



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional
Development
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TASMANIA

Strategic Regional Plan for Tasmania 2023

Prepared by Regional Development Australia Tasmania



An Australian Government Initiative



**Regional
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Australia

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This Plan was launched on 23 February 2023 and is a living document 2023-2025. Please refer to www.rdatasmania.org.au for further information and updates.



We acknowledge the palawa/pakana of lutruwita, the traditional owners of the land upon which we live and work.

We pay respects to Elders past and present as the knowledge holders and sharers. We honour their strong culture and knowledge as vital to the self-determination, well-being and resilience of their communities.

We stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, languages and history.

We advise this resource may contain images, or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

Foreword - The Hon. Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories of Australia

Regional Development Australia Tasmania (RDA Tasmania) is to be commended for delivering this Strategic Regional Plan for Tasmania, which brings together a shared vision for the region.

The optimism and enormous potential for Tasmania and Tasmanians is clearly articulated in the Plan. The Plan identifies important opportunities for growth in Tasmania. Through consultation, the Plan shows how all levels of Government and community have contributed to the Key Principles and Strategic Regional Priorities.

RDA Tasmania has put people and their communities at the heart of regional development. This approach aligns with the work of the Australian, Tasmanian State and Local Governments and provides an important lens through which regional development opportunities can be assessed and considered.

Tasmania is well placed to lead Australia with its focus on net-zero, building its renewable energy industry and delivering cross sector benefits for industry in Tasmania. The Plan reflects the need to balance development with liveability for all Tasmanians.

This shared responsibility is a clear theme in the Plan, and embodies the vision for RDA Tasmania to bring Government, businesses, and people together to drive the future of Tasmania.

This Plan is part of realising the amazing opportunities for Tasmania and the work of RDA Tasmania in activating Tasmanian development.



The Hon. Kristy McBain MP

**Minister for Regional Development,
Local Government and Territories of Australia**



Foreword - The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP, Premier of Tasmania

Here in Tasmania our geographic isolation has meant we've had to work harder. Good enough has never been good enough. And so, without even knowing it, over generations, we've simply had to pursue better.

We call it the quiet pursuit of the extraordinary. It makes living here, working here and investing here unique and attractive.

For those looking to work and invest in something a little less ordinary. In advanced manufacturing and science. In tech, and in premium products and experiences. In creativity and climate solutions.

Here in Tasmania we're self-sufficient in renewable electricity and we have one of the cleanest grids in the world and an ambitious strategy to be producing 200% of our renewable energy needs by 2040.

When it comes to renewable energy Tasmania is an island workshop. While everyone else cleans up their grid, Tasmanians are helping to figure out the thousands of small ways to decarbonise the way we work, live and build.

What Tasmania teaches us is how to build big things in small and special ways, and how to electrify them from the ground up.

I believe Tasmania's differences are our greatest strengths. They underpin our unique and diverse economy.

Tasmania has very distinct regions, each with key strengths and advantages, and the potential to attract new investment, expand business and drive their economies forward.

With so much interest in Tasmania and what our State has to offer, we need to ensure every region has a targeted growth strategy and the support required to harness those advantages, through people, environment, infrastructure, services and resources.

This is an ideal time for RDA Tasmania to deliver its Strategic Regional Plan, as Tasmania's economy continues to go from strength to strength with record population and employment growth, and an enviable lifestyle and environment.

RDA Tasmania has worked with the Tasmanian Government in developing its Strategic Regional Plan, which provides a regional roadmap of priorities, opportunities and challenges.

This complements our Government's ambition to develop regional strategic partnerships to set a 20-year framework, vision and direction for planning and land use – ensuring regions have what they need to thrive.

I congratulate RDA Tasmania for the delivery of this Plan, and look forward to working together for the benefit of Tasmania and our region.



The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier of Tasmania



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Please refer to www.rdatasmania.org.au for further information and updates.

1. Economic Development Priorities

This Strategic Regional Plan (SRP) has been prepared by Regional Development Australia Tasmania (RDAT). It is a Plan for Strategic Regional Priorities for Tasmania, and reflects the vision of the Australian Government, the Tasmanian State Government and Local Governments in Tasmania.

This SRP differs from previous strategic plans delivered by RDAT which were to guide the strategic direction and actions for RDAT. This Plan is for Regional Development for Tasmania and for all 3 levels of Government and stakeholders to work toward.

As such implementation of the Strategic Regional Priorities, will be the responsibility of all stakeholders including RDAT. Section 6 provides more detail about the implementation of the Plan and the actions under it.

This SRP provides:

- (1) A Narrative to Frame the Conversation
- (2) Key Principles for Strategic Regional Planning
- (3) Strategic Regional Priorities

The Tasmanian State Government has delivered strategic work and sectoral plans for Tasmania (refer Section 3.2. on page 15). However, there is no overarching plan for regional development in Tasmania. There is also a need for “connective tissue” between the various sectoral plans, for example addressing the value of renewable energy to growth industries such as agriculture and forestry.

Additionally, social and economic inclusion issues, and the prominence of people and their communities, need to be reflected.

This SRP is to guide regional development for Tasmania. It has been developed for all 3 levels of Government – along with industry, people, and community – to have regard for projects and opportunities, and as a framework to addressing challenges.

Image: Rob Burnett



1.1. A Narrative to Frame the Conversation

The Principles and Strategic Regional Priorities have been developed following an extensive literature review and stakeholder consultation.

This section of the SRP provides a narrative to frame the conversation, and the Principles and Strategic Regional Priorities. It is an optimistic reflection of the vast opportunities for economic growth in Tasmania - and the potential for economic benefits to flow to our people, their communities, and business and industry.

Importantly, our people and their communities must be at the heart of regional development in Tasmania. Tasmania has an opportunity to activate its greatest resource, our people, as creators of economic development opportunities. To improve their education, and their skills, and to move Tasmania to the next level of regional development. To embrace the knowledge economy, and the opportunities to leverage Tasmania's liveability and our renewable industry - which will attract people and businesses to the state.

Regional development works best when it is born of and executed by our communities. Tasmania's vibrant communities foster creativity and social inclusion for their people. They understand their people's needs for services, the opportunities for new projects, and the impact of climate change. People and their communities have intimate knowledge and awareness of our natural resources.

Tasmania has significant natural resources which can deliver economic benefit for Tasmania. Wealth creation opportunities are plentiful and include sectors which are well understood, such as agriculture and aquaculture, forestry, mining and tourism. This SRP provides a framework for all Tasmanians to have a fresh look at the opportunities for wealth creation and economic development.

The Strategic Regional Priorities consider and provide new thinking for wealth creation in the section titled "Growing Gross Regional Product". But there is additional work we can all do, to improve our economic positioning: by using new technologies for adding value to all our products and services, by taking advantage of Australia's free trade agreements to diversify

exports into new markets and sectors, by scaling our businesses, and building on our competitive and geographic advantage in Antarctic and marine studies, space and defence.

While there are significant opportunities to grow our Gross Regional Product, there is a need to ensure development opportunities are made in the context of the constraints of our finite natural resources, climate change, our liveability goals and natural environment. Our work on renewables and zero carbon emissions go some way to addressing this.

Tasmania is 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable energy. It was the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net-zero emissions and has done so for the past 7 years. This strong competitive advantage must be leveraged for the benefit of all Tasmanians. A focus on high yield, low impact goods and services will contribute to the balance between economic development and environmental impacts.

As an island state, Tasmania has significant need for a built environment that can move people, goods and data within the state and off-island. Cost-effective transport and storage will greatly assist our businesses to compete nationally and internationally. Digital infrastructure and connectivity are vital to enabling businesses to thrive, and to enable economic and social inclusion of our people.

This SRP sets us up for success as a state and provides for people and their communities. But there are also roadblocks to success to consider. Housing is the most often mentioned issue by Local Councils, their communities, and people. A lack of housing for people directly impacts their ability to participate in their communities and to find and retain employment. It is not just a social issue, but an inhibitor of economic development - it diminishes our ability to attract people and their families to fill key roles.

Education and the mismatch between jobs and skills is a barrier to businesses' ability to scale and grow. There are long-term unemployed and underemployed people in Tasmania, at a time when many industries are struggling to fill roles.

1.2. Key Principles

Tasmanians, and the businesses and communities they represent, display a strong commitment to each other, and to the common pursuit of all that is intrinsically Tasmanian.

These Key Principles are included to reflect that commitment. They frame the Strategic Regional Priorities and set the values by which we will test and consider all development opportunities for Tasmania. The principles are in keeping with stakeholder consultation in the development of this SRP, and the work of others, such as the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) Final Report, the Tasmania Report and the work of Brand Tasmania.

We will deliver regional development by:



Having a shared vision of what success looks like



Pursuing opportunities that benefit Tasmania and Tasmanians



Being future focused and providing an over-the-horizon vision



Ensuring people and their communities are at the heart of regional development



Working together, valuing collaboration, and embracing inclusivity



Seeking acceptance or approval by communities of projects and regional development opportunities



Acknowledging and celebrating our First Nations people



Supporting community-led projects and investment



Balancing regional development with liveability and social and environmental impacts



Enabling industry and business to help themselves



Image: Dearnna Bond

1.3. Tasmania's Strategic Regional Priorities

These Strategic Regional Priorities reflect the economic analysis provided by .id (Informed Decisions) and have been influenced by RDAT's stakeholder consultation.

The Strategic Regional Priorities represent an embodiment of existing work and plans and present some new points of view and approaches to regional development in Tasmania.

Tasmania has a strong and proud history in key sectors, and these are clearly reflected in the plans developed and released by the Tasmanian Government. The priorities set out in this SRP are intended to supplement that work and provide a new approach to regional development.

The sectors which are well understood and reflected in existing plans include agriculture, aquaculture, manufacturing, forestry, mining, tourism, sport, and arts and culture.

While these sectors are performing well, the Strategic Regional Priorities set out below are intended to assist industry and community to embrace the new economy, to add value on-island, and to activate people and their communities to be contributors to economic growth.

The Strategic Regional Priorities reflect Tasmania's competitive advantages and the geographic reality that we are an island economy.

The priorities address the Australian Government's priorities, described in Section 3.1.



Improving Our Built Environment

Our infrastructure and development projects will recognise that we are an island state, and that there are competing priorities for our land. We will do this by:

1. Delivering improved freight transport and storage infrastructure across the state, at entry and exit points, such as ports and airports on and off-island
2. Delivering improved digital infrastructure and connectivity
3. Delivering consistency in the planning controls applying across the state and providing the necessary flexibility to address local issues through the Tasmanian Planning Scheme
4. Delivering housing security that is responsive to people's needs

Prioritising Our Natural Environment

We will prioritise our environment. We will leverage the brand benefits of net-zero and of our environmentally sustainable practices. We will do this by:

1. Recognising the significant risk that climate change poses to Tasmania, and encouraging the delivery of climate action plans and action by our communities and our regions
2. Maintaining or improving Tasmania's net-zero emissions profile by continually improving the carbon efficiency of industry, and ensuring emissions from population and economic growth are offset by carbon reducing practices
3. Delivering renewable energy projects and leveraging the benefits for Tasmania, our industries, community and people
4. Investing in our circular economy, including by adding value on-island for our recyclable products
5. Prioritising the development and adoption of a framework to protect, restore and manage our environmental resources

Realising Our People's Economic Potential

We will have an innovative approach to utilising our people's skills and expertise. We will do this by:

1. Enabling all people to be creators of economic activity, as job makers as well as job takers
2. Fostering a future economy workforce with a focus on skills which are needed in all sectors, such as entrepreneurship, innovation, problem solving, and digital skills
3. Addressing underrepresented people in employment and social inclusion, including First Nations, elderly, people with disabilities, women, and migrants
4. Recognising workforce needs, and attracting workers to industries and remote regions with workforce shortages
5. Enabling a vibrant and innovative small business sector

Being Led By Our Communities

We will focus on our communities, their needs and well-being, by prioritising liveability and economic and social inclusion. We will do this by:

1. Ensuring our communities are resilient to emerging threats of climate change and resource protection
2. Supporting community-led projects that meet distinctive local needs
3. Reviewing the service-delivery models for remote regions to ensure communities receive access to childcare, health and aged care, mental health care, and other services
4. Delivering preventative health and well-being outcomes, and social and economic inclusion
5. Enabling the delivery of community-led arts, culture and sport programs
6. Designing and delivering bespoke programs for community engagement

Growing Gross Regional Product

We will deliver growth in Gross Regional Product. We will do this by:

1. Delivering products and services which are high yield, premium goods and services which are regionally dispersed and have a positive impact on liveability, climate and the environment
2. Enabling value-add on-island in all sectors through innovative and collaborative approaches to production and workforce
3. Leveraging Tasmania's expertise, and geographic and/or competitive advantage, in Antarctic science and marine studies, defence and space, and seeking opportunities to share the value of these sectors across the state
4. Diversifying off-island opportunities in new sectors, with a focus on the new economy

2. Background

2.1. Regional Development Australia Network

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is an Australian Government initiative established to encourage partnership between all 3 levels of Government to enhance the growth and development of Australia's regions.

A national network of 53 RDA committees has been established. These committees operate under a national RDA charter and report to the Australian Government on key outcomes.

RDAT represents the entire state of Tasmania and has staff based in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart.

2.2. Strategic Regional Plan

This SRP is delivered in accordance with RDAT's Funding Charter. The Funding Charter envisages an SRP as a 3 to 5 year living document that provides a wide range of stakeholders, and policy makers, with a better understanding of the region – including strengths, challenges, and needs – and strategic priorities that outline the region's future ambitions.

This SRP has regard to the Australian Government's Regional Priorities (Section 3.1.) and existing strategic plans for Tasmania (Sections 3.2. and 3.3.).

The vision for this SRP is to articulate a clear and shared vision of success for Tasmania by the Australian, State and Local Governments. It reflects stakeholder consultation and a review of existing strategic plans prepared by the State Government and others.

It will provide all 3 levels of Government with a plan that will assist and inform their thinking on regional planning matters and shine a light on regional strategic priorities.

The vision for this SRP is to articulate a clear and shared vision of success for Tasmania by the Australian, State and Local Governments. It reflects stakeholder consultation and a review of existing strategic plans prepared by the State Government and others.



2.3. Audience for the Strategic Regional Plan

The audience for this SRP includes:



The Australian Government
- a prospectus of Tasmania



Industry - to provide a picture of the
3 tiers of Government and Regional
Priorities to support growth and
investment



The Tasmanian State Government
- to shine a light on Regional
Priorities at a state scale



Community - to provide a wider
context and enable people to find a
strategic fit for projects and grant
applications



Local Governments - to help them
with their priorities, to bring councils
together, and to provide a statewide
view of regional development

3. Strategic Context of the Plan

The strategic context for this SRP includes the priorities of the Australian Government, and the priorities of State and Local Governments in Tasmania.

3.1. Australian Government Regional Priorities

The Australian Government is committed to a purposeful and targeted approach to realising the potential of Australia's diverse regions, and restoring integrity and transparency to regional programs.

As set out in the Regional Ministerial Budget Statement October 2022-23 (the Statement), the Australian Government is taking a place-based approach to support regions through quality, value-for-money investments to secure long-term prosperity, while leveraging opportunities including the transition to net-zero emissions.

The Statement's priorities include:

- Providing high quality investments that create jobs, build resilience and unlock economic growth;
- Diversification and transformation of Australian industry and the economy;
- Supporting the economy's transition to net-zero emissions, and Australia's transformation to a renewable energy superpower;
- Equitable and fair access to funding for capital works for community and economic infrastructure across regions;
- Investing in partnerships to enhance liveability and prosperity;
- Providing opportunities for First Nations people which Close the Gap between the experience of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians;
- Commitment to a strong partnership with local government to respond to the needs of regional Australia.

The Statement also emphasised the Australian Government's investment in affordable housing, health, communications, water and transport to provide crucial services that support equity across Australia's regions.

At the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly held in Canberra on 19 June 2022, The Hon. Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories noted a shared vision of what success looks like and that she regards Local Government as local agents of innovation and inclusivity. These comments are reflected in and have shaped this Strategic Regional Plan.



3.2. State Government Priorities

The State Government has delivered important statewide and sectoral plans, and plans and work on important social and community issues and those which address issues relating to First Nations, Female Voice, Youth Voice, International Migrants and people who are culturally and linguistically diverse (Figure 1.).

Figure 1.

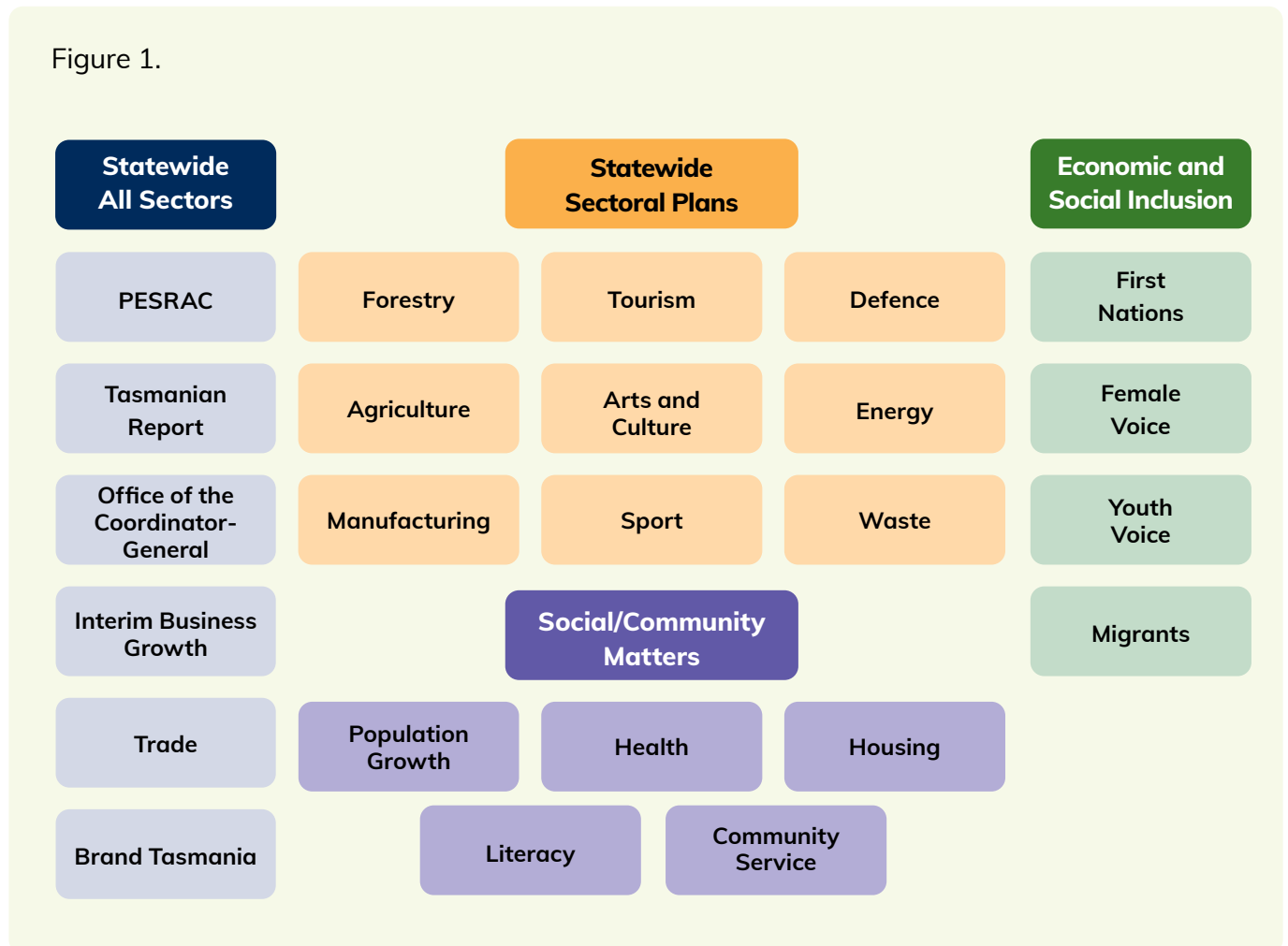


Image: Rob Burnett



Statewide Reports and Plans

The reports in the navy blue tiles are statewide plans and work across a range of sectors. They include:

- The Final Report of the Premier’s Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) was delivered to the Premier of Tasmania on 16 March 2021. The purpose of the Report is to provide advice to the Government on long-term recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. PESRAC has been influential in guiding strategic plans and work within the Tasmanian Government.
- The Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) was established by the Tasmanian Government to promote and attract investment into Tasmania, to facilitate major products and to reduce red tape. The OCG produces publications to assist prospective investors. This includes information on investment opportunities in renewable energy, agrifood, mineral resources and tourism; site selection prospectuses; brochures; data-centre action strategy; and accelerator programs.
- The 2020 Tasmania Report, the latest in a series of reports prepared for the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tasmanian Council of Social Services, provides a range of observations and Recommendations. It is in response to COVID-19 and outlines recommendations for Tasmania’s recovery from the pandemic and its impact on Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Trade Strategy 2019-2025 sets a coordinated whole of government approach to work with business and partners to grow trade, both domestically and internationally. It delivers targeted initiatives across a range of sectors, including forest products, horticulture, beverage, red meat, salmon, seafood, and wine. The Strategy also includes an integrated New Zealand Trade Strategy.
- Brand Tasmania is a statutory place-branding authority, responsible for taking a best-practice approach to ensure the Tasmania brand is strengthened locally, nationally, and internationally.
- The Interim Business Growth Strategy December 2021 was developed in partnership between the Tasmanian State Government, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Tasmanian Small Business Council.

Statewide Sectoral Plans

The plans in the orange tiles have been developed by the Tasmanian State Government. These plans reflect its focus on these sectors in Tasmania and, importantly, encapsulate the subject matter expertise within the State Government.

These sectors are well-understood and well-represented in State Government planning.

The key sectors include:

- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Tourism
- Arts and Culture
- Sport
- Defence
- Energy
- Waste

Social/Community Matters

Economic and Social Inclusion

These are represented by the purple and green tiles, respectively. The Tasmanian Government has delivered work and plans in relation to important matters relevant to our people and community, including:

- First Nations
- Female Voice
- Youth Voice
- Migrants
- Population Growth
- Health
- Housing
- Literacy
- Community Service

The work of the State Government is ongoing, and the plans in this section are the subject of on-going review and reflection in state government work plans.

Four current reviews are key to this SRP and regional development in Tasmania; they are:

- Tasmanian Housing Strategy
- Tasmanian Planning Scheme
- The Future of Local Government Review
- Regional Strategic Partnerships

3.3. Local Government

Tasmania has 29 councils, including 6 city councils. Local Councils have a range of powers and functions as set out in the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act).

Under the auspices of that Act, Local Councils deliver a range of community services and infrastructure, and these are often tailored to and reflective of their communities' needs and expectations. Councils' ability to provide for their communities are a factor of their revenue earning capacity, which is linked to population, properties, and industry mix.

The diversity of Tasmania's Councils is reflected in their individual approaches to regional development and the plans which guide that work. Existing plans and priorities vary in focus, scale and complexity.

Our local councils collaborate at a regional and sub-regional scale.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is the peak body for Tasmania's 29 councils. LGAT advocates to all levels of Government and provides a range of services including procurement, research and policy development services and advice. LGAT promotes high governance standards through professional development and shares information about Tasmanian councils with the community.

Tasmania has 2 City Deals that formalise partnerships and cooperation between the 3 levels of Government. Both City Deal's objectives are to improve the liveability of each city and position them as innovative, global cities.

The Launceston City Deal was signed in 2017 and was the second signed City Deal in Australia. The Hobart City Deal was signed in 2019 and represents a 10 year partnership between the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, and the Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils.

Regional bodies have been formed by groups of councils across the state to facilitate planning and activities at a local scale. These organisations include: Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC), the Cradle Coast Authority (CCA), Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA), South East Regional Development Association (SERDA), and South Central Sub-Region (SCS). Both NTDC and CCA are currently working on formal strategic planning processes. SCS and SERDA have delivered regional workforce development plans.

As noted in 3.2, the Tasmanian Government is undertaking the Future of Local Government Review, and is developing Regional Strategic Partnerships. This represents a significant opportunity for shaping the future of Local Government and providing the capacity and capability required to deliver a strong and sustainable local government sector for our communities.

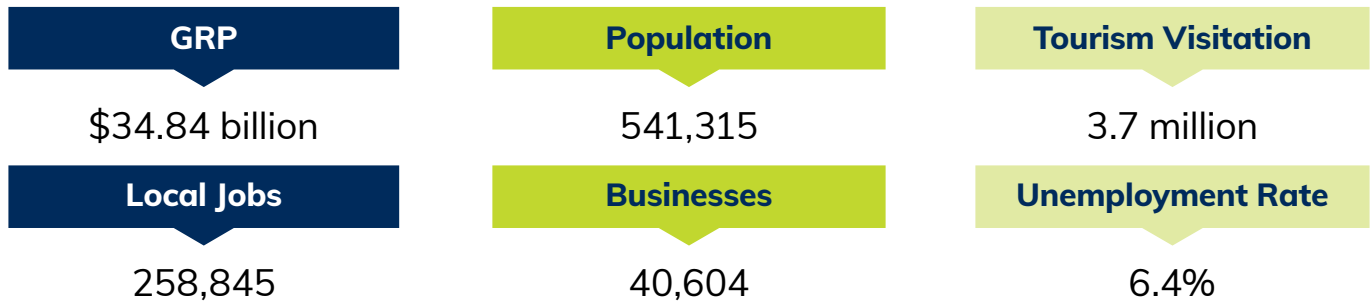
Local councils were generous with their time and provided rich input into the development of this SRP, illustrating the diversity of communities and their priorities across the region. For example, the role and focus of urban compared to rural councils was often a stark contrast. More information on takeouts from the consultation is provided in Section 5.2.

Image: Dearnna Bond

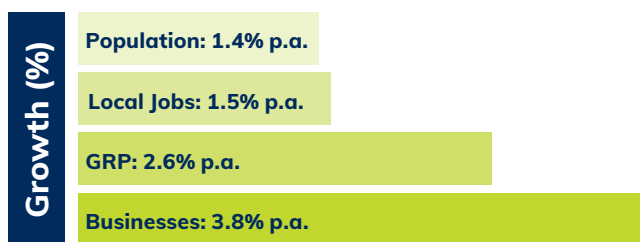


4. Evidence Base and Data (Regional Profile)

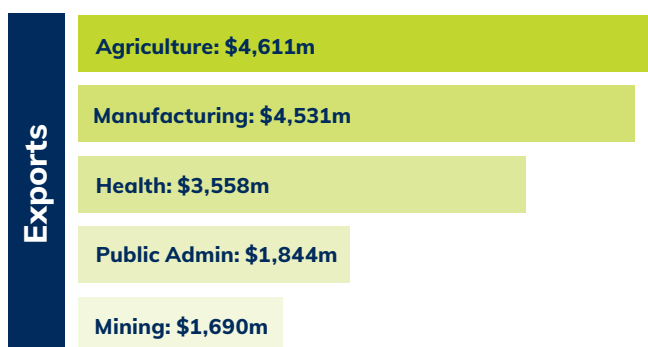
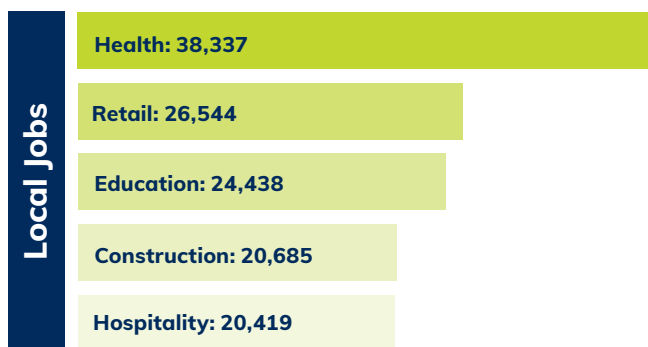
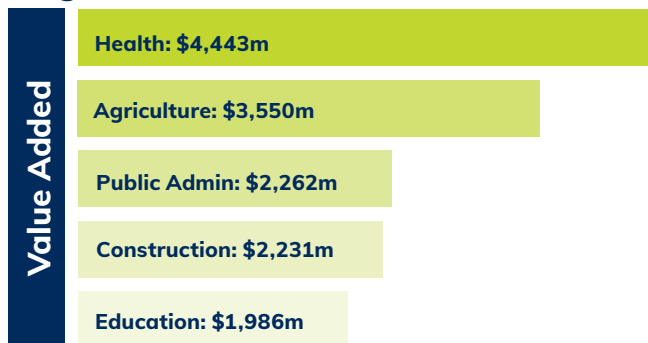
Tasmania Economic Profile 2020-21



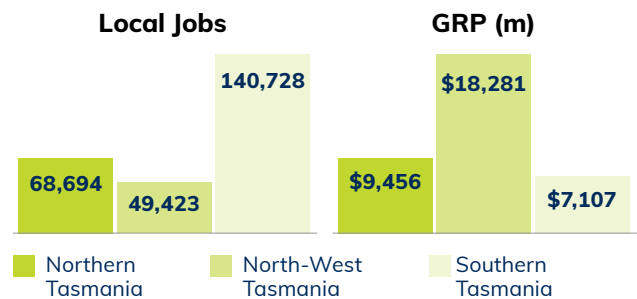
Average Annual Growth 2019-2022



Largest Sectors



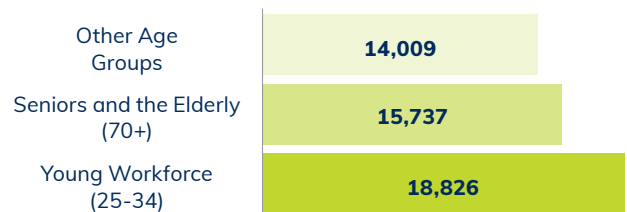
Tasmanian Sub-Regions



Share of Resident Workers with Uni Qualification



Population Growth by Age 2016-2021



Investment Pipeline



3-year average value of building approvals has increased by more than 45% in the last decade to \$1,180m.

5. Consultation

5.1. Summary

This SRP is the result of extensive consultation with the Australian Government, Tasmanian State Government, and Tasmanian Local Councils. Consultation also extended to industry associations, regional bodies for councils, industry and community groups, academics and individuals. The RDAT Committee and staff had an active role in the development and drafting of this Plan.

The Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts - the RDAT funding body - was a key contact for engagement. Engagement and discussions were also held with the Department of Home Affairs, AusIndustry, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Tasmania's State Government, particularly the Department of State Growth, were closely involved in the preparation of the Plan, providing input and research resources, as required.

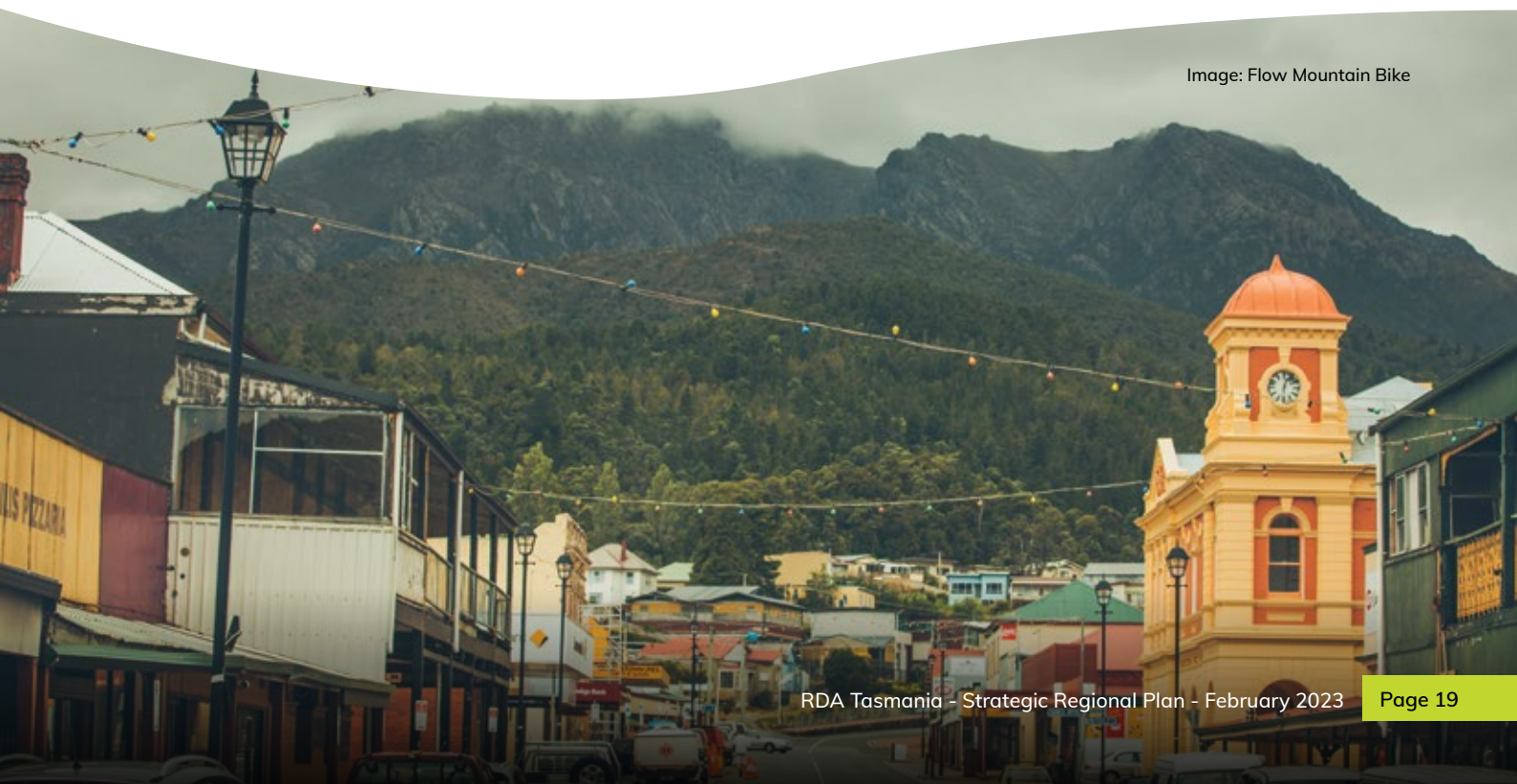
Consultation with Local Councils was extensive, and included 1:1 meetings in person and online with the CEOs/General Managers of Local Councils in Tasmania. In particular this SRP draws on the well-developed and extensive relationships between RDAT and all of Tasmania's Local Councils.

Chambers of Commerce and industry associations, industry and community groups contributed through meetings and discussions.

In summary, the following sectors provided input via government, industry, community or individuals:

- Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Infrastructure (Federal and State)
- Agriculture (Federal and State)
- Advanced manufacturing
- Jobs and Skills
- Renewables
- Antarctic and marine science
- Creative industry
- Start ups
- Tourism
- Forestry
- Community sector, including people with disabilities, and migrants

Image: Flow Mountain Bike



5.2. Key Takeouts

Stakeholders welcomed the work and appreciated the opportunity to contribute. They recognised the need for an overarching narrative, principles, and a single set of Strategic Regional Priorities to frame regional development undertaken by all 3 levels of Government, industry, communities and people.

Australian and State Governments work and plans are very much focused on projects and opportunities to generate economic activity. The health and well-being of people and their communities is clearly a priority for Australian and State Governments. While there is substantial overlap in the work of the various government departments, there is a high level of cooperation and information sharing.

Discussions with Tasmania's Local Councils provided a clear and revealing picture of development at the local level, and the opportunities and challenges. All councils recognised the constraints in their regional development capabilities which were in part linked to their revenue base and their ability to attract and retain professional staff. As such, some councils were more in tune with regional development concepts than others and had a greater focus on innovation and businesses.

The built environment – particularly roads, transport, and freight – were key issues for all councils and concerns were raised about responsibility between Australian, State and Local Government for such infrastructure. Digital infrastructure and connectivity was part of that conversation, with concerns about businesses and people's economic and social potential being hindered by poor digital connectivity and literacy.

“ Local Councils were enthusiastic in their contribution. It was evident that they would welcome a succinct plan that provides a narrative, clear principles, and strategic regional priorities. ”



Councils often referred to the State Government's review of the Tasmanian Planning Principles and scheme. They welcomed this review and raised concerns in relation to the challenges of the current scheme for developers and councils. Some noted a mismatch between supply and demand for land, particularly for housing.

Housing was raised by all stakeholders. Some councils suggested the housing issue should be considered in the context of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Housing was raised as a major impediment to people's security, their ability to participate in their communities, and their ability to apply for, and secure employment. Views were expressed in relation to urban design generally, the location of suitable housing for the elderly near to services, and security for all people. Some councils have experienced challenges attracting suitable professional staff due to a shortage of suitable housing; and this challenge was also experienced by businesses, and health and education services.

All councils were very focused on the liveability and well-being of their people and how that would be impacted by development. The flow of economic benefits out of communities due to major industry

or infrastructure projects is of concern to some councils. Particularly when the community services and infrastructure were considered as below par. Community engagement was noted as an area for improvement, particularly in areas of low literacy (general and digital literacy).

Councils take on the responsibility for service provision to their people and communities, and this often strains council resources. Some councils were concerned about the provision of Australian and State Government services for their people and communities, noting that streamlining and consolidation may result in improved service provision.

People being left behind, unemployment and underemployment, were core issues for councils, industry and community groups. There was a generally held view that there was a mismatch between skills and jobs. Councils were appreciative of the work and services provided by Australian and State Government, and value locally-led solutions.



Image: Tourism Tasmania & Steven Pearce Photography

6. Next Steps (High Level Actions)

The Strategic Regional Priorities in this SRP reflect a range of regional development issues for Tasmania, many of which are issues for discussion between Australian, State and Local Government.

All 3 levels of Government, and community and industry, along with RDAT have an important role to play in realising the vision and achieving the Strategic Regional Priorities in this Plan. There is considerable work already being undertaken by stakeholders. RDAT's actions under the Plan are reflected in our current Business Plan.

RDAT will work with all our stakeholders, and we will play a coordinating role in relation to work plans to avoid duplication of effort.

Work plans may include thought leadership and research pieces, the establishment of local working groups to coordinate work programs and monitor the delivery of outcomes, and the delivery of forums on key topics.

Image: Tourism Australia





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