

## Smart Cities Plan

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Hobart from Mount Wellington courtesy of Tourism Tasmania

# 1. Regional Development Australia Tasmania and Smart Cities

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tasmania is part of the national network of RDA committees fostering regional economic development. RDA Tasmania work with all three tiers of government, regional business and the wider community to boost the economic capability and performance of their region.

RDA Tasmania facilitates policies, programs and projects designed to strengthen human capital, productivity, infrastructure, access to markets, regional comparative advantage and business competitiveness; leading to increased economic activity and the creation of new jobs, along with improved standards of living and working conditions.

RDA Tasmania:

- Undertakes regional planning that takes into account the unique characteristics, opportunities and challenges of a region, and aligns with the plans of all levels of government, and tailors responses accordingly.
- Engages with stakeholders to identify initiatives that will deliver economic growth that make a lasting difference to their communities.
- Builds partnerships, harnesses local leadership, directs support, and encourages cooperation between stakeholders to drive regional priorities.

RDA Tasmania positions itself as an independent organisation that understands the challenges and opportunities of all of Tasmania's cities and the approaches underway and in consideration to take these cities forward.

The Smart Cities Plan, 2016, aligns specifically with RDA Tasmania's priorities for the region to:

- Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania, and
- Increase collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government

It is for this reason that the RDA Tasmania Committee is pleased to provide the following input.



Salamanca Market courtesy of Tourism Tasmania Visual

## 2. Tasmania's Cities Today

Tasmania's cities are amongst the oldest in Australia and have played an important role in the development of the nation. Though their historic early days in Van Diemen's Land may be their best known role, they have grown to become innovative modern cities leading the world in fields such as manufacturing, specialised research, agri-business and the arts and tourism.

The cities have evolved alongside primary industries and maintain a strong connection with their surrounding countryside, which makes Tasmanian cities an interesting hybrid of traditional and modern knowledge-based industries. The connection with natural resources is also tangible in Tasmanian cities as each has preserved natural areas close to the CBDs, Hobart's Mount Wellington and Launceston's Cataract Gorge amongst the best known.

Tasmania's cities aren't the largest or the fastest growing. Hobart, the Capital and largest city, doesn't make the top ten largest cities list (see Table 1) and of the other significant urban areas only Launceston and Devonport make the top 50.

**Table 1. Population of Significant Urban Areas**

|  | Estimated Resident Population (ABS, 2015) | Percentage of Tasmanian Population | Population growth rate % | Population change 2005 to 2015 No. | Population change 2005 to 2015 % | Position in rank of Australian city sizes* |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Burnie Wynyard</b>                    | 27 699                                    | 5.36                               | 0.1                      | 773                                | 2.87                             |  |
| <b>Devonport</b>                         | 30 497                                    | 5.90                               | 0.1                      | 1 421                              | 4.88                             | 48   |
| <b>Hobart</b>                            | 209 254                                   | 40.50                              | 0.3                      | 16 159                             | 8.36                             | 12   |
| <b>Launceston</b>                        | 86 633                                    | 16.77                              | 0.1                      | 4 681                              | 5.71                             | 21   |
| <b>Ulverstone</b>                        | 14 726                                    | 2.85                               | 0.1                      | 872                                | 6.29                             |  |
| <b>Not in any Significant Urban Area</b> | 147 777                                   | 28.60                              |                          | 6 478                              | 4.58                             |  |

Source: ABS, 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014-15, March 2016

\*.id, The 50 largest Australian cities and towns by population in 2014, July 2014



MONO FOMO courtesy of Tourism Tasmania Visual Library

### 3. Understanding Challenges and Opportunities

#### Challenges

There are two demographic trends that highlight the challenge of Tasmanian cities:

- Young people leaving
  - Net loss of young, educated and skilled people because employment and other opportunities aren't in sufficient numbers.
- Ageing population
  - The senior dependency ratio is shifting so the number of elderly people per working age population is growing<sup>1</sup> and Tasmania's population is likely to decline from around the middle of this century.

The challenge for Tasmanian cities is to grow its working age population which is why RDA Tasmania make expanding and growing economic activity' its priority and the Tasmanian Government has made job creation, migration and liveability the pillars of the Tasmania's Population Growth Strategy .<sup>2</sup>

#### Opportunities

Capacity for growth: The historic slow growth of Tasmanian cities now presents an opportunity. To accommodate new economic activity each city has capacity to locate new development within existing urban boundaries.<sup>3</sup> This is currently demonstrated in Hobart the redevelopment of Macquarie Point and the construction of new hotels and office buildings in the CBD.

Tasmanian cities also have more affordable land<sup>4</sup> and lower business operating costs than the major cities.<sup>5</sup>

Growth industries in Tasmania – tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, education, and the arts - are all experiencing growth as the result of innovation in services and technologies and their future growth would benefit from a transition to 'smarter' cities.



Tasman Bridge courtesy of Tourism Tasmania Visual Library

<sup>1</sup> Regional Australia Institute, Insights for Competitive Regions: Demography, January 2015

<sup>2</sup> Department of State Growth, Tasmania's Population Growth Strategy, September 2015

<sup>3</sup> Cradle Coast Regional Planning Initiative, Living on the Coast, Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy 2010-30

<sup>4</sup> RP Data, Residential Land Report, June 2009

<sup>5</sup> [http://cg.tas.gov.au/home/investment\\_attraction/why\\_invest\\_in\\_tasmania/favourable\\_business\\_environment](http://cg.tas.gov.au/home/investment_attraction/why_invest_in_tasmania/favourable_business_environment)

## 4. Building the Cities of Tomorrow

### 4.1 Smart Investment

Tasmania can grow its cities by targeting investment and differentiating infrastructure standards based on demand, as is proposed for Tasmania's freight system.<sup>6</sup>

Tasmania has an export oriented economy and an investment in infrastructure equips Tasmanian cities to profit from growing demand for Tasmanian products and services.

The Government can be commended for investing in Hobart Airport's runway extension to help boost international tourism. The next transformative investment is the *Education-Driven Revitalisation of Northern Tasmania* for the University of Tasmania campuses in Launceston and Burnie.<sup>7</sup> This will deliver a long term and broad economic impact by attracting more international students and growing local industries.

For new infrastructure projects, *Smart Cities* should use a standardised methodology that guides anyone approaching a new infrastructure project of any scale to plan it in accordance to a set of principles that relate to the Australian Infrastructure Plan. For example:

#### Example of a standardised assessment methodology:

A project that requires **\$500K** funding would need to address principles A,B,C,D,E &F;

A project that requires **\$50M** would need to address A (a.1,a.2, a.3) ,B (b.1, b.2, b.3)

A project that requires **\$1B** would need to address A (a.1,a.2, a.3,a.4, a.5, a.6) ,B (b.1, b.2, b.3, b.4, b.5, b.6)

This shared approach could be introduced through policy to mean anyone who wants to access public funds must apply these principles to projects. The principles could become a standard feature of government infrastructure grants and programs, which would encourage proponents to strategically develop their infrastructure projects with this methodology. If a project requires funding from multiple levels of Government, then there will be consistency between what each separate funding body wants from the proponent.

Innovative financing arrangements will be new to many regional stakeholders. The Australian Government should actively engage the regions to these concepts. The Local Government Association Tasmania, RDA Tasmania and the Department of State Growth could collaborate with the Australian Government to assist regional engagement.

<sup>6</sup> Infrastructure Tasmania, Tasmanian Integrated Freight Strategy, April 2016

<sup>7</sup> University of Tasmania, Transforming Lives, Transforming Cities, March 2016



Spirit of Tasmania II courtesy of Tourism Tasmania Visual Library

## 4.2 Smart Policy

RDA Tasmania promotes the strategic identification of regional priorities. Our message to stakeholders has been that the future of funding for cities will be about organised regions with agreed priorities targeting funding for planned and supported projects.

Two Tasmanian cities have developed and are operating city policies. RDA Tasmania has had an active role with these and has contributed to the design and implementation of:

- Launceston's Greater Launceston Plan<sup>8</sup>, and;
- Devonport's Living City project.<sup>9</sup>

Hobart and Burnie do not have city policies in place.

### Delivering 'City Deals'

From the RDA Tasmania Committee's perspective there are factors to consider before introducing a standardised policy like *City Deals*:

- Integration - Allowing it to work with existing policies in Devonport and Launceston could be a challenge, as could trying to introduce it to Hobart and Burnie who don't have an established city governance framework;
- Resourcing - Asking councils to do or be more is challenging in the context of un-indexed Financial Assistance Grants;
- Management – success depends on managing simultaneous activity across different sectors and disciplines;
- People – managing the cultural shift towards Smart Cities and managing the supply of trained and educated people with the skills and attitudes to leverage opportunities from new technology.

### Leading regulatory reform

Tasmania is proactive in this area with a Red Tape Reduction Coordinator appointed in 2014 within the Tasmanian Government's Office of the Coordinator General.<sup>10</sup> The Red Tape Reduction Coordinator would be an obvious partner to help lead regulatory reform and to provide knowledge on the factors that determine the success of reform.

### Measuring Success

We support a long term approach that measures success to drive continuous improvement.

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<sup>8</sup> City of Launceston, Greater Launceston Plan, July 2014

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.devonport.tas.gov.au/LivingCity/LIVING-CITY-Devonport>

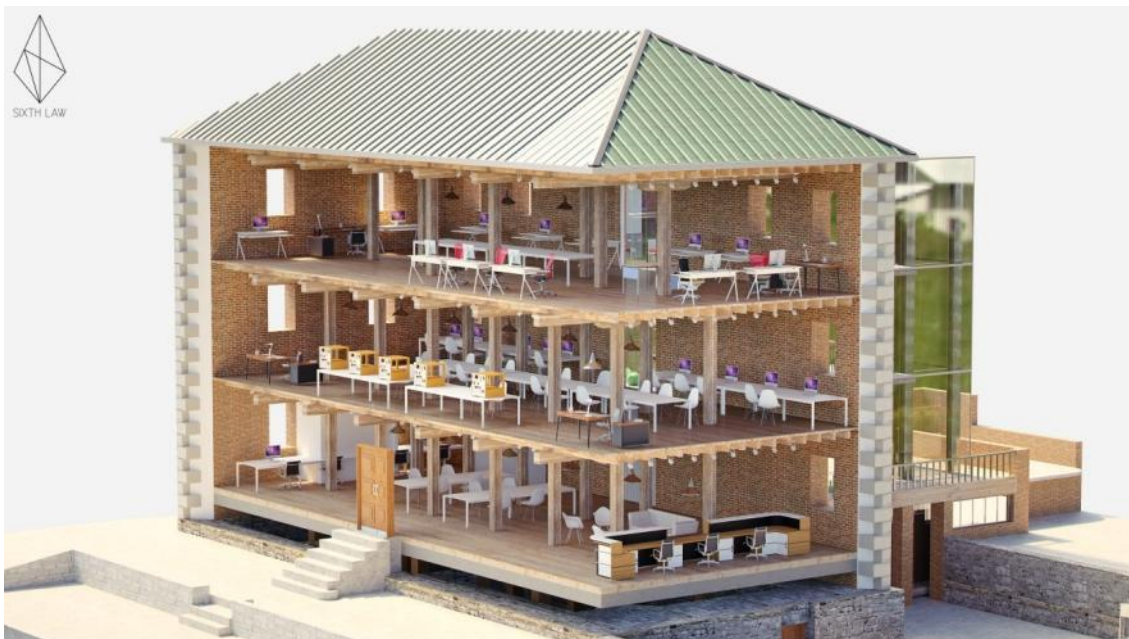
<sup>10</sup> [http://cg.tas.gov.au/home/red\\_tape\\_reduction](http://cg.tas.gov.au/home/red_tape_reduction)

### 4.3 Smart Technology

The substantial NBN roll out in Tasmania makes it one of the most connected regions in Australia which is helping to grow the economy. Launceston will have 43,000 premises with fibre to the premise, meaning it will permanently have a larger data capability than many cities. Launceston stakeholders meet regularly to explore the potential, their wide scope encompasses opportunities for; existing businesses, innovative web-based businesses, education delivery, smart or e-health, disadvantaged groups and communities, service delivery and operations.

The Tasmanian community has also recently seen the development of Sense-T, a collaborative project between the University of Tasmania, CSIRO and IBM. Sense-T is exploring the ubiquitous use of real time sensors and 'big data' by industry and consumers to drive innovation in services and production. Sense-T could be an example of how cities can collaboratively use data and sensors to deliver innovation.

Two Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hubs are soon to open in Tasmania; Detached in Hobart and Macquarie House in Launceston [Macquarie House was allocated \$3 million by the Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Package].<sup>11</sup> Their key role will be developing a pipeline of entrepreneurs and innovators but they will also become venues which align with the Smart Cities plan due to their focus on leveraging new technologies. These hubs could be gateways for Tasmania to access and trial new smart cities technology.<sup>12</sup> Smart Cities intellectual property developed in Tasmania could, perhaps via Austrade's infrastructure team, become a valuable export.



Macquarie House, Launceston

<sup>11</sup> <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/tasmanianjobs/index.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/entrepreneurship\\_and\\_incubation\\_hubs\\_to\\_encourage\\_innovation](http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/entrepreneurship_and_incubation_hubs_to_encourage_innovation)