undertaken with all levels of government and key stakeholders to review and refine this snapshot of our region, summarise Australian and Tasmanian Government policy, and develop RDA Tasmania’s priorities for 2012–13.

1.1 Focus areas for 2012–13

Tasmania has a number of challenges and opportunities that are unique as Australia’s only island state. The state continues to be challenged by slower economic growth and higher unemployment levels than most other regions of the country. Our region is also the most rapidly ageing. For example, the east coast median age had risen to 53 years at the time of the 2011 Census, meaning half the population is over 53 years old and half is under.

Population change has shown a trend towards urban migration at the expense of more rural communities, with higher education levels and wages in the major urban centres and a younger age profile than rural populations. This trend has implications for services provision and settlement planning with regional urban centres growing despite a low overall population growth for the state.

As a state, Tasmania continues to record below the national average on health determinants and preventable diseases. This comes as a major cost in terms of the cost to the Health system and impact on a productive workforce.

Below national average outcomes continue to be recorded in educational attainment – both at high school level (with low post year 10 retention levels) and in functional adult literacy rates.

In relation to governance, Tasmania is undergoing major reform with respect to land use planning. There are ongoing and major changes to the forestry sector, with additional areas of forest reserves being a likely outcome. The Tasmanian education and health systems are also undergoing major changes with respect to structural and governance arrangements.

An Economic Development Plan for the state was produced in 2011 by the State Government. More detailed regional economic development plans are being developed for the three sub-regions of Tasmania that are due to be launched in November 2012. RDA Tasmania will be guided by these plans and support projects aligned with the priorities and actions they identify.

In this context, RDA Tasmania has identified key priorities for Tasmania the need to:

- foster greater private sector economic outcomes
- improve the capacity for Tasmanians to enjoy and healthy lifestyle
- provide greater educational opportunities and results.

More specifically this Regional Plan, developed through both research and significant stakeholder engagement, directs RDA Tasmania to support and assist initiatives within Tasmania that demonstrate a focus on growing the economic base and encouraging a more healthy and educated community.
RDA Tasmania Priorities 2012–13

1. Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania.

2. Maximise the potential and benefit of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

3. Increase collaboration and efficiencies between the Australian, State and Local Governments.

4. Improve literacy and education levels within the Tasmanian community.

5. Work to deliver improved health services to the Tasmanian community.

6. Maximise the advantage of the new carbon economy to Tasmania.

7. Facilitate place-based solutions for local communities and economic diversification.
2. Introduction

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is an Australian Government initiative established to encourage partnership between all levels of government to enhance the growth and development of Australia’s regional communities. RDA committees operate under a national RDA Charter and report to the Australian Government on key outcomes. A national network of 55 RDA committees has been established and RDA Tasmania represents the entire state of Tasmania.

RDA Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation that has a formal partnership between the Australian Government, Tasmanian Government, and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT). A key focus of RDA Tasmania is on the economic, social and environmental issues affecting communities.

The purpose of this Regional Plan (the Plan) is to clearly state RDA Tasmania’s priorities in the context of the state and Australian Government policy landscape and the profile of Tasmania as a region. The Plan identifies RDA Tasmania’s vision for the region; the comparative advantages and challenges; and priorities. Priorities are informed through the statistical data in the regional profile (Attachment One), Australian and state government policy imperatives and stakeholder consultation.

The Australian Government will refer to the Plan to inform policy development and decision, as well as support decision making and investment in the region. In addition to this Regional Plan, an annual Business Plan is developed that outlines internal actions and goals over a twelve month period.

Committee members of RDA Tasmania are committed volunteers who have been chosen by the Australian Government due to their understanding of, and experience in, a range of areas including their professional and industry background, community networks, skills and experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RDA Tasmania Committee Members</th>
<th>RDA Tasmania Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mr Tom Black – Chair          | **Chief Executive Officer**  
| Ms Lou Clark – Deputy Chair   | Craig Perkins  
| Ms Lisa Nelson – Secretary    | [craig.perkins@rdatasmania.org.au](mailto:craig.perkins@rdatasmania.org.au)  
| Mr Barry Easther – Treasurer  | 0409 395 195  
| Mr Paul Lan                   | **Community and Strategic Development**  
| Ms Phyllis Pitchford          | South – Jen Newman  
| Mr Tim Hess                   | [jen.newman@rdatasmania.org.au](mailto:jen.newman@rdatasmania.org.au)  
| Mr John Ramsay                | 0439 615 947  
| Mrs Madeleine Skerritt        | North – Brigid Rawlings  
| Mr Andrew Morgan              | [brigid.rawlings@rdatasmania.org.au](mailto:brigid.rawlings@rdatasmania.org.au)  
| Dr Kathleen Broderick         | 0419 395 178  
| Mr Bob Frost                  | North West – Mike Brindley  
| Prof. Janelle Allison         | [mike.brindley@rdatasmania.org.au](mailto:mike.brindley@rdatasmania.org.au)  
| Bios for Committee members can be found at [www.rdatasmania.org.au](http://www.rdatasmania.org.au) | **Executive Assistant to the CEO**  
|                                | Gale Singline  
|                                | [gale.singline@rdatasmania.org.au](mailto:gale.singline@rdatasmania.org.au)  
|                                | (03) 6334 9822  

Committee members of RDA Tasmania are committed volunteers who have been chosen by the Australian Government due to their understanding of, and experience in, a range of areas including their professional and industry background, community networks, skills and experience.
3. **Vision for the region**

3.1 **RDA Tasmania’s long-term vision and goals**

*To create a socially inclusive Tasmania which is centred on a strong and sustainable economy and environment.*

- **Tasmania Together Vision**

  Tasmania is an island community unique for its natural and cultural environment, where people enjoy a prosperous lifestyle based on quality, creativity and opportunity.

- **Tasmanian Economic Development Plan Vision**

  Tasmania is a small, beautiful and remote part of the world with unique features and rich natural resources that the world increasingly values. The Economic Development Plan centres on making the most of Tasmania’s assets to secure prosperity and jobs.

3.2 **The region’s comparative advantages and challenges**

The profile of our region in attachment one provides detail of the characteristics and attributes that make Tasmania unique. From this profile we have summarised the comparative advantages and challenges currently faced by Tasmania.

**Comparative advantages**

- **Renewable energy** – currently Tasmania produces 87% of its energy needs from renewable sources. This is an advantage in the new carbon economy.
- **Access to water** – Tasmania receives 12% of Australia’s annual rainfall. This supports growth in the agriculture sector through significant new irrigation infrastructure with a vision of the state becoming a ‘food bowl’ of the nation.
- **Tasmanian brand** – strong positive recognition of export products and potential to expand fresh produce and beverages and niche, high value products.
- **Liveability** – Tasmanian has diversity of landscape and lifestyle, culture and a temperate climate all within a relatively small footprint. It has strong local communities and connectedness.
- **Waterfront expansion** – Hobart is the only capital city in Australia that has the potential for waterfront development close to the CBD.
- **NBN rollout** – Tasmania will be the first Australian state to be fully connected to the new NBN high speed internet network.
- **Climate change predictions data** – the Climate Futures Project is a study undertaken by the Antarctic Climate and Eco Systems Co-operative Research Centre which provides detailed analysis information on climate change predictions across the state. This data has been used as a risk management tool for each Tasmanian council. Seasonal weather data has been extracted for use by the agricultural sector and for future infrastructure planning and development.
- Tertiary education and research – Tasmania experiences a higher-than-average provision and delivery of tertiary education opportunities and specialised research. Illustrations of the partnerships created from this sector include SenseT and the UTAS Creative Industry and Performing Arts project.
- Gateway to the Antarctic – Tasmania is uniquely positioned as the gateway to the Antarctic region.
- Regional arts and culture – Tasmania has benefited from an increase in visitors to experience the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) in Hobart. This facility is internationally recognised and builds on Tasmania’s vibrant arts and cultural scene.
- Renewable resources – Tasmania has a relative abundance of natural and renewable assets such as water, wind and forests.

Challenges

- Patchwork economy – Tasmania is experiencing little direct benefit from the resources boom, is losing skilled workers to the interstate resource sector and key export industries are being impacted by the high Australian dollar.
- High unemployment – Tasmania has comparatively high unemployment with a low participation rate and an ageing workforce.
- Economic growth – Tasmania has a lower than average economic growth rate and key industries are strongly impacted by the high Australian dollar and the two speed economy.
- GST income (federal) – Tasmania’s share of national GST revenues has reduced due to spending patterns and reduced national revenue.
- Transport costs – costs for transport by road and shipping have increased in the last 12 months.
- Island isolation – Tasmania continues to experience vulnerabilities with reliable and cost effective shipping and air service to the mainland for both passengers and freight.
- Cost of living – the average cost of living for Tasmanian families is increasing which is exacerbated by lower than average income rates.
- Forestry industry and decline in traditional industry – the forestry industry continues to face polarised community opinion which is restricting investment and confidence. Other traditional industry such as manufacturing and agriculture are undergoing significant change.
- Community opposition to development – many proposed major investments and developments have attracted strong community opposition which has delayed or stopped projects and could be a negative influence on future investment and activity.
- NBN rollout – the initiation connection is focused on domestic users. There is a challenge in spreading understanding of the potential benefits and uses of increased broadband capacity.
- Welfare and Disability Support Pension – Tasmania has a higher than average number of Disability Support Pensioners and a high percentage of people reliant on welfare, often experiencing generational unemployment.
- Ageing and population dispersal – Tasmania is one of the most rapidly ageing population regions in Australia and the ageing profile is highest in non-urban areas with consequences on services and policy development. Population growth is very low.
- Sedentary lifestyle – a higher than average number of young and middle age Tasmanians fail to exercise regularly or maintain a balanced diet.
• Poor health outcomes – Tasmania has the poorest health outcomes for the nation and high levels of preventable diseases, contributing to the state’s life expectancy being several years below the national average.

• Education attainment – around half of the Tasmanian population lacks the literacy and numeracy skills to cope with everyday life. Tasmania has the lowest level of adult literacy skills in the nation. School retention, while on the increase, is still low.

• Cost effective energy options – there are limited opportunities for alternative energy supplies including gas and secondly electricity suppliers within Tasmania. This has created a monopoly effect on pricing and affordability.

• Public transport infrastructure – limitations for funding of a reliable and effective public transportation system. Low frequency and high cost can limit access to services in remote areas.

• Planning reform – while change is underway, there are still challenges in providing clear and consistent planning and regulatory systems. Public perception that approval times are too slow is not supported by comparisons to other jurisdictions.

• Strategic infrastructure planning and investment overlaid with the changing demographics – this will remain a challenge for all levels of government.
4. Consultation and stakeholder engagement

RDA Tasmania strives to add value through gaining knowledge of strategic activities and project work from levels of government and community. Encouraging collaboration and identifying gaps is most effective when there is solid engagement and relationships with stakeholders.

Regular contact is maintained with Australian Government representatives both within the region and from travels interstate. Efforts are made to remain up to date on relevant Australian Government initiatives and policy development.

Collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (DEDTA) in the development of the Regional Economic Development Plan has been significant across all regions. RDA Tasmania partnered with the State Government in the two rounds of state wide Community Conversations held in March and August of 2012, with RDA Tasmania assisting to distribute information and coordinate RSVPs. RDA Tasmania staff attended and spoke at most sessions. This partnership will continue as the State Government regularly reports to and consults with communities. RDA Tasmania is collaborating with the University of Tasmania to analyse the data collected to summarise responses at a sub-regional and state level, and compare urban and non-urban responses.

The annual Local Government Association of Tasmania and Local General Managers Association conferences are sponsored and attended by RDA Tasmania. Staff in each region work with the local government body that represents councils in the south, north and north west in addition to individual council interaction. All council general managers are personally invited to provide feedback on the draft RDA Tasmania Regional Plan. Further, invitations for feedback are sent to all our database contacts (over 1,500 contacts).

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been finalised with the three Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations in the state to formalise collaboration and information sharing.

Community groups and organisations are encouraged to join our database and staff regularly attend community sector meetings and reference groups. Individuals interested in grants and information updates are added to our database to receive regular monthly e-news updates and bulletin broadcasts.
5. Australian and Tasmanian government policy priorities

This section summarises Australian and Tasmanian government policy priorities, categorised under the Regional Profile headings (Attachment One). In addition, the importance of local government in communities for delivering services and coordinating community activity and amenity is a vital contribution.

Tasmania has 29 local councils with three regional local government bodies and a state wide local government organisation: the Local Government Association of Tasmania. LGAT develops and advocates policy positions on behalf of member councils. The three regional local government organisations vary in structure and activities. The Southern Tasmanian Councils Association (STCA) represents twelve southern councils; Northern Tasmanian Development (NTD) represents the eight northern councils; and Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) represents the nine north west councils.

Only higher level policy priorities are highlighted in this section, with additional detail, program summaries and web links found in Attachment Two of this document.

Australian Government

Successful regional development requires genuine partnerships across all three levels of government, the private sector and the community. The Australian Government has established the Ministerial Advisory Council of Regional Australia (MACRA) to work with RDAs on location-based solutions to regional priorities and on how best to grow regional economies.

The Regional Australia Institute was also established to help turn challenges into opportunities through sound policy research. New cooperative agreements and frameworks to advance economic diversity on a place by place basis have been developed with state and local governments to drive practical and effective local solutions.

2012–13 budget priorities:

- funding new cost of living relief for Australian families
- helping businesses invest, compete and adapt to an economy in transition
- Investing in productivity and competitiveness by building on key improvements in health, education, infrastructure and clean energy
- financing bold new policies to help Australians with a disability, the aged, and those who can’t afford dental care
- sharing the benefits of the mining boom through an innovative mining tax.

Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Government has limited funding for 2012–13 due to reduced revenues. Despite these limitations, policy priorities can be summarised to three key areas.
2012–13 budget priorities¹:

- addressing cost of living pressures
- investing in infrastructure, jobs and economic growth
- investing in social, health and education infrastructure for a healthy community.

5.1 Demographics

Australian Government

In 2010, the Australian Government released the Intergenerational Report that identifies economic growth challenges due to demographic change, including projected financial implications of continuing current policies and trends over the next four decades.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia, is currently pursuing a reform agenda aimed at improving economic and social participation, strengthening the national economy, creating a more sustainable and liveable Australia, delivering better health services and closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

Sustainable Australia Sustainable Communities: A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia policy was released in May 2011 to help to ensure that future population change is compatible with the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of Australia.²

The Productivity Commission report, Caring for Older Australians, highlighted the social and economic challenges derived from Australia’s ageing population. To address these challenges, the Australian Government has established the ten-year Aged Care Reform Package, to ensure a better, fairer, more sustainable, and nationally consistent aged care system.

In August 2011, the Australian Government, in partnership with the State Government, established the national health reform agreement. The Government’s focus is to deliver better access to services, improved local accountability and transparency, greater responsiveness to local communities and provide a stronger financial basis for Australia’s health system into the future.

Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Government has developed a series of initiatives and programs to address the economic, social and fiscal challenges derived from the changes to Tasmania’s population size and structure, and dispersed population, although the state has no specific population strategy. These initiatives include Tasmania Together, a 20-year plan that developed a series of community-driven priorities, goals and benchmarks which sets the future direction for Tasmania. The Demographic Change Advisory Council provides data for use across government, although this is now dated. The Social Inclusion Unit, as part of the Department of Premier in Cabinet, is developing practical solutions to causes of social exclusions for the Tasmanian community.

¹ Premier’s 2012-2013 Budget Speech
The Tasmania Together ten-year review was released in 2011 and the 2012 Progress Report was released in August 2012. These detail progress against the goals and benchmarks that have been identified through community consultation to help shape government policy, service delivery and budgets.

Three Tasmanian Health Organisations (THOs) have been established under the national health reforms to provide hospital, primary and community health services to Tasmanians. The THOs have responsibility and accountability for governing and delivering high quality, efficient and integrated healthcare services through the public hospital system, and primary and community health services, including mental health and oral health services.

5.2 Economic

5.2.1 Industry transition

Australian Government

A Memorandum of Understanding for Place-based Investment has been signed by the Australian and Tasmanian governments. This focuses on providing assistance to foster new and innovative ideas to help Tasmanian businesses create jobs and diversify the economy to meet current and future challenges. This is complemented by a 15-year partnership, the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, to support economic diversification and regional development for the Tasmanian communities that have been affected by the downturn in the forestry industry.

The Convergence Review Final Report was handed down in March 2012. This review analysed the recent convergence of all forms of media away from the historic separation of television, film and print media and the implications on regulation and industry led standards control.

5.2.2 Industry sectors

Australian Government

In August 2012, the Prime Minister’s Manufacturing Taskforce Report was handed down with recommendations on how to support the future of manufacturing.

Tasmanian Government

The State Government’s Economic Development Plan highlights priority industry sectors for Tasmania:

- agriculture (including sub-sectors such as dairy and wine industries)
- aquaculture
- forestry
- mining
- specialised manufacturing
- tourism
- international education
- Antarctic science and research.

---

Key actions and policy in relation to these priority industry sectors is being developed as part of the regional economic development plans that are due for release in November 2012.

5.2.3 Infrastructure

Australian Government

The Australian Government continues to invest in economic and community infrastructure essential to regional development and to building a strong, prosperous Australia.

The National Broadband Network (NBN) initiative will ensure that every community gets fair and equal access to affordable high-speed broadband, including prices that are the same in the regions as they are in the city.

In December 2009, COAG agreed to strategic capital city planning reforms that link to Australian Government infrastructure funding and are coordinated through the Major Cities Unit under the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. Policy detail includes the Liveable Cities Program and National Urban Policy. Nine criteria were developed to ensure Australian cities are globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable, socially inclusive and well placed to meet future challenges and growth.

Infrastructure Australia coordinates a national approach to Australia’s future infrastructure needs, and has completed an audit of the nation’s economic assets and listed infrastructure proposals for prioritisation. Seven national infrastructure themes have been identified to provide a framework for action to meet the gaps, deficiencies and bottlenecks in our nation’s infrastructure.

Tasmanian Government

In 2011, the Tasmanian Government established the Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council to advance a coordinated approach to planning and prioritising the delivery of economic infrastructure in Tasmania.

The government has identified major infrastructure initiatives that focus on transport, energy, water, sewerage, irrigation and land use planning. In addition, it has recognised that Tasmania will be the first state in Australia to be fully connected to the National Broadband Network. This will offer significant opportunities for business, education and service providers and families.

Timely provision of infrastructure and services is vital to ensure and build on Tasmania’s liveability. The regional planning initiative is addressing the lack of consistent regional planning and local planning. Another challenge is the private motor vehicle-focused transport planning system, which is partly being addressed via strategy work such as the Urban Passenger Transport Framework, the Southern Integrated Transport Strategy and initiatives including the Trails and Bikeways Program.

A Capital City Plan for greater Hobart has been drafted and was released for comment in January 2012 to integrate and consolidate planning and development. The Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) is managing the Capital City Project on behalf of the State Government and ensuring the plan aligns with existing plans and strategies. A Greater Launceston Plan is being developed as an overarching strategy document funded in partnership with the Tasmanian and Australian governments.
5.2.4 Employment characteristics

**Australian Government**

Australia’s Fair Work system commenced on 1 July 2009 and was created by the *Fair Work Act 2009*. It covers the majority of workplaces in Australia. From 1 January 2010, sole traders, partnerships, other unincorporated entities and non-trading corporations in Tasmania are covered by the national system rather than the previous state system.

5.2.5 Education and skills

**Australian Government**

Long term objectives of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments in the areas of skills and workforce development are identified in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting rural and regional communities in Australia. Focus is on early childhood development, improving education outcomes and providing opportunities to ensure regional students reach their full potential, and creating a skilled workforce with greater participation. This will help to create a vibrant and diverse regional economy, with the flexibility to adapt and grow.

The final Report on the Review of Funding for Schooling was released in December 2011, with over forty recommendations to develop a funding system for schools which is transparent, fair, financially sustainable and effective in promoting excellent educational outcomes for all Australian students.5

Australia’s Skills and Workforce Development Needs Discussion Paper was released by the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency in July 2012 to present its research on current issues in relation to productivity and workforce participation, examine issues in relation to future demand from industry and start to explore policy options.

**Tasmanian Government**

Education and literacy have been identified by the Tasmanian Government as key priorities for the state, and Skills Tasmania has developed initiatives, which are reported on annually in the Skills Scorecard to address post-year 10 education and skills development.

The government’s Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan 2010–15 recognises the challenges in adult literacy in Tasmania and identifies strategies to address the issue.

5.2.6 Tertiary education and research

**Australian Government**

The Australian Government recognises the important role that regional tertiary institutions play for students and for their local communities. New initiatives will improve access to tertiary education and help position regions to meet domestic skills needs.

---

The Bradley Review affirmed that the reach, quality and performance of this nation’s higher education system is central to Australia’s economic and social progress. To be globally competitive and secure the high skilled jobs of the future, Australia needs an outstanding, internationally competitive higher education system with increased participation and higher attainment levels. Australia also needs a quality higher education system to sustain the international education industry, which is the country’s third largest export.

**Tasmanian Government**

The Tasmanian Government is drafting a Science Research Development Plan to further enhance and capitalise on the benefits of science research capability in Tasmania, which will be released in late 2012.

The Tasmanian Government and University of Tasmania are working in partnership to create and roll out the SenseT project, which was funded as part of the Tasmanian Intergovernmental Agreement on Forestry (IGA).

The Southern Regional Economic Development Plan will detail policy and actions regarding international education and science and research, which is identified as a priority sector for southern Tasmania.

### 5.3 Culture, recreation, sport and physical activity

#### 5.3.1 Arts and creative industries

**Australian Government**

The Australian Government is investing in programs and policies to encourage the arts, support cultural heritage and provide public access to arts and culture in metropolitan and regional areas. This focus is aligned with the development of a new National Cultural Policy, which is a ten-year vision that guides support for arts, culture and creative industries for all Australians.

**Tasmanian Government**

The Tasmanian Government recognises the importance of the arts to Tasmania's culture, community and economy, and invests in a number of initiatives that aim to increase the cultural and economic value of the industry and increase the accessibility and participation in arts and cultural activities for the Tasmanian community.

Arts Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania have produced an Arts Tourism Strategy 2012–15 to leverage the ‘MONA Effect’ and the Department of Economic Development Tourism and the Arts is partnering with the University of Tasmania in research on the MONA Effect funded through an Australian Research Council grant. Products such as *smart map tasmania* and COLLECT Art Purchase Scheme are important in driving Tasmanian arts consumption by visitors and locals. The NBN roll-out offers significant opportunities for the ‘creative economy’ in Tasmania, including commercial and subsidised arts, culture and creative industries; Arts Tasmania is working with the Creative Industries Innovation Centre and Digital Futures Advisory Council on developing an Arts Industry Digital Strategy by integrating technologies into art practices, business and marketing, in order to showcase Tasmanian art and culture to the world.
In partnership with the Tasmanian Government and Tasmanian secondary schools, the University of Tasmania has identified an opportunity to provide high technology infrastructure to support performing arts and related creative industries, technology, new media, events management and digital futures programs.

5.3.2 Sport and recreation

Australian Government

The Australian Government recognises the important role sport plays in building communities, in achieving wider physical and mental health, and providing social and economic benefits.

In 2011, through the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council, the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework (the Framework) was developed. The Framework identified the agreed roles and responsibilities of governments to achieve a consistent approach to support increased participation; success in international competition; strong national competitions; and contribute to the whole of government objectives of improved health and education outcomes, enhanced social inclusion and community development.

The COAG National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health’s focus is addressing the rising prevalence of lifestyle-related chronic diseases, by laying the foundations for healthy behaviours and supporting healthy lifestyles for Australians. The agreement includes programs and initiatives to make our children healthier and more active; make our workforce healthier and more active; and increase community-based physical activity and healthy eating programs.

Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Government recognises that people are healthier and more productive when they are more physically active and engaged in community activities. Therefore, the government places a high priority on facilitating opportunities to enable those people in our communities with the highest identified need (i.e. children, older people, Indigenous people, people with a disability and those from a non-English speaking background) to participate in sport, recreation and physical activity.

In February 2011, as part of the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, the government launched Tasmania’s Plan for Physical Activity 2011–21. The 20-year Tasmania Together plan also outlines a range of indicators relating to participation in sporting activities and healthy lifestyle choices, to achieve its active, healthy Tasmanians goal. The Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Strategy focuses on increasing the sport, recreation and participation rates within the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

5.4 Environment

Australian Government

In July 2012, the Australian Government introduced its Clean Energy legislation. The three tiers of government have made the commitment to work closely in conjunction with the local community and business. This cooperation will focus on investment in clean energy technologies and development of skills to deliver a better outcome for Australia in the medium and long term.
The Clean Energy Initiative is one component in a series of strategic programs aimed at maintaining sustainability, heritage and preservation of Australia’s natural environment. These programs include the Australian Antarctic Division, Coast and Marine, CSIRO Land and Water, and programs dedicated to the protection of Australia’s native wildlife and marine mammals. Implementation of government policy is the responsibility of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Tasmania has three regional Natural Resource Management bodies that were established under the Australian Government’s national policy framework for managing our natural resources, built on the previous Decade of Landcare and Natural Heritage Trust policies. NRM organisations are funded to address issues at the regional level; encourage partnerships and strategic investments with stakeholders; use a wider mix of policy instruments; build capacity; and provide continued support for research and innovation.

RDA Tasmania has a Memorandum of Understanding with each of the NRMs in Tasmania to promote collaboration and partnerships in issues regarding the environment and promote the sustainable use of the natural assets in Tasmania. These assets include rivers, oceans, wetlands, estuaries, natural forests, productive landscapes and cultural heritage.

**Tasmanian Government**

The Tasmanian Government’s Climate Change Office is leading the government’s efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change. It has established the Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change and the Framework for Reducing the Tasmanian Government’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The government is also working with industry to identify investment opportunities in clean energy technology, with initiatives available to the dairy, forestry and aquaculture industries to adopt cleaner technologies to enable cost efficiencies and emission reductions.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments remain committed to exploring sustainable mining opportunities in the north, north west and western regions. However, recent applications to the Australian Government to declare the Tarkine area of the north west as a heritage listed area has highlighted the sensitivities in regard to mining in this area.

A state wide Waste Management Strategy is being realised with the north and north west local council organisations aligning their current strategy to increase recycling and reduce the use of landfill for legacy waste with the southern region. This focus will also concentrate efforts to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from organic waste in line with the Australian Government’s requirements.

In regard to Tasmania’s natural water ways and estuary networks, the future management of Tamar Estuary continues to generate considerable discussion with how best to improve the health of the estuary, balanced with improving the commercial and recreational uses.

Similarly the Derwent River has been the focus of restoration through the Derwent River Recovery Program. This program is a partnership that was formed in 2006 between Hydro Tasmania and Greening Australia to protect and restore the Derwent River. Works undertaken to date include improvements to water quality, weed control, planting of native species and erosion control.
The State Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Wildlife and the Environment supports the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in monitoring and regulating environmental performance and reporting on key performance indicators. The EPA also oversees quarantine regulations. Duplication of state and Australian government regulation can increase the cost and time required for environmental approvals.

In May 2008, the iconic Tasmanian devil’s status was formally upgraded to ‘endangered’ under Tasmania’s Threatened Species Protection Act 1995. Insurance populations and ongoing research are being used to try and manage the threat to the state’s most well-known animal.
6. Priorities for our region

As identified in previous Sections (3 to 5), Tasmania has a number of challenges and opportunities that are unique as Australia’s only island state. Key policy areas and projects for Tasmania for 2012–13 include:

- The whole of government Economic Development Plan. The regional economic development plans will inform the three sub-regions. Detailed partnerships and collaboration opportunities will be made known in November 2012.
- The new digital economy and the commencement of the SenseT project.
- Freight and transport including the Brighton by-pass and transport hub and strategies to develop the northern ports.
- Redevelopment of the Hobart waterfront including the rail yards, Antarctic port infrastructure upgrades, and increased cruise ship visitation.
- Economic diversification, business innovation, investment and growth.
- Irrigation investment to increase growth and productivity in the agricultural sector.
- The evolution of the forestry industry.
- Continued planning reform and increasing consistency and cohesion between levels of planning regulation, including the new Capital City Plan, Greater Launceston Plan and other land use and strategic community planning initiatives.
- Demographic trends including ageing population, urban population growth and differences between sub-regional economies and this impact on future drivers of wealth and wellbeing.
- Health reforms and the introduction of regional health boards.
- A focus on adult literacy, school retention (particularly in non-urban areas), skills and education attainment.
- Leveraging our position as a leader in the generation of energy from renewable sources.

Priorities for RDA Tasmania

As the state of Tasmania is our region, the focus areas of the State Government are highly relevant to RDA Tasmania. Having identified the comparative advantages and challenges for the Tasmanian region, and considered the community consultations and state and federal government policy environment, RDA Tasmania has identified the following priorities:

6.1 Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania.

This will combat low employment and economic growth, reliance on government income and repositioning of traditional industries such as forestry, manufacturing and building and construction.

6.2 Maximise the potential and benefit of the national broadband network (NBN)

This priority will take advantage of Tasmania’s ‘first mover’ advantage and maximise the economic and social benefits of emerging technology.
6.3 Increase collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government

Leveraging the value of RDA Tasmania as a neutral party will enable liaison between all levels of government and stakeholders to minimise duplication and maximise resource sharing and productivity.

6.4 Improve literacy and education levels within the Tasmanian community

Raising literacy and education levels will build social inclusion and cohesion and result in a more productive and affluent workforce.

6.5 Work to deliver improved health services to the Tasmanian community

The pressures of the most dispersed population in the country and the most quickly ageing will have particular impact on health and aged care services which are already under stress.

6.6 Maximise the advantage to Tasmania of the new carbon economy

With already high levels of renewable energy generation, Tasmania could position itself as a leader in energy and resource efficiency and local energy solutions for isolated communities such as King and Flinders islands.

6.7 Facilitate place-based solutions for local communities and economic diversification

With the transition of the forestry industry and growth in other sectors such as dairy and aquaculture, local communities are facing challenges of changing employment and populations, and the challenge of the increasing differences between urban and rural centres.

How RDA Tasmania priorities were developed and formed

Consultation

The RDA Tasmania Committee has undertaken a series of consultations with key stakeholders to identify and progress the development of priorities for the Tasmanian region.

Key stakeholders that have been consulted include Australian Government agencies, the Tasmanian Government, local councils, regional bodies, community organisations, education providers and researchers. Each stakeholder has a tacit knowledge and understanding of their service provision to the community and is therefore able to provide qualified opinion about the key priorities for the Tasmanian region. RDA Tasmania sought online feedback via the committee’s diverse and well distributed database.

Consultation with industry representatives and service providers, SMEs and business also informed the process of forming of the priorities for the region. Consideration of innovative and creative strategies to support business is crucial to supporting the community.

Regional plans

A number of stakeholders that provide input into the RDA Tasmania Regional Plan have in turn created their own plans which identify key areas for support and development within the region. A key document
is the State Government's Economic Development Plan, which is being used to provide detail at a regional level. These regional economic development plans will be launched in November 2012 and will be a valuable tool in outlining priorities and activities from the State Government. Examples of other planning documents that have been considered include the Infrastructure Advisory Council Tasmania Report, the natural resource management plans and local council economic development plans. Research papers prepared by the University of Tasmania are also considered and referred to regularly.

**Community feedback**

The Tasmanian community is the biggest stakeholder in the development of the RDA Tasmania Regional Plan. Through their representatives and through broader community forums, priorities for the region are discussed and formed on the basis that the local community will be involved in any strategies and initiatives that result from regional priorities that are progressed.

RDA Tasmania partnered with the State Government in the two rounds of state wide Community Conversations held in 2012. This partnership will continue as the State Government regularly reports to and consults with communities. Researchers from the University of Tasmania are currently analysing the qualitative data produced in order to provide quantitative outcomes on community priorities, at a regional, state and local level. The researchers will also compare urban and rural responses.
7. Achieving RDA regional priorities for Tasmania

This section outlines how regional priorities will be progressed through specific projects and activities.

While government and community can impact and guide future direction, there is no one ‘silver bullet’ that will solve the diversity of issues and challenges faced across the state. RDA Tasmania can play a role in facilitating discussion and fostering collaboration to reach common goals across all levels of government, and community and business stakeholders.

Projects and activities are summarised below each priority. Detailed actions, dates, responsibilities and measures are outlined in our internal RDA Tasmania Business Plan and reported in our annual report.

7.1 Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania

Specific projects and activities

1. Participation in the development of the State Government Regional Economic Development Plans (REDP):
   - Participate in the Regional Reference Groups in each Tasmanian region.
   - Recognise and incorporate priorities identified in the REDPs.
   - Support projects and activities consistent with the REDPs.

2. Tasmanian Forestry Intergovernmental Agreement – Economic Diversification:
   - Regular contact with key government agencies and other organisations involved in the implementation of the Forestry Statement of Principles and the Tasmania Forestry Intergovernmental Agreement will be maintained by RDA Tasmania, particularly in regard to issues relating to economic diversification.
   - RDA Tasmania will integrate the Australian Innovation Research Centre (AIRC) report on economic diversification into our Regional Plan and priority appraisals.

3. Develop research and discussion papers on relevant Tasmanian issues including:
   - Developing a discussion paper on ‘place-based activities’, what works, what doesn’t and how to enhance the on ground outcomes of government-led place-based activities.
   - Reviewing current studies, research and strategies relating to Bass Strait transport issues and options.
   - Partnering with the University of Tasmania to develop a paper on regional leadership in Tasmania.
4. Work with industry groups and regional bodies to formulate strategies to grow sustainably:

- Work with the Tasmanian Dairy Industry to prepare a strategy document to outline plans for expansion within Tasmania in the next five years. This document will be used to communicate the vision for the industry to stakeholders including downstream processors and government.
- Participate and work with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) to develop a business plan for the new Centre for Food Innovation.
- Work with local council, mainly through the three regional local council bodies, to pursue planning and collaboration between local councils and across the three tiers of government, guided by the REDPs.

7.2 Maximise the potential and benefit of the National Broadband Network

Specific projects and activities

1. The RDA Tasmania Committee will continue to engage with local government to support initiatives that can benefit from the rollout of the NBN, specifically through:

- Digital local government programs working with local councils in the designated roll out regions in Tasmania to help prepare the community for the NBN. These include tailored workshops and training activities to raise awareness of the NBN and the benefits of high speed internet.
- Utilising the RDA network and liaise with all levels of government and institutions to identify innovative projects and initiatives to assist community and business maximise the benefit of being the first state fully connected through the NBN rollout.
- Continuing to liaise with relevant State Government agencies and associated entities such as the Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council regarding the roll-out and future use of the NBN.

7.3 Increase collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government

Specific projects and activities

1. Assisting regular consultation between the three tiers of government is one of RDA Tasmania’s key objectives. To facilitate regular communication, RDA Tasmania will:

- Facilitate and participate in regular meetings of federal agency representatives to discuss regional development initiatives, training programs, federal funding programs and opportunities for sharing and collaboration.
- Maintain a working MOU with the Department of Economic Development to maximise place-based development opportunities.
- Work in partnership with regional local government bodies on policy and projects of particular relevance to the different regions of Tasmania.
- Engage with local government to maximise funding opportunities for infrastructure projects through the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) funding program focusing on
collaborative projects and with regional economic benefit, and sporting and recreation infrastructure that meets a regional need and demonstrates broader regional collaboration.

7.4 Improve literacy and education levels within the Tasmanian community

Specific projects and activities

1. Literacy and education levels are two important factors currently impeding Tasmania’s working age population from participating in regular employment and improving their skill levels. RDA Tasmania will continue to support initiatives to improve outcomes in this area by:

- Consulting with the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) on their Regional Employment Jobs and Skills Plan for Tasmania.
- Consulting with the State Government about strategies to increase school retention, particularly in non-urban areas, and raise awareness of the benefits of education and educational aspiration.
- Participating on the committee for the Local Area Solutions Fund in Burnie to support programs that enable youth and socially disadvantaged residents to participate in skills programs leading to gainful employment.

7.5 Work to deliver improved health services to the Tasmanian community

Specific projects and activities

1. Health remains one of the biggest issues for all Tasmanians who require access to affordable, reliable health services that incorporate leading edge technology. RDA Tasmania will continue to support all levels of government in service delivery by:

- Working with State Government agencies on the roll out of the National eHealth Strategy.
- Identifying potential infrastructure projects that may be eligible for federal funding programs including the Regional Health Initiative and projects that encourage active living.
- Advocating for Tasmania as an effective test bed for policy development and demonstration projects relating to health and our ageing population.

7.6 Maximise the advantage to Tasmania of the new carbon economy

Specific projects and activities

1. Tasmania is the only region in Australia with such a high source of renewable energy (87%) and investment in renewable energy generation is increasing. RDA Tasmania will collaborate with NRM committees, business and community, in addition to all levels of government, to help develop and disseminate information that helps deliver social and economic benefit from the new carbon economy including:

- Work with the regional NRM bodies to maximise the benefits of the Carbon Farming Initiative resources.
- Collaborate with stakeholders such as the State Government on community and business skills development.
• Work to maximise the benefit to Tasmania from Australian Government funding and support including the newly established Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).
• Participate in the Waste Advisory Committee of the State Government’s Environment Protection Authority.
• Assist in research and information provision such as the biomass audit undertaken in the northwest that will now be extended state wide.

7.7 Facilitate placed-based solutions for local communities

Specific projects and activities

1. Tasmania is made up of a number of diverse communities located in regional and remote areas. Identifying and supporting place-based solutions for issues affecting these communities is crucial in the process to providing the most appropriate outcomes. RDA Tasmania will continue to assist regional organisations to provide localised solutions for local issues including:

• Understanding the impacts of strategy and planning projects such as
  – the future drivers of wealth and wellbeing in our diverse local economies and the impacts of ageing and demographic change.
  – the Capital Cities Plan including the Urban Development Policy Framework for Hobart
  – the Greater Launceston Plan
  – the Mountain Bike Study in conjunction with Northern Tasmania Development (NTD)
  – the Cradle Coast Coastal Pathways Project.

• Identifying strategic recreational infrastructure needs through consultation with local council, regional development organisations and Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

• Decrease the barriers and constraints to providing effective community and public transport including involvements in projects such as
  – Coastal Commuter Hub – Port Sorell to Wynyard – working with the Cradle Coast Authority to deliver a coastal commuter service for north west region that is affordable and reliable.
  – Community transport – work with stakeholders including STCA, State Government and community transport providers to consider strategies for more effective and coordinated community transport provision.
8. **Reviewing the 2012–13 Regional Plan**

This Plan shall be reviewed by the RDA Tasmania Committee in the first quarter of 2013.

RDA Tasmania will seek the input of community, industry, business and government members regarding the effectiveness and ongoing relevance of RDA Tasmania’s activities and priorities. Input will be sought via invitation and through an email to all contacts on our database explaining the process and providing a structure for feedback.

The review will feed into the annual business plan and will identify the progress, achievements, effectiveness and relevance of the document. The flowchart below depicts the review process:

![Flowchart](attachment:flowchart.png)
9. Attachments

ATTACHMENT ONE – REGIONAL PROFILE

1. Overview of Tasmania

Tasmania is Australia's only island state, with a cool temperate climate and decentralised population.

Tasmania has less than one per cent of Australia’s total land area, but captures almost 12 per cent of the nation’s total annual water run-off.6

There are 29 local government municipalities divided into three regions (north, north west, and south). In 2009, water and sewerage corporations were established in each of the three regions to amalgamate infrastructure and service provision. These organisations are corporate bodies fully owned by the local councils in their region.

2. Regional social/demographic profile

2.1 Population

Tasmania has a relatively small, ageing and regionally dispersed population. Compared to national trends, Tasmania is underpinned by an ageing population, under representation of women of child-bearing age, and relatively low income, training and employment levels.\(^7\)

Tasmania also has the poorest health outcomes for the nation and high levels of preventable diseases, contributing to the state’s life expectancy being several years below the national average. The population profile varies significantly throughout Tasmania, which has implications for future settlement planning. Tasmania has a lower proportion of people aged 20 to 44 years than the national average, which is shown below in comparison with Victorian net internal migration.

Comparison net internal migration by age and Victoria vs Tasmania, 2006–07 to 2010–11\(^8\)

2.1.1 Population growth

Tasmania’s population at August 2011 was 494,164, an increase of 18,600 people, or 3.9 per cent, between 2006 and 2011. Over the same period, the national population grew by 8.3 per cent, which is more than twice the growth rate for Tasmania.\(^9\)

The majority of towns have a population of less than 5,000 people. Approximately 58 per cent of the Tasmanian population lives outside greater Hobart compared, for example, to 26 per cent for NSW, making Tasmania the most decentralised state in Australia.

\(^7\) http://www.iris.tas.gov.au/activity_economics/population_demographics/outlook
\(^8\) source data: http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/3235.0~2010~Main+Features~Tasmania?OpenDocument
\(^9\) Source ABS Cat No 5206.0 Tables 27,2 Series A2301505K, A2304219A
On a regional basis, the largest population growth occurred in southern Tasmania, where there was a 5.1 per cent increase. The northern region’s population grew by 2.7 per cent, while the population of Mersey-Lyell (north-west and west Tasmania) increased by 2.8 per cent.

In addition, the dispersion of population in the three regions of Tasmania must also be understood. In southern and northern Tasmania the population is concentrated in the main population centres of Hobart and Launceston. On the north west coast, the population is dispersed in smaller settlements mainly across the northern coast. In each region, localised approaches are needed to overcome challenges associated with our dispersed population such as planning regulations and the provision of services.

Urban based local government areas (LGAs) are more likely to have higher population growth than rural or remote LGAs. In general, urban LGAs are more likely to have a younger median age and a greater proportion of their population who earn over $1,000 per week, compared to rural LGAs. The location of university campuses appears to have a significant impact on the concentration of people born in non-English speaking countries.10

Population movements at the LGA level vary considerably across the state. The LGAs with the greatest population losses include Flinders Island12 (down 10.2 per cent), West Coast (down 6.6 per cent), while other LGAs experienced significant growth including Latrobe (up 14 per cent), Sorell (up 10.7 per cent), Kingborough (up 9.9 per cent), Brighton (up 9.5 per cent), and Huon Valley (up 8.1 per cent).

2.1.2 Indigenous population

There are 20,000 people who identify themselves as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or 4 per cent of Tasmania’s total population. Nationally, the figure is 2.5 per cent. There was a significant (17.1 per cent) increase recorded by the ABS in the Aboriginal population in Tasmania between 2006 and 2011. This is more than four times the increase in the total population. The Aboriginal population in Tasmania, as
recorded by ABS Censuses, grew by 13.8 per cent between 1996 and 2001, by 5.8 per cent between 2001 and 2006, and 17.1 per cent between 2006 and 2011.

The age profile of the Aboriginal population in Tasmania is also very different to that of the general population. As mentioned above the median age of the total Tasmanian population is 40, but for Indigenous people in Tasmania it is 22 years old.

2.1.3 Population born outside Australia

The largest migrant populations resident in Tasmania born overseas, recorded at the 2011 Census, were from the UK (23,185), and New Zealand (4,926).

In 2006 these were also the largest migrant populations in Tasmania, at 22,636 from the UK and 4,157 from New Zealand. In total, approximately 17 per cent of Tasmanians were born overseas, as at August 2011. It is not possible to be entirely accurate due to the significant number of people who did not state their place of birth. The percentage of Tasmanians born overseas is largely unchanged since 2006.

2.2 Age profile

The median age of Tasmania’s population in 2011 was 40, up from 39 in 2006. The 2011 Census data shows further evidence of Tasmania’s ageing population. The local government areas of Glamorgan Spring Bay, Flinders island, Tasman and Break O’Day all recorded a population with a median age of over 50 years.13

The number of 60 to 65 year olds increased by 26.3 per cent, 65 to 69 year olds increased by 21.7 per cent, and over 70s increased by 10 per cent. At the other end of the scale there appears to have been a ‘mini baby boom’ in Tasmania between 2006 and 2011, as 0 to four year olds increased in number by 8.8 per cent. It is also significant that there was growth in the 20 to 35 year old age groups, although it is below the average of 3.9 per cent for the whole population. In the 1990s people in this age group departed the state, reducing the potential labour force and compounding the ageing demographic of the population. However, this interstate migration resulted in a net ‘brain gain’ for Tasmania, increasing the percentage of adults in Tasmania holding a post-school qualification.

Tasmania currently has the highest unemployment rate in Australia and the lowest labour force participation rate of any jurisdiction14 and is consequently more vulnerable to a future decline in participation due to ageing. Tasmania’s labour productivity rate, which is a key driver of economic growth, is 11 per cent below the national average.15 The age profile for workers in Tasmania is older than the national average and is most pronounced in the 40 to 59 years age group. The share of Tasmanian workers compared to the Australian average is particularly low for those aged 25 to 34 years. Tasmania continues to have below average secondary and post-secondary education attainment levels, with only 50 per cent of Tasmanians having the literacy skills to effectively function in society.

---

13 Trends - The Tasmanian Labour Market Review August 2012
14 As of January 2011 the work participation rate was 61.3%, with 238,600 Tasmanians in the labour force (Source: LABOUR FORCE, ABS CAT NO 6202.0).
2.3 Households

The number of houses or dwellings approved in June 2012 in Tasmania was 20 per cent lower in trend terms than in June 2011.

In total, there are 232,370 private dwellings in Tasmania. Of occupied private dwellings in Tasmania, 86.4 per cent were separate houses compared to only 75.6 per cent nationally. The average number of people per household is 2.4, compared to 2.6 nationally, and a median weekly household income of $948 was reported, compared to $1,234 nationally.

Of the families in Tasmania, 39.7 per cent (national 44.6 per cent) were couple families with children, 42.1 per cent (37.8 per cent) were couple families without children and 17.0 per cent were one parent families.

Tasmania performs better than the national average when it comes to the proportion of low income rental households in rental stress and on the proportion of homes sold or built that are affordable to low income households, with median weekly rent of $200, compared to a national average of $285, and median monthly mortgage repayments of $1,300, against a national average of $1,800.

However, Tasmania is the weakest state economy for housing finance with trend commitments 26.7 per cent lower than its decade average, a consequence of weak population growth. Housing lending as at July 2012 was 9.2 per cent lower than a year ago.16

2.4 Demographic change

Tasmania is projected to have net population gain of between 1,000 persons per year to 3,000 persons per year over the next 40 years (Demographic Change Advisory Council (DCAC)).

Tasmania’s population is ageing at a faster rate than any other state or territory. Over the next 20 years, the proportion of Tasmanians under the age of 15 is projected to decline by approximately seven per cent, while the proportion of people aged 65 years and over could grow by almost 60 per cent. Population ageing presents a number of challenges, including maintenance of sufficient workforce numbers, managing increased demand on health and social services and providing appropriate infrastructure such as transport and accommodation.

More than half the population lives outside the capital city area, making it one of the most dispersed and transport-dependent regions in Australia. Rural and remote areas such as the West Coast, King and Flinders islands and the Central Highlands have experienced significant population decline and ageing, which has been associated with a decline in key industries. A corresponding withdrawal of services impacts viability and liveability for the remaining community.

Careful planning and design of, for example, public infrastructure and housing to accommodate the changing composition of households, will be necessary to ensure our cities and regions remain liveable.

Demographic change, in particular ageing, will create a range of social impacts, such as17:

---

16 Commsec State of the States report July 2012
different working patterns
changes in demand for some industries and occupations
diminishing enrolments in schools
changes in the distribution of wealth within families and the community more broadly
a reduction in average household size and an increase in households comprising elderly persons, particularly elderly single women living alone
an increase in the number of chronic health-related problems associated with an ageing population, such as type 2 diabetes and dementia
changes in the community’s needs regarding transport, recreation and entertainment, the built environment and other infrastructure requirements.

2.5 Liveability

Liveability is a concept increasingly used to describe what people experience as positive in their communities. Generally, it’s defined as the degree to which a place supports the quality of life and health and wellbeing for people who live or visit there. In addition, liveable places also contribute to attracting highly skilled and creative people who drive innovation and economic growth.

Tasmania is a remarkably liveable place and, in particular, is increasingly ‘recognised, around the world, as an attractive place to live and work’. Tasmania’s natural heritage, diverse range of arts and culture, lifestyle and public open spaces are all attributes of a liveable place.

Promoting these attributes will be an important task in encouraging economic growth, particularly in regional areas. ¹⁸

Opportunities include access to extensive natural areas, beaches and waterways; relatively uncrowded cities and community/visitor attractions, good quality of air and drinking water. Being an island means isolation from major population centres, which is both a challenge and an opportunity – increased costs for some services but also protection from pests and diseases.

3. Regional economic profile

In June 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the first data from the 2011 Census, held in August last year. Data relating to the labour market, such as employment by industry or occupation is due to be released on October 30 this year.

Recent State of the States data released by CommSec reports that there is now a sizeable gap in the economic rankings between Tasmania and other states. Tasmania is lagging all other state economies on five of the eight indicators used. Weak population growth and rising unemployment are restraining retail spending and overall economic growth. The clear area of strong performance is equipment investment, which has the potential to foster future economic growth. ¹⁹

¹⁸ Goal 4 State Economic Development Plan 2011
¹⁹ ComSec State of the States Report July 2012
Tasmanian gross state product was $23,240 million in 2009–10 (in nominal terms), an increase of approximately 14 per cent from 2004–05 levels. The contribution to gross state product varies across the region, with southern Tasmania a major contributor.\textsuperscript{20}

![Regional share of gross state product, 2009-10](image)

Source: REMPLAN, ABS data

The Tasmanian Government introduced a whole-of-government Economic Development Plan in August 2011 and detailed operational documents for the three sub-regions, the regional economic development plans, will be launched in November 2012 (refer to section 3.6).

These regional plans will focus on four key goals:

- To support and grow business in Tasmania.
- To maximise Tasmania’s economic potential.
- To improve the social and environmental sustainability in the economy.
- To support and grow regional communities.

A regional reference group made up of local community identities from business, local government, regional bodies and community groups is providing feedback and input into the planning process.

### 3.1 Economic challenges

The recent global downturn has significantly impacted the state’s trade exposed industries, particularly mining, manufacturing and forestry. Tasmania’s international exports showed considerable growth between 2004 to mid-2008.

Although total exports fell in 2009–10, most probably influenced by the global financial crisis and the high Australian dollar; total exports for 2010–11 were $3.2 billion, back to 91 per cent of 2008–09 levels.\textsuperscript{21}

\textsuperscript{20} Tasmanian State Economic Development Plan 2011

\textsuperscript{21} Tasmanian State Economic Development Plan 2011
One of the reasons for Tasmania’s relatively poor economic performance over the past year is due to Australia’s patchwork economy and the impact of the resources boom. Mining accounts for only 3.9 per cent of the total value of goods and services produced in Tasmania\(^2\), compared with 8.4 per cent nationally.\(^3\)

Compounding this, some of the side effects of the resources boom have been more negative on Tasmania’s economy than in other parts of the country. The competitiveness of key industries such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, manufacturing and tourism has been eroded by the rising value of the Australian dollar against other currencies. These industries make up a larger share of Tasmania’s economy compared to other Australian states and territories. With the resources boom projected to continue in the short term, the Tasmanian economy will continue to feel the effects of this phenomenon.

### 3.2 Industry transition

The Tasmanian forestry industry is experiencing a period of rapid change. A period of growth between 2006 and 2008, driven by expansion of hardwood plantations and investment in the processing sector, has been followed by a significant downturn. Between 2008 and 2010, employment in the industry fell by 33.3 per cent, and since that time there have been further job losses, major processing facilities have ceased operation and shipping of wood chips is no longer occurring from southern ports.\(^4\)

On 7 August 2011, the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings, to progressively transition to a more sustainable and diversified footing and to build regional economic diversity and community resilience. Under the agreement a total of $277 million, including $15.5 million from the Tasmanian Government, will be provided to assist the industry transition.

The initial $20 million of government support has been allocated through workers and contractors support programs, the Tasmanian Innovation Investment Fund and three economic diversification projects in affected communities. Further release of funds is dependent on agreement being reached for the future of the Tasmanian forest industry.

The Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 was tabled by the Tasmanian Government on 21 June 2012, as a part of its commitment to the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement. The intent of this was to introduce legislation into Parliament that would give effect to wood supply guarantees and conservation outcomes. This legislation provides wood supply guarantees and establishes a special process for reserving land. The bill is a legal framework with a high degree of flexibility to accommodate outcomes agreed by the Reference Group of Signatories. This agreement is in the process of being negotiated.\(^5\)

---

\(^1\) Tasmania’s International Exports: 2010-2011, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
\(^2\) 2009-10 GSP contribution data sourced from the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts’ customised REMPLAN model, developed by Compelling Economics. www.development.tas.gov.au/edp
\(^3\) Source ABS 1301.0 - Year Book Australia, 2012
3.3 Industry sectors

Manufacturing is the largest contributor to Tasmanian economic output followed by health care and social assistance. Health care and social assistance, which predominately rely on government funding, also employ the most Tasmanians. The graph below demonstrates that the larger employment sectors are not necessarily major contributors to the state’s economy.

The greater Hobart – southern region appears to have the most diverse economy in the state, with fewer people concentrated in the top five employing industries. Conversely the Mersey-Lyell region has the least diverse economy with nearly 54 per cent of the workforce concentrated in the top five employing industries.26

In all states/territories except Tasmania, construction work is higher than decade averages. In Tasmania, overall construction activity is 5.8 per cent below its decade average and 17.7 per cent down on a year ago.27

Data source : ABS Statistics, graph from the State Government Economic Development Plan

Source ABS 1307.6 – Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators, Dec 2010

CommSec State of the States Report July 2012
Priority sectors for the region are defined in Goal 2 of the State Government Economic Development Plan and more detailed analysis will be provided in the regional economic development plans. These sectors are those judged as those with the potential to make the most of Tasmania’s competitive advantages. Knowledge of the needs of these growth sectors is critical for input into issues such as infrastructure, skills, land-use and regional planning. The growth sectors are defined as:

- Antarctic Tasmania
- building and construction
- food and agriculture
- forestry and related products
- information communication technology (ICT)
- mining and mineral processing
- renewable energy
- science and research
- specialist manufacturing
- tourism.

Different industry sectors have different challenges and opportunities. For example, waste management is a priority for mining, mineral processing and red meat sectors, while water for irrigation is a priority for vegetables, dairy and wine industries. Agricultural sectors are concerned about the costs and availability of labour, while manufacturing, science and research and tourism are concerned with skill shortages.

The dairy industry in the north and north west of Tasmania is experiencing a period of expansion driven primarily by increasing domestic and international demand for dairy products. The opportunities for long

---

term industry growth and job creation are substantial however the ability for the industry to source local skilled workers will remain a significant challenge.

3.4 Infrastructure

Infrastructure is one of the key levers that government has to increase productivity and economic growth and meet its policy objectives. Tasmania is the only state to have a single entity coordinating infrastructure priorities. The Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council was established in May 2011, with an aim to:

- promote and advance a coordinated approach to planning and delivery of economic infrastructure in Tasmania
- foster a shared understanding of opportunities and impediments for planning and provision of economic infrastructure between government, infrastructure managers, planners and industry and provide the Tasmanian Government with advice on those opportunities and impediments.

Current major Tasmanian infrastructure initiatives focus on transport, energy, water and sewerage, irrigation and broadband. 29

3.4.1 Transport

The state’s economy is heavily reliant on the ability of the transport system to move freight from producers to processors and on to Tasmanian, national and international markets. The linkages with Tasmania’s northern ports are critical as these are the departure points for the majority of the state’s exports. Recent changes to charges at the Port of Melbourne have significantly increased shipping costs. Freight equalisation is available for some goods and services but with restrictions. For instance, transport from the Tasmanian mainland to outlying islands attracts no subsidy as this is not considered interstate, but transport between these islands and Victoria does attract a subsidy.

By 2020, it is predicted that there will be capacity constraints at the major northern ports without further infrastructure investment. Within the Hobart ports precinct, strategic investment in infrastructure will generate economic benefits from servicing Antarctic vessels and expanding the successful cruise ship market. 30

The Brighton Transport Hub is a $79 million Tasmanian Government funded project to construct a modern road-rail facility and freight distribution hub north of Hobart. The hub will enable goods to be seamlessly transferred between road transport and rail and result in more efficient movement of freight between southern and northern Tasmanian ports.

In December 2009, the Tasmanian Government purchased Pacific National’s Tasmanian rail assets and established the Tasmanian Railway Corporation Pty Ltd (TasRail). The state Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) has developed priorities for investment and operations.

More airline services, essential to the island, are coming online during the next six months (2012 calendar year), including increased services from Virgin Australia and Jetstar as well as the welcome return of Tiger Airways flights. This increase in supply could result in lower fares for travellers to and from Tasmania.31

3.4.2 Energy

Unlike the rest of the nation, the majority of Tasmania’s energy used is sourced from renewable and low-carbon, hydro-electric generation. Renewable hydro and wind power currently represents 87 per cent of mainland Tasmania’s installed electricity generation capacity.32 This gives Tasmania a competitive advantage in the new carbon economy. Furthermore, the state has continued investment in three major energy infrastructure projects: Basslink, the Tasmanian natural gas project and the Woolnorth and Musselroe wind farms.33

In 2003, the natural gas pipeline was completed providing a backbone distribution throughout Tasmania and linking the state to the national network. In addition, retail distribution has been extended to some towns and suburbs. The initial gas rollout reached 38,500 households and commercial users34 although the initial expectation was to reach 100,000 homes. Recent electricity price rises have raised the question of increasing the domestic gas roll out to provide more equitable access to the option of economical gas heating.

3.4.3 Water and sewerage

Tasmania’s drinking water and sewerage sector is undergoing significant structural and regulatory reforms, with three regional corporations established to deliver reticulated services throughout the state that will be transitioned over time into a single state entity. There have been corresponding structural and regulatory reforms to drinking and waste water and charging structures and rates are still being finalised. Water metering is being extended to become consistent across the state.

3.4.4 Irrigation

Tasmanian Irrigation was created on 1 July 2011 as the single Tasmanian Government irrigation entity responsible for irrigation development and operation. Tasmanian Irrigation is taking a suite of new projects from feasibility assessment through to the construction and operational stages and it operates existing developments including the Meander Valley and Coal River schemes. The capital cost of these schemes is shared between the community and the private sector. A total of $220m has been earmarked by the Tasmanian and Australian governments to progress the water developments.

The construction phase is underway on two projects in the midlands of Tasmania, the Midlands Water Scheme – Arthurs and the Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme.35

3.4.5 Broadband

It is planned that, by 2015, Tasmania will have the best fixed consumer broadband in the world through the current roll out of National Broadband Network; and it will be the first state in Australia to be fully connected. There is an opportunity for greater investment in mobile and wireless infrastructure, in applications, in smart grids and other system-wide digital technologies.

3.5 Employment characteristics

Total employment in Tasmania in June 2012 was 1.9 per cent lower than it was the previous year. Part-time employment has grown at a faster rate than full-time employment over the last 10 years in Tasmania. This trend is reflected in the latest data with a fall in full-time employment of 4.2 per cent since June 2011, while part-time employment increased by 2.4 per cent. The five largest employing industries in Tasmania (May 2011) were Health and Community Services, Manufacturing, Public Administration and Safety, Education and Training, and Finance and Insurance Services.

3.5.1 Unemployment

Tasmania continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the country and the gap is increasing. The unemployment rate as at June 2012 was 7.3 percent, compared to a national unemployment rate of 5.1 per cent. The next highest unemployment rate for any state was 5.7 per cent in South Australia. The total number of people unemployed in Tasmania has risen by approximately 39 per cent over the twelve months to June 2012. This compares to only a two per cent increase in national unemployment figures over the same period. Unemployment rates vary considerably across the state. In Hobart and Launceston, the unemployment rate is around 4 per cent, but in other areas the unemployment rate is as high as 11.1 per cent (George Town(M) – Pt A).


36 Trends The Tasmanian Labour Market Review, June 2012
37 Trends The Tasmanian Labour Market Review, June 2012
38 Small Area Labour Market - March Quarter 2012
3.5.2 Participation rate

All of the increase in the participation rate in Tasmania over the last year has been in the female labour force, which increased by 0.7 per cent. The participation rate in Tasmania was 60.5 per cent in June 2012, still below the current national participation rate of 65.3 per cent.\(^{39}\)

3.5.3 Ageing workforce

The workforce in Tasmania is ageing more rapidly than any other state in Australia with mature aged workers (over 45 years) making up nearly 42.9 per cent of the employed workforce, as of February 2012.\(^{40}\) Furthermore, nearly 40 per cent of employed 15- to 24-year-olds are concentrated in the two industries of retail trade, and accommodation and food services.\(^{41}\)

3.6 Education and skills

There are significant differences between qualifications and educational attainment profiles across individual regions in Tasmania. The share of employment for professionals is highest in Hobart (21.2 per cent; which is above the Australian average of 19.9 per cent), followed by Launceston (16.6 per cent) and west and north west Tasmania (13.7 per cent).\(^{42}\)

Registered training organisations (RTOs) are recognised as providers of quality assured and nationally recognised training. Only RTOs can deliver nationally recognised courses and qualifications. Currently there are more than 100 RTOs in Tasmania.

3.6.1 Highest year of school completed

The 2011 Census shows an increase in the percentage of people in Tasmania who have completed year 12, from 31.3 per cent to 36.5 per cent over the five year period from the last census. There has also been a decrease in the percentages of people whose highest educational achievements were grade 10 or below. Given the amount of research linking higher educational achievements with better employment outcomes, these figures show positive moves in the right direction.\(^{43}\) The majority of rural communities do not have high school education past year 10, with further schooling requiring commuting or moving to the urban centres.

The three main education providers are the Tasmanian Government (213 schools), Catholic Education (37) and the Independent schools sector (29). Unlike the rest of the country, there are three school terms in Tasmanian schools although this is proposed to change to four terms in 2013. The number of students enrolled at non-government schools in Tasmania as a percentage of all school enrolments has increased from 33 per cent to 41 per cent over the last decade (2000 to 2010).

---

\(^{39}\) Trends The Tasmanian Labour Market Review, June 2012
\(^{40}\) http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au/regional-information/tasmania
\(^{41}\) http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au/ Regional Profile for Tasmania
\(^{42}\) http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au/ Regional Profile for Tasmania
\(^{43}\) Trends The Tasmanian Labour Market Review, June 2012
The Tasmanian education system has undergone significant reform over recent years. In June 2011, the Tasmania Tomorrow reforms introduced in 2009 were revoked, replaced by a return to a TAFE model of post-year 10 vocational education and training with TasTAFE from July 2013.

### 3.6.2 Adult literacy in Tasmania

The proportion of adult Tasmanians with low literacy skills is very high. The 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that around half of the Tasmanian population aged 15–74 years lack the literacy skills needed to cope with the demands of everyday life and work. For example, 49 per cent of adult Tasmanians do not have the basic skills needed to understand and use information from newspapers, magazines, books and brochures. Overall, at the time of the 2006 Census, Tasmania had the lowest level of adult literacy skills in the nation and there had been no improvement in adult literacy levels since they were last measured in 1996.

The following graph compares the proportion of people without functional literacy skills in Tasmania and in Australia. At the time of the survey (2006) Tasmania had a consistently higher proportion of people with insufficient literacy skills than for Australia overall in each of the five measures of literacy.

![Graph comparing proportion of people without functional literacy skills in Tasmania and Australia](image)

Source: ABS 2006, Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey

Tasmania’s levels of adult literacy are influenced by a range of factors including the higher prevalence of older persons in the population, and lower school retention rates and post-school qualifications. Recent information from the ABS also suggests that Tasmanians in regional municipalities tend to have lower literacy levels compared to those living in major metropolitan areas.44

### 3.6.3 Tertiary education and research

Hobart has the highest number of scientists per capita of any city in Australia and is host to 65 per cent of all Australia’s Antarctic and Southern Oceans research scientists. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,900 full time equivalent (FTE) staff and postgraduate students employed in the research sector across Tasmania.

---

44 Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan 2010-2015
The University of Tasmania (UTAS) is the only university in the state, with approximately 27,000 students\(^{45}\) and 2,800 staff. The Menzies Research Institute, run by UTAS, is known globally for its groundbreaking medical research.

Several world-class research and educational institutions are based in Tasmania, including the CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Centre; Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre; the national Forestry Cooperative Research Centre; the Australian Maritime College; the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute; and the Australian Antarctic Division.

The Science and Research Sector Advisory Committee was established in 2010 to represent industry sectors during the formulation of the Tasmania’s Economic Development Plan. The committee will provide high-level advice to the State Government on issues facing the sector and contribute to the development of a science and research sector growth strategy, which will guide the State Government’s support in the future.\(^{46}\)

4. Regional culture, recreation, sport and physical activity

4.1 Regional arts and creative industries

Tasmania has a creative and culturally distinctive arts environment, with an energetic and thriving arts scene. The state has inspired and attracted many different creative artists, writers and musicians from around the world, with a vibrant arts scene, strong participation rates and an appreciative audience.

Tasmania has a range of world-class facilities and programs to cater to the Tasmanian community, including the Theatre Royal of Hobart, Australia’s oldest working theatre; the internationally renowned Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra; significant public museum and art galleries with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston; the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Australia’s largest private museum and art gallery; national and international festivals, including the biennial cultural festival, 10 Days on the Island; and an amazing range of landscapes for production and location filming.

At the commencement of 2008–09 financial year, over 960 businesses in Tasmania were actively trading within the cultural sector, which includes architectural services, creative artists, musicians, writers and performers. Research conducted in Tasmania by the University of Tasmania signifies that considerable cultural activity operates within the social enterprise environment, which does not register on current policy or program settings of most governments. Of the 104 social enterprises in the state, 40 per cent of these operated within the arts and cultural sector.

In 2009, Tasmania’s household expenditure on cultural goods and services was $381 million, averaging $35.76 per week.

The 2010 Voluntary Work Survey found that 41 per cent of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over had undertaken volunteer work in the previous year, with 5 per cent of the adult population volunteering within an arts or heritage organisation, compared with 7 per cent nationally.

\(^{45}\) 2011 UTAS enrolment figures (24,732 enrolments onshore; 2,549 offshore)

4.2 Regional community, sport and recreation

Participation in sport, recreation and physical activity provides a wide range of benefits from a health and wellbeing, economic and societal viewpoint. Communities are well connected and people within them socially included where participation rates in sport and recreation are high. It is also increasingly accepted that these communities are attractive places to live and work.

Regular participation by Tasmanians in sport (that is, three or more times per week) is up 10.6 per cent from 2001, to 45.1 per cent. Since 2005, the Tasmanian rate of participation of five or more times per week has increased, with 27.7 per cent of Tasmanians undertaking this recommended level of physical activity in 2010, on par with the national rate of 28 per cent. Participation was highest among Tasmanians aged 15–24 years and the general trend is for participation rates to decline with age. With life expectancy increasing for both men and women, older Tasmanians now represent the fastest growing market for sport and recreation providers.

A study into the economic value of sport and physical recreation Tasmania was undertaken in 2010, finding that for every dollar spent on sport and physical recreation there is a $4 return on investment.

The Discussion Paper, Physical Activity in Tasmania 2010, outlines barriers restricting Tasmanians from participating in physical activity. These range from limited access to equipment and infrastructure, poorly planned built environments and poor access to transport, to lack of social support, limited literacy skills and a lack of knowledge of what is available.

Evidence suggests that physical activity levels are also associated with socioeconomic status. In the 2007–08 National Health Survey, 79.4 per cent of the Tasmanian population classified as ‘most disadvantaged’ had sedentary/low exercise levels. The Tasmanian Population Health Survey, suggests that ‘almost 2 in 5 (36.1 per cent) Tasmanians living in low income households do not undertake sufficient physical activity to maintain health, compared to about 1 in 5 (21 per cent) Tasmanians in high income households’.

Research indicates that physical inactivity contributes to 6.6 per cent of the overall health burden. The economic impact of premature morbidity and mortality that is attributed to physical inactivity is estimated at $823.3 million. Tasmania has the poorest health outcomes in the nation with high levels of preventable diseases and life expectancy several years below the national average.

4.2.1 Infrastructure

Tasmania has a range of sport and recreational infrastructure and facilities and natural environment – bushland, rivers, mountain and sea – to cater for the sport, recreation and physical activity needs of the community.

However, to-date limited work has been undertaken in identifying the priority infrastructure needs across Tasmania, with most requests for funding done in isolated, as opposed to a coordinated approach. In

---

47 Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey, a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation, conducted on an annual basis between 2001 and 2010
48 The Value of Sport and Physical Recreation to Tasmania 2010 (AIRC, IMC-Link and Sport and Recreation Tasmania)
49 Our Island Our Voices
addition, access to sporting infrastructure varies across the region, particularly between urban and rural centres.

This research has highlighted a need to undertake a state wide audit of current sport and recreation infrastructure, and layer this information over the identified community needs. This work would account for Tasmania's national and international sporting facilities, including ongoing redevelopment of York Park (located in northern Tasmania), and Bellerive Oval (located in southern Tasmania); the identification of regional facilities to support the state; and the provision of local sporting infrastructure for organised, non-organised and incidental activity.

5. Regional environmental profile

5.1 Environment

Tasmania’s environment is variable and diverse and has a wide range of terrestrial, freshwater and marine plants and animals. Changes to ecosystems have occurred due to interrelated pressures, including climate change, land and water use practices, pests and diseases, and consumption.

Tasmania is the most forested state in Australia with 3.3 million hectares or 50 per cent of its land under forest cover.\(^50\)

Twenty-five percent of Tasmania is protected inside reserves such as national parks. This provides both opportunities and challenges to leverage the economic benefits through developments such as tourism. (For example, planning for future growth and investment at the Cradle Mountain visitor precinct through re-alignment and expansion of the visitor services) An additional 15 per cent has a lower form of protection and is open to mineral exploration, mining, 4WDs and other developments. Tasmania’s marine waters are much less protected than our terrestrial environment, with only 3.5 per cent of the state’s waters in marine reserves.\(^51\)

Over the past 50 years, Tasmania’s climate has been changing. Across the state average temperatures have increased by 0.8–1.0°C, and rainfall has declined in most of the settled areas. It is predicted the maximum temperature will continue to increase and that sea levels will rise between 20 and 60cm by 2095.\(^52\)

The projected increases in both minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to require changes to agricultural practices, including changes to crop choices, reduced time to crop maturity, changes to crop yields and crop quality, rainfall patterns, and changes in the incidence and severity of weeds, pests and diseases.\(^53\)

Primary production and urban development has led to increasing pressures on natural values, including the clearance and modification of native vegetation and landforms for agriculture, forestry and

\(^{50}\) Australia’s Forests at a Glance 2007
\(^{51}\) http://www.wildlifetasmania.com/habitat.html
\(^{53}\) http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/140197/CFT-Impacts_on_Ag_Summary.pdf
settlements. Tasmania has the highest proportion of agricultural land under irrigation of any Australian state.\textsuperscript{54}

Tasmania has less than one per cent of Australia’s total land area, but captures almost 12 per cent of the nation’s total annual water run-off.\textsuperscript{55}

Tasmania’s varying soil types and opportunities provided by climate change create a diversity of agricultural, forestry and grazing possibilities.

5.2 Natural resource management (NRMs)

RDA Tasmania has an MOU with the three regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies in Tasmania to ensure a better understanding of environmental issues as they relate to regional development. The introduction of the Federal Clean Energy Future Legislation has placed responsibility on the regional NRMs to help plan for climate change and maximise the benefits of carbon farming initiatives in their respective regions.

Preparation of a regional plan for each NRM region that is nationally consistent will also be the responsibility of the Tasmanian NRMs. These plans will consider potential issues for each region that are directly related to climate change and strategies to deal with any threats or impacts.

Priorities for the NRMs for Tasmania:

- developing carbon farming opportunities for the regions
- climate change and energy efficiency initiatives for business
- food and biosecurity for Tasmanian primary producers and landowners
- land management
- enhancing partnerships with land carers.

5.3 Enhancing clean energy opportunities

Tasmania is uniquely positioned with the majority of its energy needs derived from renewable sources including hydroelectricity. Alternate fuels including biodiesel, biomass, solar and wind turbines are now being introduced to supplement mainstream energy generation. While Tasmania is well ahead of other states in the percentage of renewable energy used, the existing transmission infrastructure may need upgrading in order to absorb energy generated from a variety of sources.

Using this opportunity to promote Tasmania as an innovative and progressive energy producer will provide possibilities for industry to derive their energy needs from a predominantly renewable source in accordance with the Federal Government’s clean energy initiative. This will have flow on effects for business, including the reduced cost of production by using clean energy and the potential for carbon offsets through the production of ‘in-house’ clean energy.

\textsuperscript{54} http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1307.6Main+Features14Mar+2010
5.4 Tasmanian biosecurity and wildlife

The state Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Wildlife and the Environment supports the Environment Protection Authority in monitoring and regulating environmental performance and reporting on key performance indicators. The EPA also oversees quarantine regulations.

Tasmania has some of the world’s most stringent quarantine regulations to protect the state’s plants, crops and animal industries from introduced pests and diseases.

In May 2008, the iconic Tasmanian devil’s status was formally upgraded to ‘endangered’ under Tasmania’s Threatened Species Protection Act 1995. Devil facial tumour disease (DFTD) is a rare infectious cancer that is spreading through wild Tasmanian devil populations. In the far north east of Tasmania devils declined by 96 per cent in 2010–11. But in the north west of the state, where the tumour has not been detected, populations appear to have increased by 7 per cent.56 Insurance populations and ongoing research are being used to try and manage the threat to the state’s most well known animal.

5.5 Tasmania’s environmental future

Tasmania’s reputation as a ‘Clean Green State’ is one that has been developed over a number of years. While this hasn’t yet been leveraged to its fullest, the current economic and legislative environment will offer unique opportunities for the region if managed correctly.

Currently, the Tasmanian region benefits from a number of natural advantages including regular rainfall, temperate climate and a natural biosecurity deterrent as an island state.

There exists opportunities to leverage off these advantages including being a leader in renewable and lower carbon energies including wind farms, tidal, wave, geothermal, natural gas and solar energy and securing biodiversity and carbon sequestration outcomes so landholders and regional communities can take advantage of emerging markets in carbon and biodiversity. This could potentially provide a future revenue source and longer term sustainability for alternative power generation.

However these opportunities will need to be measured against the potential impacts to Tasmania’s natural resources. These include the managing of natural resources including water, forestry and fisheries in line with the expectations of the community and business. Additionally Tasmania will need to consider the best outcome for its future when considering carbon farming opportunities against alternative uses for arable land including agriculture or commercial forestry.

Maintaining best practice quarantine control will also remain a challenge for Tasmania in respect to international trade and the importation of overseas products that may be considered a threat to localised produce.

ATTACHMENT TWO – PROGRAMS

1. Overview

Listed below are initiatives, programs and projects that align with Australian and Tasmanian government policies. This is additional detail to complement Section 5 of the RDA Tasmania Regional Plan 2012–13. This information was considered a useful resource to include, but was not the core focus of developing the Regional Plan and, as such, may not be comprehensive.

2. Demographic

**Australian Government**

**Aged care reform**

**Living Longer. Living Better:** the Australian Government will deliver $3.7 billion over five years for the national Living Longer. Living Better aged care plan, which will deliver more choice, easier access and better care for older Australians and their families.

The key national reforms include:

- $268.4 million for dementia care
- $1.2 billion to improve the aged care workforce through a Workforce Compact
- $80.2 million to improve aged care linkages with the health system
- $54.8 million to support carers.

**The National Health Reform**

As part of the national health reforms, the Australian Government will invest an extra $19.8 billion in public hospitals through to 2019–20, rising to a total extra $175 billion to 2029–30.

**The Health and Hospitals Fund:** will commit $5.0 billion for regionally targeted investment to improve the health infrastructure and access to health services and employment opportunities in regional Australia. The fund will provide regionally targeted investments to improve health infrastructure and access to health services.

**Dental Relocation and Infrastructure Support Scheme:** the Australian government is committing $77.7 million to encourage and support dentists to relocate and practise in regional, rural and remote communities.

**General Practice Rural Incentives Program:** the Australian government is providing funding of $34.9 million in 2012–13 to increase the number of GPs and GP Registrars working in regional, rural and remote Australia.

**Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) Program:** as part of the national eHealth agenda, the Australian government is committing $234 million to provide people with digital, accessible and consistent health records across their lifetime.
The National Disability Insurance Scheme: the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a $1 billion allocation over the next four years, to commence the first stage of the scheme. This scheme will enable people with a significant and permanent disability to receive lifetime care and support, regardless of where they live, and increase opportunities for people with disabilities and their carers to participate in their communities.

Population/Housing

Building Better Regional Cities Program: the Australian government has committed $100 million to assist local councils to invest in local infrastructure projects that support new housing developments, including affordable homes.

Housing Affordability Fund: the Australian government has committed $450 million to lower the cost of building new homes across Australia.

National Rental Affordability Scheme: the Australian government has established partnerships with the states and territories to invest in affordable rental housing by providing incentives to the business sector and community organisations to build and rent dwellings to low and moderate income households at a rate that is at least 20 per cent below the prevailing market rates.

The 2011–12 Budget provided $95 million to support a sustainable population in Australia through four measures: suburban jobs; sustainable regional development; promoting regional living; and measuring sustainability. These measures have strong links to other government initiatives, including changes to the Regional Sponsored Migrant Scheme, making it easier for skilled migrants to progress to permanent residency in regional Australia.

The $29.2 million Sustainable Regional Development Program57 will support better sustainability planning in regions that are experiencing high growth through strategic assessments under national environmental law in up to seven additional regional and coastal growth areas.

The $11.5 million Promoting Regional Living Program will support Australia’s regions to promote the lifestyle and business opportunities in regional areas. This will build on the government’s commitment to build more affordable homes in regional cities to relieve pressure on major capital cities through Building Better Regional Cities.

The $10.1 million Measuring Sustainability Program will develop a set of sustainability indicators to measure Australia’s progress towards more sustainable communities. This set of sustainability indicators can be factored in at a regional level to better inform decision makers. The government will work with key data agencies, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with data to be regularly released at national, state and where available regional level.

A Healthy Tasmania: the Tasmanian government has established a call to action for all levels of government, industry, the community and community sector to work together in the development of six strategic directions, to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of Tasmanians.

Population/Housing

Provision of Public Infrastructure and Affordable Housing: to plan and provide public infrastructure and housing to accommodate the changing composition of Tasmanian households, the Tasmanian Government is undertaking settlement planning as part of the Tasmanian Planning Reform Initiative; providing an additional 1,100 residential properties, as part of the National Rental Affordability Scheme; Homeshare, a shared equity program; and Streets Alive Incentive Program, which provides financial incentives to eligible Tasmanians to purchase their Housing Tasmania home.

Indigenous population

Urban and Regional Strategy: As part of the Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan (OBIP), the Indigenous Coordination Centre Tasmania (ICC) has developed the Urban and Regional Strategy to enable disadvantaged and marginalised groups in the Tasmanian community to have input into the style and character of the suite of services available.

3. Economic

3.1 Industry transition

Australian Government

Through the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, the Australian Government has committed $277 million, including $15.5 million from the Tasmanian Government, to support economic diversification and regional development for the communities affected by the downturn in the forestry industry. This committed will be an annual allocation of $120 million, over a 15 year period, to fund regional development projects.

Tasmanian Government

Following on from the successful Tasmanian Innovation Investment Fund (TIIF) program, jointly funded with the Australian Government through the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, the Tasmanian Government has launched the Tasmanian Government Innovation Investment Fund (TGIIF) to foster new and innovative ideas that will help Tasmanian businesses create jobs and diversify the economy to meet current and future challenges.

Sirolli Enterprise Facilitation Model: the Tasmanian Government will make a $950,000 investment over two years to the towns of Scottsdale, George Town and Smithton to promote local economic development.
3.2 Infrastructure

Australian Government

Infrastructure Australia

Infrastructure Australia is a statutory body, established under the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008* which advises governments, investors and infrastructure owners on a wide range of issues. Infrastructure Australia has developed seven themes for prioritising infrastructure funding. These are:

- developing a more extensive, globally competitive broadband system
- extending the national energy grids so there is greater flexibility and competition in our power and gas markets, while creating new opportunities for renewable energy resources
- improving port productivity and associated land transport links
- lifting the amount of freight shifted by rail
- preparing for the impact of climate change on the nation’s water supplies
- expanding public transport services within cities and making better use of existing infrastructure
- improving services to Indigenous communities.

Engagement in the digital economy

As part of the National Digital Economy Strategy, the government is investing in the following programs:

**Digital Hubs Program**: is designed to provide residents with online training, and the opportunity to experience NBN-enabled services. All seven localities in Tasmania that have live NBN connection now have community organisations funded to operate digital hubs. In the majority of communities, the funded body is the local council. For a list go to: [http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_hubs_program](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_hubs_program)

**Digital Enterprise Program**: assists local businesses and not-for-profit groups to better understand how to increase their productivity, expand their customer base and grow their revenues. Ten Tasmanian communities connected or close to connecting to the NBN have organisations funded to offer Digital Enterprise services. 3P Consulting Pty Ltd, Community Potential Foundation Limited and the Orford Triabunna Chamber of Commerce were the successful applicants. For details go to: [http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_enterprise_program](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_enterprise_program)

**Digital Local Government Program**: provides funding for local governments to deliver innovative online services to homes and businesses. Three Tasmanian councils have been funded: For details go to: [http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_local_government_program](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_local_government_program)

- Circular Head Council received $374,984 and Dorset Council received $224,940 to deliver enhanced building and development application services using videoconferencing technology. Residents will be better able to lodge, track and access planning and development applications from November 2012.
• Sorell Council received $292 to deliver enhanced emergency management services using videoconferencing technology. This project will enable rapid information and data exchange between key participants in emergency management situations from December 2012.

**Digital Regions Initiative**: co-funds digital enabled projects with state, territory and local governments through a National Partnership Agreement, in a collaborative approach to improve the services in key sectors of health, education and emergency services in regional, rural and remote Australian communities (concludes June 2013). Tasmania is included in:

• the CDM-Net project, a broadband-based collaborative care system to allow GPs, specialists and other health care professionals to collaborate on a patient’s healthcare plan through an easy online interface.

• Connected—Any Student, Any School to link schools from across Tasmania’s three major school systems through a collaborative data centre. This data centre will host a diverse range of educational resources from the public, independent and Catholic school systems.

**Regional development and planning**

**Regional Development Australia Fund**: the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) is an investment of approximately $1 billion over five years to fund a diverse range of projects that will support Australia’s regions by enhancing local economies and regional liveability. Funding of $573.0 million from the Minerals Resource Rent Tax (MRRT) ensures that all regional areas will benefit from proceeds of a resurgent resources boom.

**Community Infrastructure Grants**: funding of $66.9 million in 2012–13 will be available to fund projects identified by local communities as priority investments for their regions. These projects provide important community and social infrastructure, and enhance the liveability of Australia’s regions.

**Nation Building Program**: the Government is investing over $36 billion in large scale road, rail and port infrastructure and, in the 2012–13 Budget, and has extended funding to regionally beneficial transport infrastructure projects.

**The Liveable Cities Program**: the government will provide $20 million over two years. Current Tasmanian projects are listed below.

**Building Better Regional Cities Program**: the objectives of the Building Better Regional Cities Program are to invest in local infrastructure projects that support an increase in the number of homes for sale and rent that are affordable for working families on ordinary incomes, in communities that are experiencing positive jobs and population growth that need more homes to be built. No Tasmanian projects were funded in the first round, announced in June 2012.
Tasmanian Government

Infrastructure

The Tasmanian Infrastructure Strategy coordinates effort across the major economic sectors of digital, water, energy and transport. The Strategy complements the Tasmanian Innovation Strategy and Tasmanian Skills Strategy to provide a foundation to support sustained economic outcomes. Projects highlighted for the next 1–3 years are listed here: http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/infrastructure2/home

Infrastructure investment: in total, the Tasmanian Government will make a $438 million investment in capital works, from roads and schools, to hospitals and affordable housing in 2012–13.

Spatial data infrastructure: a two-year Spatial Information Foundations infrastructure project, with funding of $3 million has been funded to develop a contemporary platform for the management and distribution of spatial information across all tiers of government and the private sector. This will improve the quality and timeliness of services and decision making, especially in the areas of planning, economic development, policy development and emergency management. The project is part of the Tasmanian Government ICT Strategy, and it supports the Economic Development Plan, strategies for planning reform and the SenseT program; http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/CPAN-8SJ5YF?open

Tasmanian Irrigation Infrastructure Project: a massive investment in irrigation will continue in 2012–13, with a further $52.1 million allocated in State and Australian government funding. Major works over the next 12 months will include irrigation schemes in the Midlands, the Lower South Esk, the South East and Upper Ringarooma.

When the program ends in 2015, $220 million in public funds and $100 million in private sector investment will have seen 11 schemes completed across the state, creating jobs and helping primary producers realise their vision of Tasmania as a food bowl.

Bell Bay Pulp Mill: Gunns Ltd has been working towards developing a pulp mill in the Bell Bay port precinct for a number of years. This project would be significant for the forestry industry in the state. As at August 2012, it is uncertain if the project will proceed.

Engagement in the digital economy

Digital Ready Program: a $380,000 investment to help Tasmanian small businesses embrace the digital economy by providing one-on-one coaching to help boost their online presence and sales capacity.

SenseT: a collaboration between the University of Tasmania, state and Australian governments and a range of industry partners promises. The SenseT data sensor network will utilise the NBN rollout in Tasmania to make historical, spatial and real-time data available through the Internet. Over the next five years sensors will be deployed across the island, measuring aspects including energy, carbon, water, population and transport flow. This data will help primary producers and land users to make better decisions about land management and interaction with the natural environment.

CSIRO is investing $10.5 million, the Australian Government has contributed $3.6 million to the project and industry partners include National ICT Australia (NICTA) and Aurora Energy.
Regional development and planning

The Major Cities Unit is working with the COAG Reform Council and the Tasmanian Government to support improvements in strategic planning, and to share best practice planning approaches.

Liveable Cities Program: in April 2012, Hobart and Launceston received funding to undertake:

- **Hobart**
  - $200,000 for a master plan for the redevelopment of the former Kingston High School site
  - $125,000 towards a plan to overhaul the city’s disjointed and ageing public transport interchange arrangements to make bus travel more attractive
  - $110,000 for a major economic study into the potential and future use of the Macquarie Point Railyards on Hobart's waterfront.

- **Launceston**
  - $320,000 for the Greater Launceston Plan, an innovative transport project that will take into account future public transport, water and land-use needs, the best placement of new employment and industrial precincts, population growth, demographic change and community aspirations. At present there is no overarching strategy for greater Launceston. This new plan will be supported by municipalities across the northern Tasmanian region and the Tasmanian Government.

Tasmanian Forests Intergovernment Agreement (IGA): this agreement was signed in August 2012 to formalise cooperation between the Australian and Tasmanian governments to create a diverse, competitive economy while responding to challenges faced by the Tasmanian forest industry. The Economic Diversification Package for Tasmania supports investment in key strategic areas. The Australian Government is providing $120 million over 15 years, including an initial payment of $20 million in 2011–12, to support economic diversification. Ten projects were funded in early 2012; details are available at [http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/tasmania/projects.aspx](http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/tasmania/projects.aspx)

3.3 Employment characteristics

Australian Government

Remote Jobs and Communities Program: the $1.5 billion investment to provide a more integrated and flexible approach to employment and participation services for people living in remote areas of Australia.

Child Care Assistance: the government has committed $225.6 million to assist parents with the cost of child care in rural and remote areas of Australia who are undertaking work, study or training, to better enable them to take advantage of employment opportunities.

Community Based Employment Advice Services: a $7.1 million investment to enable not-for-profit organisations to better meet the demands of clients in regional areas with restricted access to employment services.
Local Area Solutions Fund: the aim of the fund is to provide funding for programs to train long term unemployed into permanent part or full time positions. The funding program will run for three years.

Burnie has been recognised as one of ten regional cities that has a lower than average workforce participation rate. This has impact on the ability for employers to fill semi-skilled or skilled positions which in turn will impact productivity in local industry. A lack of training and willingness to learn has been identified as the key issues for this lack of participation.

**Tasmanian Government**

North West & Northern Tasmania Skills Initiative: is managed by Skills Tasmania in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts. This Initiative is for jobseekers or partners of newly retrenched workers in north west and northern Tasmania to help them upskill and reskill to gain employment where they have lost their jobs because of retrenchment, closures or company downsizing.

Tasmanian Government Work Placement Program: is designed to assist new migrants and humanitarian entrants to the state to gain experience in an Australian work culture by participating in a work experience program within the Tasmanian Government.

Workforce Participation Program: provides financial incentives to organisations for them to employ people who face barriers to employment, but who have workforce potential.

For detail on employment assistance programs is available at


---

**3.4 Education and skills**

**Australian Government**

Skills opportunities in regional Australia

The Australian Government is assisting more regional students to access vocational education and training (VET) courses, and providing more government supported places at regional universities.

The Australian Government is working with state and territory governments to reform the national training system through a new $1.75 billion National Partnership Agreement. Under these arrangements, all Australians will be entitled to a place to complete a first qualification up to Certificate III level.

**National Workforce Development Fund:** the Government is providing more than $700 million over five years to support training and workforce development in areas of current and future skills need.

**Tasmanian Government**

Skills Tasmania is Tasmania’s State Training Authority, developing strategies and providing support, advice and opportunities and funding to deliver quality training to meet the needs of Tasmanians in our industries. Current Skills Tasmania initiatives include the annual Skills Tasmania Conference, Tasmanian
Training Awards and VET professional development program, as well as the Tasmanian Skills Strategy and adult literacy programs. Key strategies under the Tasmanian Skills Strategy include:

- **Increasing Opportunity** – adult literacy, increased participation, retention and achievement by disadvantaged groups, transition and retention support for young people, joining up of services.
- **A Better System for Clients** – strong public providers, increased competition and choice, better information to clients, integrated tertiary sector and strategic infrastructure planning.
- **Workforce Development** – workforce analysis and planning, human resource management and skills development to bridge the gap between current and future workforce needs.
- **Skills for the Future** – skills crisis response, priority industries and occupations, emerging industries and skills for sustainability.

**Adult Literacy Strategy**
This strategy aims to address the high levels of functional adult literacy in Tasmania through initiatives including:

- The establishment of an informal community and workplace network of adult literacy support.
- The establishment of a state wide team of coordinators supported by a pool of trained volunteers to drive the Adult Literacy Network.
- The development of key indicators to measure improvements in adult literacy support and outcomes.

**School education**

**Australian Government**

**Building the Education Revolution:** the government has committed $16.2 million

**Schoolkids Bonus:** the government is investing an additional $2.1 billion over five years in a new Schoolkids Bonus. The bonus will replace the Education Tax Refund and be paid directly to all eligible recipients, helping more families, with more generous, timely and flexible support.

**Tasmanian Government**

In 2009–10, Tasmania spent $553 per student on out of school costs, 23 per cent less than the Australian average. Tasmania also spent more on students with disability in government schools than any other state with average funding per student for students with disability in Tasmania in 2009–10 of $41,817.

**Launching into Learning Initiative:** improving the literacy and numeracy levels, with a continuing investment of $5.9 million to ensure all schools with primary students are supported.

**Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap program:** a $55 million five year investment.

**Empowering Local Schools Program:** provides $2 million for up to 22 schools so they can decide how best to improve teaching and learning.

**Professional Learning Institute:** a $1.7 million investment for 2012–13, which will deliver high quality professional learning for school-based and departmental staff.
School Transition Fund: an initial investment of $3.5 million over two years, to support capital works and improvements at school sites.

Higher Education

Australian Government

The government is supporting the higher education and research sectors at a cost of an additional $5.4 billion over four years and will commit additional resourcing over the next 10 years. This includes funding of $1.5 billion for teaching and learning, $0.7 billion for university research, $1.1 billion for the Super Science initiative and $2.1 billion from the Education Investment Fund for education and research infrastructure.58

Tasmanian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency: is a Tasmanian Government organisation that is responsible for the Quality Standards for higher education in the state.

Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts (ACIPA): the proposed $75.2 million project from the University of Tasmania, in partnership with the Theatre Royal and the State Government, will include a new home for the University’s Conservatorium of Music linked to additional facilities for Hobart’s historic Theatre Royal. High-tech education facilities will enable students to access programs across the state and link directly to the Inveresk Cultural Precinct in Launceston, which includes the UTAS Schools of Visual and Performing Arts, and Architecture and Design. It is expected that this development will attract up to 3,000 new students over seven years.59

4. Regional cultural, sport and recreation

4.1 Arts and creative industries

Australian Government

National collecting institutions: access to Australia’s pre-eminent collecting institutions and their programs will be expanded with an additional $39.3 million over four years. With this funding, the national collecting institutions can increase education activity and online content through the National Broadband Network.

Sounds Australia: will receive $1.75 million to grow export and domestic markets and to support contemporary music artists.

Workforce skills development: an investment of $1.25 million to build on the success of existing initiatives, including CONTROL for music management and GENERATE – a music enterprise investment pilot offering business development knowledge and skills.

58 Transforming Australia’s Higher Education System 2009
Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Government has invested in a range of infrastructure projects and cultural programs and initiatives, including a $30 million first stage redevelopment of the Tasmanian Museum and Arts Gallery and $18.3 million in major events funding, such as Ten Days on the Island, Festival of Voices and MONA FOMA.

Arts Industry Digital Strategy: will identify opportunities leveraged from the National Broadband Network and will focus on integrating technologies into art practices, business and marketing in order to showcase Tasmanian art and culture to the world.

Arts Grants Program: in 2012 Arts Tasmania will be undertaking research and sector engagement into new funding models, particularly for individual artists, in partnership with other funding bodies and the Australia Business Arts Foundation for implementation in 2014. There are no funds to deliver any new funding initiatives in 2012–13.

Industry Development Program: Arts Tasmania’s industry development program is primarily delivered through arts@work, which facilitates long-term industry development programs that build economic and social capacity for the state, attracts new markets, and harnesses the energy of Tasmania’s vibrant cultural sector to drive Tasmania’s economy and enrich its cultural identity.

Arts Tasmania will continue to foster industry development through the following programs:

- **146 ArtSpace** – supporting contemporary art practice and showcasing emerging artists and curators who are not currently represented by a gallery or who have limited exhibition experience. Artist’s studios are also available for rent at a subsidised rate.
- **Arts-e newsbyte** is arts@work’s fortnightly e-newsletter.
- **arts-e resources** – online resources in the areas of business, marketing, governance, financial support and residencies across all art forms.
- **spaceBank and stuffBank** – increasing the number of affordable studio and rehearsal spaces available for artists; and providing resources that businesses, organisations or individuals no longer require to the arts sector.

smart map tasmania: is a cultural tourism project that profiles both commercial and non-commercial arts experiences to a local, national and international visitor market. It is a database-driven website that lists experiences in visual arts, performing arts, literature, craft and design, music and Aboriginal Arts and Craft across the state. Each listing contains contact details, opening hours, services and facilities and details of upcoming events, exhibitions or activities.

COLLECT Art Purchase Scheme: a 12-month, interest-free loan scheme that enables any Australian to buy Tasmanian art from selected Tasmanian retail galleries.

Roving Curator: Arts Tasmania’s Roving Curators Program involves working with communities, state wide to support, develop, enhance and promote Tasmania’s unique and varied cultural collections.

Museums Accreditation Program: in 2012–13, Arts Tasmania will implement a Museums Accreditation Program (MAP) for Tasmania, based on compliance with the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries.
Digital Arts Strategy: arts@work has been liaising with the Creative Industries Innovation Centre, the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, the Digital Futures office within DEDTA and the University of Tasmania’s School of Art (Hobart) and School of Visual and Performing Arts (Launceston) in preparation for creating a 3 to 5 year digital strategy for the arts.

Digital Development Project: this proposal includes building the capacity of the arts sector to participate in the digital economy, comprising four strands: arts practice in the digital environment; art business in the digital environment; a Roving Geek program, based on the Roving Curator model; and Digital Arts Grants fund from 2014.

Strategic Indigenous Arts Development Initiative: in partnership with the Australia Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board and Division, Arts Tasmania will undertake a strategic series of projects involving Tasmanian Aboriginal artists in all artform sectors.

4.2 Sport and recreation

Australian Government

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure: since 2010, the Australian Government has invested over $550 million in over 1,000 sports facilities, to develop and support participation in sport and recreation activities.

Active After School Communities Program: the government has committed a $40 million annual investment to provide primary school children with access to free sport and other structured physical activity programs.

Indigenous Sport and Active Program: the Indigenous Sport and Active Program aims to increase active participation of Indigenous Australians in sport and active recreation activities, with an investment of $18 million per year to 2014.

Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Government has committed a two-year $20 million infrastructure investment, to enable children, Indigenous people and people with a disability to participate in sport, recreation and physical activity.

Sport and Recreation Tasmania provides funding to increase opportunities for participation in sport and active recreation in Tasmania, and to assist the ongoing development of Tasmania’s sport and recreation sector:

Minor Grants Program: provides grant of between $500 and $1,000 to clubs, associations and local government and not-for-profit providers of sport and active recreation, e.g. minor equipment purchases, planning and research studies.

Major Grants Program: provides grant of between $15,000 and $80,000 to clubs, associations, local government and not-for-profit providers of sport and recreation, e.g. major equipment purchases, participation projects.
State Grants Program: provides grants of up to $60,000 to state sporting organisations, state active recreation providers and state sector service providers.

National/International Sport Championships Program: provides grants of up to $3,000 for national or international sport championships being held in Tasmania, with funding distributed on a first-come first-served basis for organisations meeting the eligibility criteria.

5 Environmental

Australian Government

Clean Energy Programs

Jobs and Competitiveness Program: the Jobs and Competitiveness Program will provide assistance to the most emissions intensive and trade exposed industries in the Australian economy, by making them eligible for partial shielding from the Carbon Tax. A rate of 94.5% shielding will apply for the most emissions intensive industries and 66% for activities with a lesser rate of carbon emissions.

It is expected to impact manufacturing industries including aluminium production, pulp and paper production and glassmaking. The value of this program is $9.2 billion.

Clean Technology Investment Program: the Clean Technology Investment Program will provide grants to manufacturers to support investments in energy efficient capital equipment and clean technologies, processes and products. Eligible businesses include manufacturers that use more than 300 megawatt hours of electricity or 5 terajoules of natural gas per year, or are covered under the carbon pricing mechanism.

Funding through this program will be provided on a co-contribution basis with every three industry dollars attracting one dollar of Government assistance. The value of this program is $800 million.

Clean Technology Food and Foundry Program: the Clean Technology Food and Foundry Program will assist the food processing and metal forging and foundry industries. The grants will provide opportunities for these industries to invest in energy efficient equipment and low pollution technologies, processes and products. The value of this program for the food processing industry is $150 million and for the metal forging and foundry industries $50 million over six years. Funding will be provided on a co-contribution basis with every three industry dollars attracting one dollar of government assistance. The value of this program is $200 million.

Clean Energy Innovation Fund: the Clean Energy Innovation Fund will provide an additional $200 million of funding over five years to support business research and development in the areas of renewable energy, low pollution technology and energy efficiency. Funding will be on a co-contribution basis dollar-for-dollar of government assistance.

Clean Energy Skills Program: the Clean Energy Skills Program will provide assistance to develop new skills sets for the new clean energy environment. Funding will help education institutions and industry develop the materials and expertise to promote clean energy skills. The value of this program is $32 million.
Energy Efficiency Grants: The Energy Efficiency Grants Program is designed to help small businesses understand the implications of the Government’s Clean Energy Plan. Grants will be made available over four years to industry associations and non-government organisations which have an established relationship with small businesses and community organisations.

These groups will deliver information about the carbon prices and practical steps to manage any impacts. The value of this program is $40 million.

Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chains Program: The Australian Government will provide funding for current advisory programs that assist business, including Industry Capability Network, Supplier Advocates and Enterprise Connect. The value of this program will be $5 million over four years.

Helping Communities and Regions: The Australian Government will provide $200 million through the Department of Regional Australia. Funding will be made available on a case-by-case basis to support local communities that have been adversely affected by the introduction of the carbon price. Examples may include workers and families that have been displaced, affected small business, community development programs and economic diversification programs.

Carbon Farming Initiatives: The Australian Government will support farmers with a number of initiatives to take advantage of the Carbon Offset Scheme and provide opportunities to sell carbon credits through innovation in carbon storage and innovative farming techniques.

Low Carbon Communities Program: Through the Australian Government, the Low Carbon Communities Program has been expanded to include support for energy efficiency activities. The extended $200 million Low Carbon Communities Program will support energy efficiency upgrades to council and community-use buildings, facilities and lighting.

Caring for our Country

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability. Funding Indigenous projects is an important part of Caring for our Country and it contributes to the Council of Australian Government’s commitment to Closing the Gap.

Further information is available at: [http://www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

Tasmanian Government


Defence environmental management: as one of Australia's largest land and property owners, the Department of Defence is entrusted with managing large tracts of land, water, cultural, and heritage sites on behalf of the Australia community. Defence is adopting ecologically sustainable development principles, and is striving to make them an everyday part of its business; [http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/](http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/)
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC): the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities develops and implements national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia’s environment and heritage; http://www.environment.gov.au/

Australian Marine Mammal Centre: the Australian Marine Mammal Centre was established to help understand, protect and conserve the whales, dolphins, seals and dugongs in our region. The centre coordinates Australia’s marine mammal research expertise to provide scientific research and advice; http://www.marinemammals.gov.au/

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET): the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism provides advice and policy support to the Australian Government regarding Australia’s resources, energy and tourism sectors. The Department develops and delivers policies to increase Australia’s international competitiveness, consistent with the principles of environmental responsibility and sustainable development; http://www.ret.gov.au/

Other Federal programs specific to environment and resource are available at http://australia.gov.au/topics/environment-and-natural-resources

Tasmanian Government

Tasmanian Climate Change Office: this initiative has been established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to lead the State Government’s response to the challenges of climate change in Tasmania. These initiatives include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, enhancing the resilience of our communities and natural systems, successfully leading Tasmanian in the transition to a low carbon future, capturing new opportunities from the low carbon environment and contributing to the greater national and global objectives.

Tasmanian Climate Futures Project: the Climate Futures for Tasmania project is a Tasmanian Government partnership with the Antarctic Climate and Eco Systems Co-operative Research Centre to provide detailed information on climate change predictions across the state.

Local Council Climate Adaption Project: every Tasmanian council has used the Climate Futures data to complete an area climate profile through the Local Council Climate Adaption Project. Predictive data has also been extracted for use by the agricultural sector and for future infrastructure planning and development.

Aboriginal Heritage Program: a $2.6 million funding program over the next four years to develop and introduce new legislation to improve the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage, while providing clarity for landowners and developers.

Amalgamation of Existing Pest Management Programs: in 2012–13, a $5.7 million investment to bring together the fox eradication program, weed management and invasive animals resources into an integrated Invasive Species Branch.

Non-Biodegradable Plastic Bags Initiative: a $780,000 commitment to implement the tripartite agreement to ban non-biodegradable plastic bags.
Coastline Management Program: a $240,000 investment to support existing work to prepare a new framework that will provide certainty around planning, management and protection of Tasmania’s coastline.
**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics (Federal Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIRC</td>
<td>Australian Innovation Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARENA</td>
<td>Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Federal Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Cradle Coast Authority (representing nine north west local councils)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COAG</td>
<td>Council of Australian Governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Central Business District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CommSec</td>
<td>Commonwealth Bank of Australia – Securities Trading Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCAC</td>
<td>Demographic Change Advisory Council (Tasmanian Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDTA</td>
<td>Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (Tasmanian Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEEWR</td>
<td>Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Federal Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFTD</td>
<td>Devil Facial Tumour Disease (Tasmanian Devil – Native Wildlife)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIER</td>
<td>Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (Tasmanian Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Authority (Tasmania)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE</td>
<td>Full Time Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST</td>
<td>Goods and Services Tax (Federal Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information Communication Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Agreement on Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGA</td>
<td>Local Government Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAT</td>
<td>Local Government Association of Tasmania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONA</td>
<td>Museum of Old and New Art (Hobart)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBN</td>
<td>National Broadband Network</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NRM     Natural Resource Management
NTD     Northern Tasmanian Development (representing eight northern local councils)
REDP    Regional Economic Development Plan (Tasmanian Government)
RTO     Registered Training Organisations
Sense –T  Tasmanian Sensor Information Network
SME     Small and Medium Enterprise (Business)
STCA    Southern Tasmanian Councils Association (representing twelve southern local councils)
THO     Tasmanian Health Organisation
TPC     Tasmanian Planning Commission
UK      United Kingdom
UTAS    University of Tasmania