

RDA regional priorities for Tasmania

RDA Tasmania are currently updating our regional Plan. We are seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the priorities for 2013-14.

Below are five (5) priorities that the RDA Tasmania Committee consider to be important for Tasmania.

RDA Tasmania are considering the following to be priorities for 2013-14:

- 1. Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania based on technology, value-adding and our comparative advantages**
- 2. Increase collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government**
- 3. Improve literacy and education levels within the Tasmanian community**
- 4. Facilitate placed-based solutions for local communities**
- 5. Address the needs of our changing demographic profile including health and wellbeing, ageing and our growing urban centres**

QUESTION:
Do you consider these broad priorities reflect the needs of Tasmania? Would you consider alternate priorities, and if so, what would they be?
Should these priorities be presented in a different way?

Assuming the priorities reflect the needs of the Tasmanian community, RDA Tasmania are considering a list of specific projects and activities to address them.

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. The priorities reflect the priorities that came from the Community Conversations conducted in conjunction with the State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts in 2012. Detailed actions, dates, responsibilities and measures are outlined in our internal RDA Tasmania Business Plan and reported in our annual report.

The section below outlines how regional priorities will be progressed through these specific projects and activities.

Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania based on technology, value-adding and our comparative advantages.

Specific projects and activities

1. Influence the implementation of the State Government Regional Economic Development Plans (REDP) and the Tasmanian Forestry Intergovernmental Agreement – Economic Diversification:
 - Recognise and incorporate priorities identified in the REDPs.
 - Be a key participant in the identification of projects and investment in economic diversification in collaboration with all levels of government that are consistent with the REDPs, informed by the AIRC findings on economic diversification of the Tasmanian economy and Tasmania's Asian White paper.

2. Influence regional strategies that support the renovation and improvement of transport services for Tasmania, including Bass Strait Shipping and intra island transport:
 - Participate in and support the TCCI Logistics Committee to review and develop strategies that support Tasmanian exporters and businesses.
 - Utilise our network and neutral position to provide feedback to the Freight Logistics Co-Ordination Team with their federally funded review of inter-island freight (including export freight), the freight equalisation scheme and intra island (within Tasmania) transportation of freight.

3. Work with industry groups and regional bodies to formulate strategies to grow sustainably:
 - Work with the Tasmanian Dairy Industry to begin to implement the industry strategy for expansion within Tasmania in the next five years.
 - Participate and work with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) to develop and implement the 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.
 - Support the regional strategies being developed by the new Tourism Destination bodies.
 - Provide ongoing advice and support for small business through the Tasmanian Small Business Council and the State Government Small Business Strategy.

4. Maximise the advantage of the new carbon economy to Tasmania
 - Partner with the regional NRM bodies to maximise the benefits of Carbon Farming Initiatives.

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- Maximise the benefit from renewable energy 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 north west that will now be extended state wide.
5. Develop research and discussion papers on relevant Tasmanian issues including:
- Partnering with the University of Tasmania to develop a paper on regional leadership in Tasmania.
 - Work with the University of Tasmania's Institute of Regional Development to investigate the impact of economic diversification support from government in a regional area of Tasmania.
6. Encourage growth in our arts and cultural industries
- Work with government, arts organisations, and educators including the University of Tasmania's new Creative Arts Precinct to maximise education, economic and cultural outcomes.
 - Deliver a regional development component at the Museums Australia national conference in Launceston 16th-19th May, 2014.
 - Bring together government and industry to develop strategies to maximise the advantage of current international recognition and exposure.

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 and co-locate all RDA Tasmania staff within Department of Economic Development offices.
 - Work in partnership with regional local government bodies on policy and projects of particular relevance to the different regions of Tasmania, local government and communities affected by the forestry industry downturn.

- 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.
- Develop MOUs with the University of Tasmania in relation to the Northern Health Initiative/Wellness Tasmania/Centre for Research of Active Living, regional leadership in Tasmania, Sense T, and providing courses for Tasmania's advanced manufacturing sector.

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.
 - Supporting the recommendations of the 2013 National Workforce Development Strategy.

Facilitate placed-based solutions for local communities

Specific projects and activities

1. 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 TasCOSS, State Government and community transport providers to consider strategies for more effective and coordinated community transport provision.

Address the needs of our changing demographic profile including health and wellbeing, ageing and our growing urban centres

Specific projects and activities

1. Facilitate a regional discussion to assist in a change of community culture from health service delivery to community wellness.
2. Identifying potential infrastructure projects that may be eligible for federal funding programs including the Regional Health Initiative and projects that encourage active living.
3. Advocating for Tasmania as an effective test bed for policy development and demonstration projects relating to health and our ageing population.
4. Support the activities of the University of Tasmania Centre of Research for Active Living
5. Understanding the impacts of strategy and planning projects such as:
 - the future drivers of health 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 and other significant Local Government strategies
 - the Cradle Coast Coastal Pathways Project.
 - Identifying strategic recreational infrastructure needs through consultation with local council, regional development organisations and Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

QUESTION:

Do you consider the specific projects and activities identifies as appropriate to address the broad priorities of Tasmania?

Would you consider alternate projects and activities, and if so, what would they be (please note which priority they would refer to)?