

# TASMANIA ECONOMIC REVIEW 2025 Sub-Region Reports

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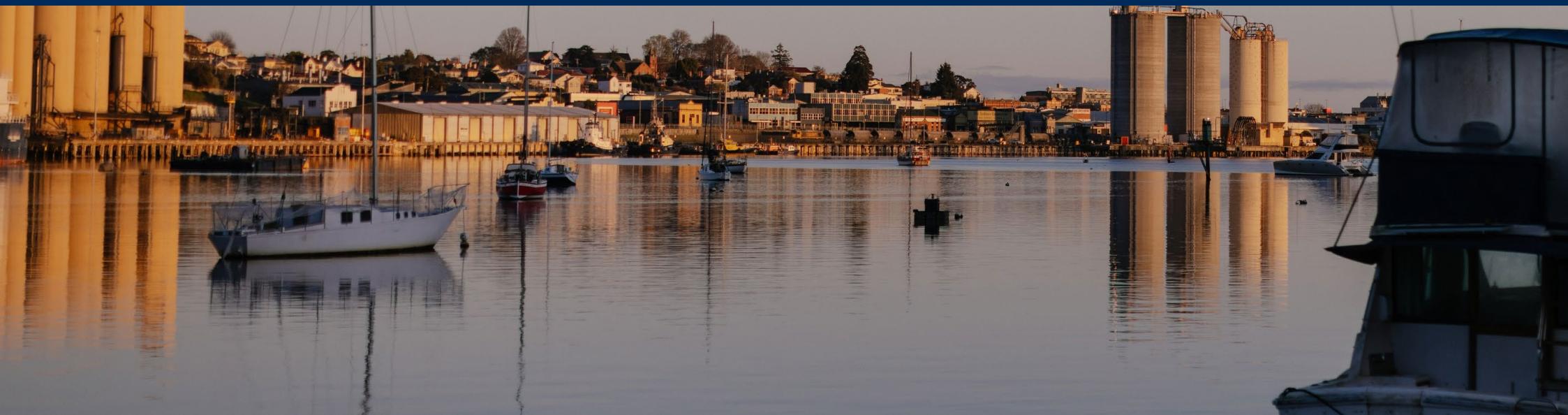
*To be read in conjunction with the  
Tasmania Economic Review 2025*



Upon the release of the Tasmania Economic Review in early 2025, RDA Tasmania undertook deep, sub-regional engagement to explore and contrast the data with the experiences lived and felt by our regions. The corresponding sub-regional reports paint a picture of the key challenges specific to the North, Northwest and South of Tasmania.

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# SUB-REGIONAL REPORT: NORTHERN TASMANIA



## Sub-Region (NORTH)

### Improving Skilled Migration and Regional Settlement in Northern Tasmania

#### Limited Awareness of Skilled Migration Pathways

Experience and awareness around skilled migration pathways are limited across Northern Tasmania. While migration is a key issue for all Tasmanian regions, Northern Tasmania has historically relied on visa streams that deliver low-skilled, transient workforces, such as the Working Holiday Maker visa and the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme. This reliance has led to underutilisation of skilled migration as a sustainable workforce solution, and a lack of familiarity with how to attract and retain high-skilled, long-term workers.

#### Gaps in Regional Settlement Strategy

This has created a broader gap in understanding and implementing regional settlement strategies. A recurring theme during the workshop was the need for greater clarity about the respective responsibilities of regional and state in workforce attraction and retention. A key question raised—but not yet answered—during the workshop was whether Northern Tasmania should focus more intentionally on retention, recognising that the region has more control and influence over its physical and social infrastructure than over recruitment pipelines.



## Sub-Region (NORTH)

### Improving Skilled Migration and Regional Settlement in Northern Tasmania Cont.

#### The Role of Social Infrastructure

Participants consistently identified social infrastructure as a critical foundation—not only for supporting new arrivals but also for retaining those already living and working in the region. True settlement extends beyond basic logistics like airport pickups. It includes:

- Tailored support for business owners (e.g., cultural awareness training)
- Recognition of cultural and community infrastructure needs (e.g., places of worship, ethnic grocery stores)
- Mechanisms to help the broader community welcome and engage with newcomers in meaningful, sustainable ways

#### Lack of Strategic Direction and Collaboration

While there are organisations making important progress, the region still lacks a strategic direction and cohesive collaboration model—both within the region and between regional stakeholders and the state. This gap limits our ability to ensure that new and existing workers, and their families, stay connected and committed to Northern Tasmania.

The Tasmania Economic Review (TER) highlighted the critical role of social infrastructure in making a region more “sticky”—a place where people choose to stay. Participants looked to examples from other jurisdictions, such as NSW’s “Attract, Connect, Stay” initiative which funded the “Welcome Experience” program. These were cited as promising models of place-based, collaborative approaches to regional settlement that demonstrate effective partnerships between regional and state actors—offering valuable lessons for Northern Tasmania to consider.

#### Reframing Tasmania’s Value Proposition

Another key theme was the eroding “Tasmania dream.” Rising living costs have weakened state’s image as an affordable and ideal place to live. As such, when promoting the Northern region, the group emphasised the importance of balancing realism and aspiration—sharing authentic stories that reflect the genuine benefits of regional living. It was also noted that, despite this perceived erosion, Northern Tasmania is still faring better than other parts of the state—a relative strength that can and should be harnessed in our messaging and strategy.

#### Broadening the Definition of Migration

As part of the broader discussion on regional settlement, participants acknowledged that migration extends beyond international and interstate movement. Intrastate migration—where individuals relocate within the same state—also plays a significant role in shaping regional demographics. This underscores the need to position Northern Tasmania competitively within the state, recognising that attracting residents from other parts of Tasmania can meaningfully contribute to population growth and help address local workforce demands.

#### Recognising Remote Professionals

Lastly, the group discussed a frequently overlooked workforce segment: remote professionals who have already relocated to Tasmania and work from home. While anecdotal, it was observed that this group’s needs are not well understood, and they too face barriers to long-term integration within the community. Furthermore, participants noted that the loss of knowledge and economic contribution from these individuals—many of whom are not engaged by Tasmanian businesses—remains largely unknown, representing a missed opportunity for the region.

## Sub-Region (NORTH)

### Childcare a Key Workforce Participation Barriers in Northern Tasmania

#### Childcare Access: A System Under Strain

As highlighted in the TER, Tasmania faces widespread childcare deserts. Several systemic issues were identified:

- Limited alternatives such as home-based care
- Stringent qualification requirements reducing the supply of childcare workers
- Poor alignment between childcare facility locations and family needs
- Weak integration with the schooling system
- Regulatory inflexibility limiting innovation and responsiveness

#### Beyond Building Centres

The group reflected that childcare provision isn't just about building more centres. It requires a holistic approach that embraces all forms of care—home-based options like family day care, after-school care, occasional care, and informal care from grandparents, family, and friends. Where family support networks are lacking, accessible childcare becomes even more critical. Given Northern Tasmania's reliance on migration for population growth, a well-rounded childcare system is essential.

#### Planning for Where People Work—Not Just Live

Geographic challenges already complicate service delivery across the region, with home care networks often spanning vast distances. A key issue raised was the misalignment between childcare locations and employment hubs. For example:

A parent from Westbury—one of the fastest-growing areas for young families—shared that a local childcare centre wouldn't help them, as they work in Launceston. Proximity to work, not home, was more practical for drop-off and pick-up.

This example underscores the need to prioritise employment areas in childcare planning, not just residential growth zones.

#### Flexibility and Hours: A Mismatch with Workforce Needs

Another significant barrier to re-entering the workforce is the mismatch between childcare availability and job requirements:

- Many childcare services offer only 10–15 hours per week
- Most jobs require 25+ hours of availability
- High demand limits flexibility in scheduling

This disconnect makes it difficult for parents—especially women—to return to or remain in the workforce, even when they are willing and able.

# Sub-Region (NORTH)

## Infrastructure and Social Systems

### Population Growth Outpacing Services

Northern Tasmania's population growth has outstripped the expansion of essential services such as:

- Aged care
- Housing
- Childcare
- Healthcare

This imbalance places increasing pressure on existing infrastructure, creating urgent capacity challenges that directly affect the region's ability to retain and support its workforce.

### Ageing Population and Healthcare Strain

While attracting retirees has been a regional success, it has also intensified demand on infrastructure—particularly the healthcare system. The system is struggling to meet the needs of an ageing population, highlighting the need for coordinated planning across public and private sectors. If younger population cohorts continue to decline, this demographic trend could pose long-term risks to the region's economic vitality.

### Emerging Opportunity: Social Enterprise

However, changes in funding arrangements within the community services sector are driving a shift toward social enterprise models. As organisations adapt, new opportunities are emerging to deliver services in innovative, sustainable ways.

### Regional Interdependence and Localised Needs

Launceston remains the economic heart of Northern Tasmania, generating 60% of the region's economic activity. While it plays a clear leadership role, Launceston's success is interdependent with neighbouring councils, which provide essential support—particularly in housing and workforce mobility. To ensure mutual benefit and shared prosperity, the group recognised the need for the region to adopt a coordinated, precinct-based approach that aligns infrastructure, services, and workforce planning across municipal boundaries.

At the same time, more remote communities such as Flinders Island and St Helens face distinct challenges that cannot be addressed through a one-size-fits-all model. These areas require targeted, place-based strategies that reflect their unique geographic, demographic, and economic contexts.

# Sub-Region (NORTH)

## Business Development and Economic Opportunities

### Building on Core Strengths

Participants agreed that Northern Tasmania should build on its existing strengths, particularly in:

- Agriculture
- Community services

Notably, it's believed there is strong potential to grow the agtech sector, leveraging local innovation hubs like Enterprize and research institutions such as the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and Fermentation Tasmania. These organisations can serve as anchors for developing industry clusters and fostering collaboration.

To strengthen regional innovation capacity, Northern Tasmania should consider how they adopt a place-based innovation ecosystem model. This includes establishing innovation precinct/s, fostering cross-sector partnerships, and aligning workforce development with regional industry strengths.

### Barriers to Economic Participation

However, several barriers remain:

- 42% of the population struggles with basic literacy, which also affects digital, health, and food literacy, creating broader barriers to participation, inclusion, and workforce readiness. These gaps limit workforce development and technology adoption.
- Despite recent improvements in digital connectivity (e.g., NBN upgrades, Telstra partnerships and upgrades), digital literacy remains a critical barrier to full economic participation.

### Challenges for Small Businesses

Tasmania's economy is dominated by small businesses, which make up 96% of the market. Yet many entrepreneurs face challenges such as:

- Limited business acumen and preparation
- Restricted access to investment and capital
- Difficulties with accreditation and compliance

## Sub-Region (NORTH)

### Precinct Planning

#### Positioning for Future Competitiveness

Northern Tasmania is not yet positioned to compete in the next tier of regionally and nationally competitive industries. To address this gap, the group recommended adopting a precinct-based development model—integrating workforce planning, skills development, essential services, and infrastructure investment into coordinated, place-based strategies that align with broader economic and social policy objectives. Based on our discussions, key considerations for applying this model in Northern Tasmania include:

- Aligning infrastructure investment with employment zones—not just residential growth—to support economic activity where it occurs.
- Embedding social infrastructure (e.g., childcare, housing, transport) into precinct design to enable workforce participation and community wellbeing.
- Leveraging regional strengths—such as agriculture, agtech, and community services—to build specialised industry clusters.
- Coordinating efforts through a regional innovation council, ensuring alignment across local councils, state agencies, industry, and education providers.
- Developing Innovation Districts, leveraging regional strengths, with clear criteria and incentives to attract investment and talent and coordinate efforts through a regional innovation council, ensuring alignment across local councils, state agencies, and industry.

#### Learning from Other States

States like NSW and Queensland are adopting precinct-based planning approaches that consider broader social and economic factors—not just infrastructure. This presents a valuable opportunity for RDA Tasmania to lead and advance this conversation locally.



## Sub-Region (NORTH)

### Key Action Areas – Northern Regions

- **Regional Collaboration Framework:** Develop and implement a regional collaboration framework focused on workforce retention and settlement, leveraging partnerships with NTDC and the State government.
- **Comprehensive Childcare Strategy:** Prioritise comprehensive childcare strategies that address both residential and employment geography, including flexible care models and alignment with workforce needs.
- **Infrastructure Coordination:** Coordinate aged care, housing, healthcare, and social infrastructure planning to match population growth and support demographic shifts, especially for aging communities.
- **Innovation Ecosystem Development:** Build on agriculture and agtech strengths by supporting innovation hubs (e.g., Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Fermentation Tasmania, Enterprize) and addressing literacy and digital skills gaps to improve workforce capacity.
- **Business Development Support:** Support small business growth through enhanced business development programs, improved access to investment, and streamlined accreditation processes.
- **Social Enterprise Transition:** Encourage and facilitate the transition of community services into social enterprise models to develop competitive regional industries.
- **Precinct-Based Planning:** Promote precinct-based planning approaches that integrate economic, social, and infrastructure development to position Northern Tasmania for future growth.



# SUB-REGIONAL REPORT: SOUTHERN TASMANIA



## Sub-Region (SOUTH)

Southern Tasmania is characterised by the capital city of Greater Hobart and the surrounding rural and remote regions. Southern scale data and indicators do not always reflect the high level of variation at a local level. Key enablers include housing and infrastructure investment, workforce attraction and retention, digital connectivity and literacy, and the need for comprehensive policy and place-based approaches to support sustainable regional growth.

### Infrastructure and Planning

#### Capacity Constraints

Industrial capacity shortages, including warehousing, industrial land, and staffing, constrain economic growth in southern Tasmania. Current assessments underestimate demand by only accounting for existing businesses rather than those unable to find space or expand.

#### Planning and Development Delays

Planning process delays create uncertainty and development obstacles. Tasmania requires a comprehensive infrastructure planning and project pipelines linked to skill requirements. State planning policy and strategies create a foundation for investor certainty and growth that aligns with services, employment and environmental impact.

#### Infrastructure System Strain

Digital, water, and sewerage infrastructure cannot cope with increased visitor numbers and remote work demands. Major construction projects such as the Bridgewater Bridge provide local employment opportunities but also require specialist workers on fly-in/fly-out arrangements. Short periods of high demand for skilled workers create challenge for the local labour market.

#### Tourism Infrastructure Burden

Local governments must provide toilets, car parks, and amenities without matching income streams. Services and funding to council are based on residential population. Regional face particular challenges when hosting massive visitor numbers—for instance, Tasman has 3,000 residents versus up to 30,000 visitors, with individual cruise ships bringing 5,000 people per visit.

## Sub-Region (SOUTH)

### Housing Challenges

#### Workforce Housing Constraints

High tourism numbers and extended seasons create severe housing and affordability issues for service workers, particularly in more regional areas like Port Arthur. Transport barriers compound these challenges, with workers unwilling to travel due to cost and safety concerns. Renewable energy investment into the Central Highlands raise issues of available housing stock and support services such as health and childcare to attract and retain workers during and after construction.

#### Rental Market and Homelessness Crisis

Anglicare data indicates single parents, pensioners, and disability support recipients cannot afford average Hobart rent. Limited regional housing options affect workforce attraction and retention capabilities, making housing one of three critical economic growth enablers. Homelessness in Hobart has increased significantly over the last 5-10 years, particularly in the 15-25 and over 50 age groups. This is outpacing support services and creating flow-on effects for communities.

#### Density and Changing Demographics

Increased housing density reduces urban sprawl and can increase access to and viability of services. Historically low population growth has meant that there is a deficit in planning and capacity for medium density housing developments. Tasmania is an ageing population with changing needs in housing stock, design and location.



## Sub-Region (SOUTH)

### Skills and Workforce Development

#### Southern Tasmania's Labour Market Variation by Local Government Area:

Unemployment (%) Dec 2024 and participation rate (%) 2021

*Figures in red on map: higher unemployment or lower participation rate than the state average.*

**Tasmania: Unemployment 4.2** (Participation 60.6)

**South: Unemployment 3.9** (Participation 62.3)

#### Highest unemployment % in Tasmania (Dec 2024):

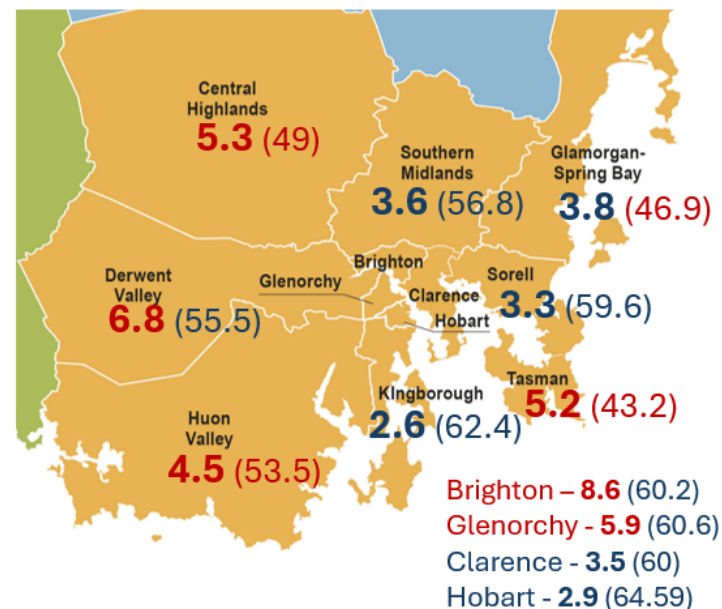
**Brighton – 8.6**

West Coast – 8.2

Break O'Day – 6.9

**Derwent Valley – 6.8**

George Town – 6.7



### The Best and the Worst

Southern Tasmania has the local government area with the highest unemployment rate in the state (Brighton at 8.5 per cent), but as a region, the south has the lowest average unemployment rate. Similar high variation is seen in workforce participation across the south, with less than 50 percent participation in the 3 rural and remote council areas, and participation at the state average (60 percent) or above across Greater Hobart. A place-based approach to workforce development is necessary, as one size fits all thinking is unlikely to be effective.

### STEM Skills Shortage

The lack of STEM graduates puts Tasmania at a competitive disadvantage globally. While 150 students are enrolled in computer science, questions remain about global competitiveness, indicating structural pipeline concerns.

### Antarctic and Southern Ocean

Hobart is Australia's gateway to the Antarctic and home to the Australian Antarctic Division, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, and the CSIRO. This specialist cluster is internationally recognised for excellence in marine and Antarctic research.

## Sub-Region (SOUTH)

### Skills and Workforce Development Cont.

#### Digital Literacy Crisis

Poor digital literacy prevents workforce participation, job searching, service access and social connectivity. Digital literacy has become as important as basic literacy for employment, but digital inclusion and capacity remains low, particularly in regional locations, with only Hobart and Kingborough having digital inclusion scores higher than the national average.

#### Health Workforce and Accessibility

Significant ongoing staffing issues plague the health sector, representing recurring challenges and inefficiency, requiring sustained attention. Local councils play a key role in supporting local health and childcare provision in regional areas, while these services are provided by the private sector in Hobart's urban centre.

#### Technology Sector Growth

More people work in tech and IT than official statistics indicate, including in-house expertise and increased digitization across sectors.



## Sub-Region (SOUTH)

### Community Integration and Business Support

#### Cultural Integration Needs

Both migrant workers and humanitarian visa holders require support, with cultural understanding programs needed for employers and workers alike. Employers and workers with disabilities also need better support and understanding.

#### Community Welcoming Challenges

While Tasmania is friendly, it struggles with being truly welcoming. Developing social connections is essential for retaining skilled newcomers, yet businesses often use preferred suppliers and have well established networks, making entry difficult for newcomers.

#### Small Business Economy Support

Tasmania's small business-dominated economy requires accessible, trusted business support delivered in-person rather than web-based. Ongoing, consistent support relationships are essential, with stable government programs needed to build trust. Tasmania has historically had high unemployment, the new normal of a more constrained labour market requires businesses to re-think recruitment and retention including young people, migrants and disability.

#### Tourism and Economic Development

Beyond hotel construction, southern Tasmania has seen limited development of new tourism product. Low-yield tourism, where visitors take photos and leave with minimal spending, exemplifies current challenges of providing services and amenity. Hobart Airport is a key enabler for the region, supporting visitation along with connection to mainland Australia and growing international and freight capacity.

#### Success Stories and Future Challenges

Dark MOFO and cultural festivals successfully drive winter visitors to regional southern Tasmania and Hobart. However, anticipated increases in caravans and driving tourists with the new Spirit ferry could exacerbate existing problems with services and accommodation constraints.

#### Regional Networks

Southern Tasmania has 12 councils, compared to 8 and 9 in the other regional groupings and is home to the majority of State and Commonwealth offices. The region is a mix of large urban, peri-urban and small rural and remote councils. This has resulted in more complexity at the southern scale, and collaboration has tended to be more active at a sub-regional level.

## Sub-Region (SOUTH)

### Key Action Areas – Southern Regions

- **Infrastructure and Planning:** Address industrial land, warehousing, and workforce shortages with realistic demand projections and comprehensive infrastructure pipeline planning
- **Housing Crisis Response:** Tackle availability/affordability crisis for workers and vulnerable populations
- **Childcare Accessibility:** Ensure availability for casual and permanent workers
- **Skills Development:** Strengthen digital literacy, STEM and adult education programs
- **Integration Support:** Create comprehensive support for migrants, young people and workers with disabilities
- **Community Welcoming:** Establish programs and market access initiatives
- **Place-based Solutions:** Challenges need to be addressed at the local level
- **Business Support:** Provide consistent, local, trusted business support services
- **Sustainable Tourism:** Develop higher-yield models with appropriate infrastructure funding for local services and amenity
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Plan for remote work trends and connectivity needs



# **SUB-REGIONAL REPORT: NORTH WEST TASMANIA**



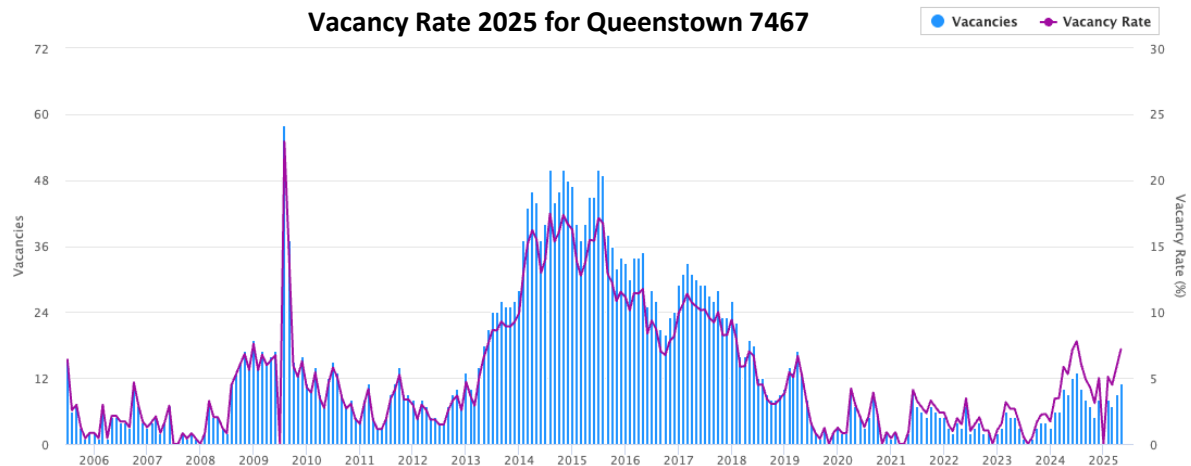
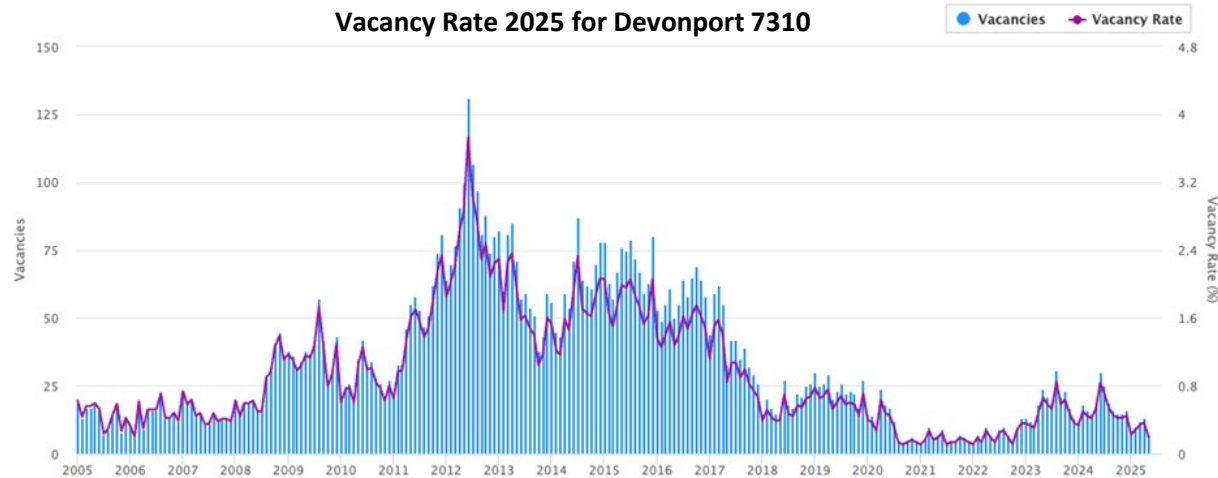
## Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

The Northwest Tasmania consultation highlighted critical housing shortages, workforce development challenges, and the complex balance between tourism recovery and major renewable energy project opportunities.

### Housing Crisis and Accommodation Challenges

#### Critical Housing Shortage

The Northwest region faces an acute housing crisis directly impacting workforce retention and economic development. Devonport's vacancy rate sits at a critically low 0.5-0.6%, while Queenstown experiences limited absolute housing numbers despite reasonable vacancy rates. This shortage creates intense competition between tourism accommodation, FIFO and DIDO workers, and permanent residents.



# Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

## Professional Workforce Impact

Poor quality accommodation actively deters professionals from relocating to the region. Healthcare workers, including nurses, are leaving due to inadequate housing options. The situation has become so severe that over 60% of the West Coast workforce operates on drive-in/drive-out arrangements, raising serious sustainability questions with negative or neutral economic impact in the area.

A further breakdown analysis of the jobs held by the local workers in West Coast Council area in 2023/24 shows the three largest industries were:

- Mining (2,174 people or 61.2%), majority DIDO.
- Accommodation and Food Services (230 people or 6.5%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (133 people or 3.7%), majority DIDO.

## Systemic Housing Barriers

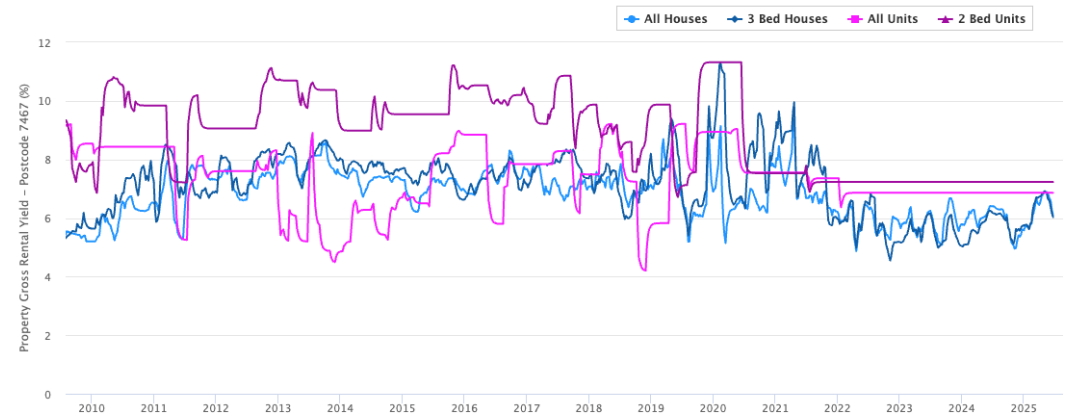
Several systemic issues compound the housing shortage:

- Investor properties are sitting vacant despite critical demand
- Financing difficulties are preventing new residential developments
- Construction delays and escalating costs
- Tourism accommodation is being converted to worker housing, reducing both sectors' capacity

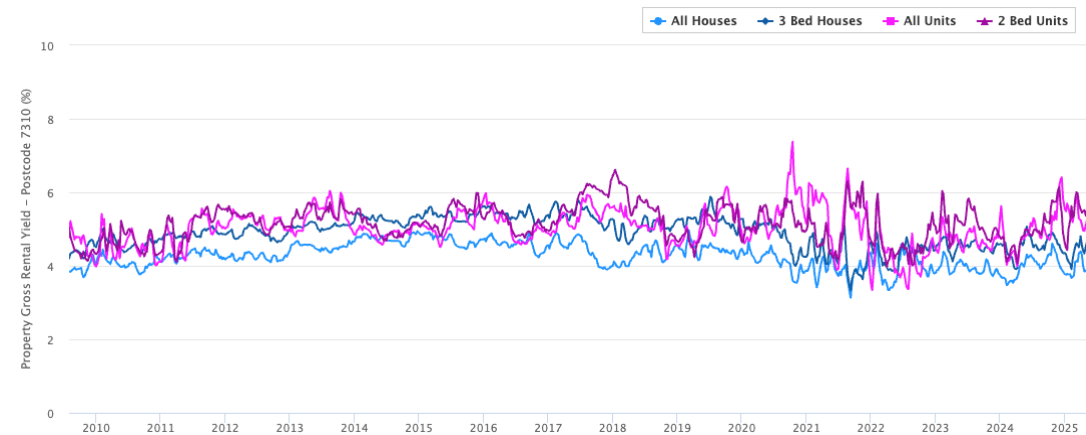
This refers to the number or proportion of unoccupied units (e.g. homes, commercial spaces, jobs, etc.) at a given time.

Vacancy Rate is the percentage that expresses how many units (e.g. housing, rental properties, or jobs) are vacant out of the total available.

### Property Gross Rental Yield 2025 for Queenstown 7467



### Property Gross Rental Yield 2025 for Devonport 7310



## Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

### Workforce Development Skills and Challenges

#### Critical Skills Gaps

The region experiences high demand for professional services across health, education, and business sectors. STEM skills shortages persist across industries, while trade skills are needed but locals remain reluctant to enter certain sectors due to seasonal work patterns and competition from higher FIFO wages.

#### Youth Retention Challenges

Most young people leave the region for tertiary education and fail to return, citing limited aspirational pathways and professional opportunities. This brain drain undermines long-term economic sustainability and community vitality.

#### Local Employment Barriers

Several factors limit local workforce participation:

- Seasonal employment patterns provide income uncertainty
- Competition from FIFO arrangements offering higher wages
- Lack of clear career progression pathways
- Limited training and professional development infrastructure



# Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

## Infrastructure and Connectivity Issues

### Digital Infrastructure Limitations

Aging digital infrastructure severely constrains business development and remote work capabilities. Data cables have passed expiry dates, and high demand for fibre connections requires mainland crews, creating delays and limiting connectivity improvements.

### Transport and Access Challenges

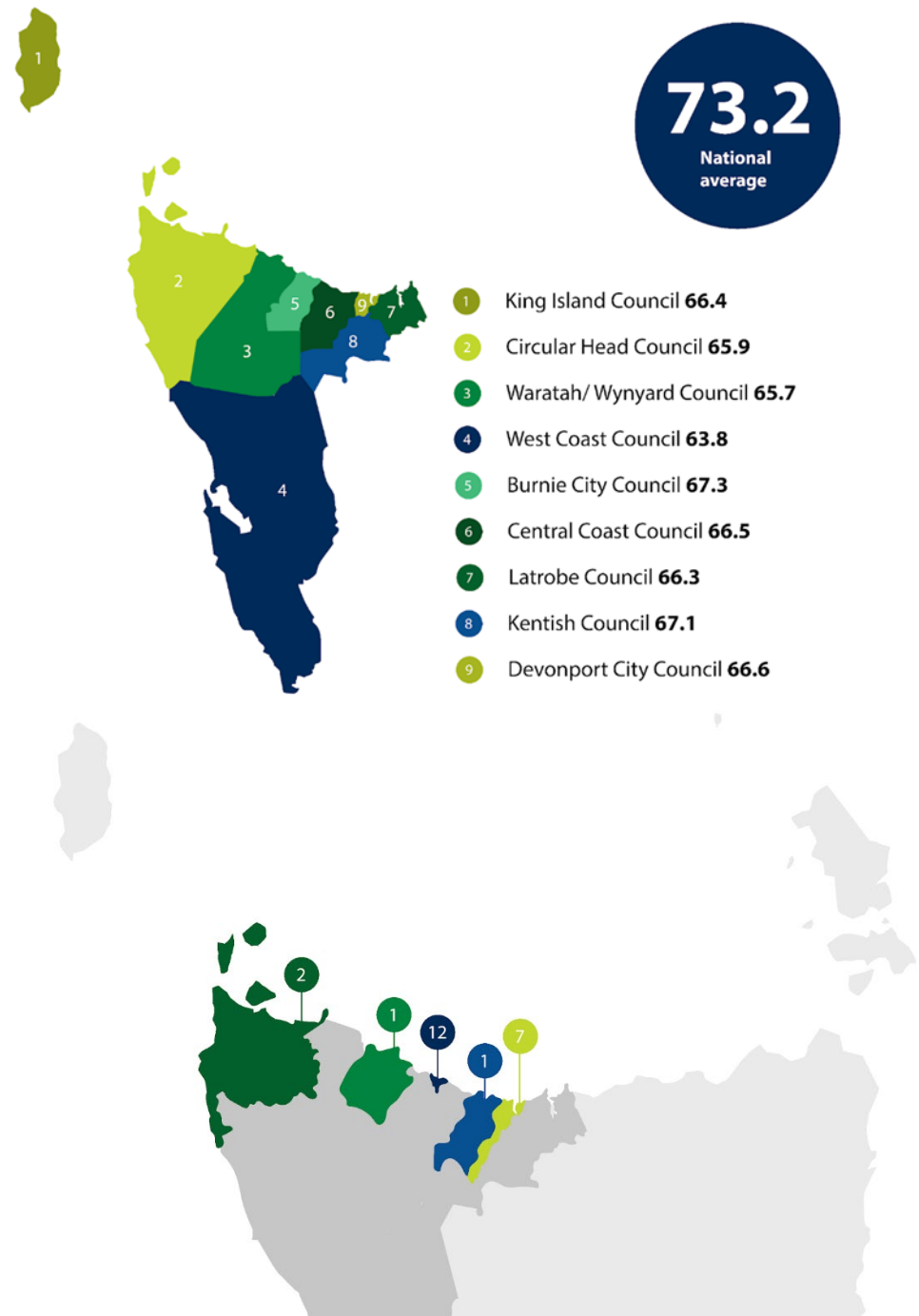
Limited flight capacity, exemplified by King Island's situation, restricts business development and professional mobility. High transport costs affect business viability and make the region less competitive for investment and skilled workers.

#### Essential Services Under Pressure

Basic services across the region face significant strain:

- Healthcare systems operating beyond capacity
- Limited childcare availability is affecting workforce participation
- Ageing population support needs are growing faster than service capacity is able to provide.

In particular mental health services on the northwest are an ongoing issue, according to the recent CSIRO report there were 28 community-based mental health services identified, delivered by 22 service providers. The 28 services were located in 13 suburbs across Tasmania, in only 7 out of 29 LGAs. Services were predominantly located in the major city of each service region, including Launceston (17), Burnie (12) and Hobart (9). Large areas of the north west region currently have no face-to-face access to mental health services with 74% not currently accepting any new clients requiring ongoing support, and the average wait-time was 4 months.



# Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)



## Economic Opportunities and Challenges

### Tourism Recovery Progress

Tourism numbers are approaching 2019 levels, with the West Coast showing particularly strong and consistent occupancy rates. The West Coast has now recorded three consecutive December quarters of 56k visitors, with visitors on holiday maintaining elevated levels of visitation since 2022.

The North West region recorded its strongest December quarter for visitation in 2024. Adventure tourism and mountain biking have emerged as successful sectors, while extended shoulder seasons provide more sustainable income streams for operators.

### Renewable Energy Transition

Renewable energy projects bring significant investment and employment potential, with projections for 4,000-5,000 additional workers across major projects. However, this creates substantial challenges:

- Overwhelming accommodation demands exceeding infrastructure capacity
- Reliance on FIFO/DIDO workforce models limits local benefits
- Limited local skill development reduces long-term community gain
- Community capacity constraints affecting service delivery

### Agricultural Strengths

Significant irrigation infrastructure investments exceeding \$50 million have created strong multiplier effects across the regional economy. Berry and dairy production continue to show consistent growth, while the successful integration of the Pacific Islander workforce demonstrates effective multicultural employment models.



<b>North West</b>
Visitors
<b>137.3k</b>
2023 5.9% ▲
2019 1.5% ▲
<b>WXNW</b>
Visitors
<b>141.5k</b>
2023 6.0% ▲
2019 0.3% ►
<b>West Coast</b>
Visitors
<b>56.9k</b>
2023 1.4% ▲
2019 14.6% ▲

# Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

## Services Delivery and Community Support

### Childcare Crisis

Most of the Northwest region experiences severe childcare limitations, with only small pockets of availability around major centres. Two-year wait lists for assessments demonstrate the scale of unmet demand.

### Systemic Service Barriers

Multiple factors create service gaps:

- Training programs requiring existing childcare placements create circular dependency
- Diploma-qualified staff shortages are limiting service expansion
- Regulatory compliance challenges in small communities
- Financial viability concerns for operators in low-population areas

### Healthcare and Aged Care Gaps

Limited service provision outside major centres creates significant gaps in healthcare and aged care. Professional accommodation inadequacy exacerbates staffing challenges, while major banks refuse to lend to aged care facilities due to perceived regional risks.



## Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

### Education Development and Future Workforce

#### Current Educational Profile

The Northwest demonstrates higher rates of years 9-10 completion and strong certification of 3 - 4 trade qualifications, but lower university completion rates. This profile reflects traditional industry mix but may limit future economic diversification.

#### Educational Capacity Strengthening

Several developments strengthen educational capacity:

- UTAS campus presence in Burnie provides transformational higher education access
- Study hubs delivering local access to university programs
- Nursing programs successfully attracting career changers and mature students
- Engineering prospects emerging with the renewable energy centre of excellence potential
- Pathway programs, including successful year 10 railway workforce initiatives



## Sub-Region (NORTH WEST)

### Key Action Areas – North West Regions

- **Housing Crisis Response:** Address accommodation shortages through innovative building solutions and policy reforms, enabling faster development
- **Integrated Service Delivery:** Develop multi-service models for childcare, aged care, and healthcare maximising resource efficiency
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Strengthen connectivity to enable remote work opportunities and business development
- **Professional Pathways:** Create programs to retain and attract skilled workers across sectors
- **Education Ecosystem:** Build comprehensive training systems leveraging UTAS presence and study hub networks
- **Workforce Sharing:** Develop regional arrangements across sectors maximising employment opportunities
- **Renewable Energy Skills:** Establish pipeline for upcoming major projects.
- **Place-based Policy:** Create frameworks adapted to regional realities and constraints
- **Sustainable Growth:** Support population growth with adequate infrastructure and services
- **Economic Diversification:** Balance traditional industries with emerging opportunities
- **Regional Integration:** Coordinate service delivery across sectors
- **Innovation Hub Development:** Leverage unique regional assets and capabilities