

McKay, Madonna

From: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 11:57 AM
To: Ramsay, John
Cc: Limkin, Craig (DPaC)
Subject: Becky Smith's SOE work

Hi John,

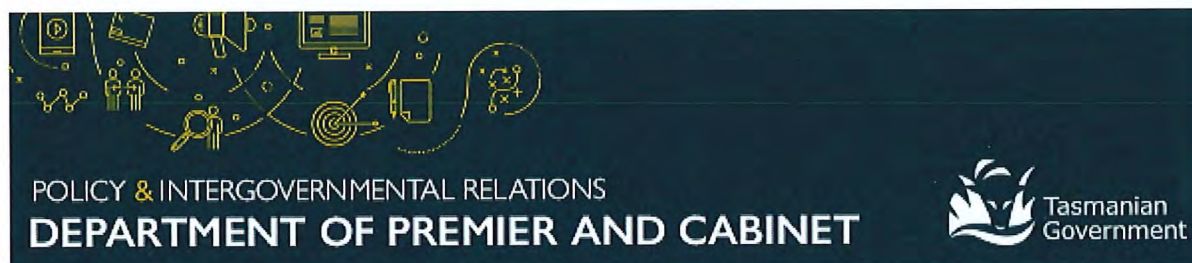
We are wondering if you would be prepared to share any of the preliminary work that Becky did on data sources, structure, process and potential consultants to prepare the SOE based on the Environmental Accounts?

Thanks
Brian

Brian Risby FPIA | Director
State Planning Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 7 / 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
(p) +61 3 62327066
(m) 0415848456

Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.planningreform.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au



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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 1:03 PM
To: Ramsay, John
Subject: RE: Becky Smith's SOE work
Attachments: DOC 19 84218 SoE User Research report - final 2.pdf; DOC 19 69747 Issues Paper SoER Review (draft v 1) 20190618.DOCX; DOC 18 127497 Consultation Paper (draft) V2 - Nov 2018_.DOCX; DOC 18 127492 Discussion Paper (for PPU) 20181123.DOCX; DOC 18 127494 SoER (2020) Indicative Budget.DOCX; DOC 18 127495 Bailey et al. - 2018 - State of the environment reporting in Western Aust.pdf.pdf; DOC 19 8499 Information Paper_20190114.DOCX

Hi John

I've searched for everything created by Rebecca Smith (she was NOT very good at naming conventions). There aren't many with data etc but a lot of papers from other agencies around environment in general. I've attached a few I think could be of interest and maybe one or two that should have gone to EDO such as Issues Paper and Information paper (which are attached). There are a number of reports like the Australian State of the Environment User Research Report from DIER.

Do you think Brian would want all of those papers (most are 3-4 years old by now)? And do you want me to send the Issue and Information Paper to Joshua at EDO saying just found these?

Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Level 3 144 Macquarie Street Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 1691 Hobart TAS 7001

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From: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 12:02 PM
To: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Becky Smith's SOE work

Madonna,

Can you please see what you can find about Brian's request please. I don't know what exists.

And depending on what you find, we might have to disclose it under RTI as additional documents.

John

From: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 11:57 AM
To: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Limkin, Craig (DPaC) <Craig.Limkin@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Becky Smith's SOE work

Hi John,

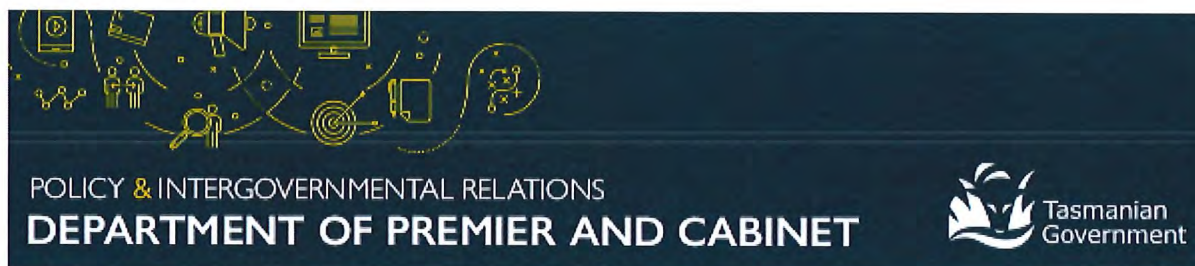
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Thanks
Brian

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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 10:01 AM
To: Risby, Brian (DPaC)
Subject: Second email of SoE documents
Attachments: DOC 19 84231 Information Paper_20191014.DOCX; DOC 19 84255 State_of_the_environment_reporting_an_Antarctic case Study.pdf; DOC 19 84259 The Three Phases of Local Government State of Environment Reports in NSW Australia Complexity, Intricacy and Creativity.pdf; DOC 19 84274 Microsoft Word - IEA_Guidelines_Living_Document_v2.docx.pdf; DOC 19 84285 A proposal for the establishment of a National Environment Commission.pdf; DOC 19 84292 Nordic countriesTourism issues draft 20181109.DOCX; DOC 19 84293 Parks_21_Progress_Report_2018.pdf; DOC 19 84297 Tas Project Proposal 6Dec2018 (002) with TPC comments.pdf; DOC 19 84301 PowerPoint Presentation.PPTX; London Group Minutes - October 2018.pdf; IJSC - Meeting 10 - 20190319 - Consolidated Papers Pack.pdf; SDGs and the SoE.pdf; IJSC - Meeting 9 - 20181210 - Attachment 5B - CSIRO proposal waste.pdf; IJSC - Meeting 9 - 20181210 - Item 6 -External consultation and engagement - Att A.pdf; SoE2016 User Research report.pdf; DOC 19 144099 Options, Issues and Background Issues Paper SoER Review 20191121.DOCX

Hi Brian

This is all I could locate. Hope some of it is of assistance.

Regards
Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

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From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 10:07 AM
To: Risby, Brian (DPaC)
Subject: Second email of SoE documents
Attachments: DOC 19 84231 Information Paper_20191014.DOCX; DOC 19 84255 State_of_the_environment_reporting_an_Antarctic case Study.pdf; DOC 19 84259 The Three Phases of Local Government State of Environment Reports in NSW Australia Complexity, Intricacy and Creativity.pdf; DOC 19 84274 Microsoft Word - IEA_Guidelines_Living_Document_v2.docx.pdf; DOC 19 84285 A proposal for the establishment of a National Environment Commission.pdf; DOC 19 84292 Nordic countries Tourism issues draft 20181109.DOCX; DOC 19 84293 Parks_21_Progress_Report_2018.pdf; DOC 19 84297 Tas Project Proposal 6Dec2018 (002) with TPC comments.pdf; DOC 19 84301 PowerPoint Presentation.PPTX; London Group Minutes - October 2018.pdf

Regards

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Executive Officer

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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 10:08 AM
To: Risby, Brian (DPaC)
Subject: Third email of SoE documents
Attachments: IJSC - Meeting 10 - 20190319 - Consolidated Papers Pack.pdf; SDGs and the SoE.pdf; SOERF-2018-May-Minutes.docx; SOERF-2018-May-Communique1.pdf; IJSC - Meeting 9 - 20181210 - Attachment 5B - CSIRO proposal waste.pdf; IJSC - Meeting 9 - 20181210 - Item 6 -External consultation and engagement - Att A.pdf; SoE2016 User Research report.pdf

Regards

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

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be fully vaccinated



wear masks when needed



symptoms? get tested



stay home if sick



use check in TAS



stay up to date



keep hands clean



keep your distance

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McKay, Madonna

From: Rachel Hay <rachel@australiainstitute.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 8:52 AM
To: TPC Enquiry
Cc: 'James Kirkpatrick'
Subject: State of the Environment Reporting

Categories: Tami

Dear Tasmanian Planning Commission,

I am contacting you in my role as Secretary for the [Tasmanian Independent Science Council](#). The Tasmanian Independent Science Council is dedicated to science-based policy reform to ensure the long-term health of Tasmania's critical environments. We are composed of scientists and relevant professionals who are a source of independent, non-government advice.

Our Chair, Distinguished Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, would like to meet with your Chairperson and Executive Commissioner, John Ramsay, to discuss the completion of a State of the Environment Report. Please advise a time that would be suitable.

Kind regards,
Rachel

Rachel Hay (she/her)
Secretariat
The Tasmanian Independent Science Council
M 0427 942 923 | **E** info@tassciencecouncil.org
I work Monday – Thursday

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I work, the muwinina people in nipaluna/Hobart, and the Murmirmenna clan of the Paredarerme Nation in Dodges Ferry, and extend my respect to Elders past and present.

McKay, Madonna

From: Hynes, Claire
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:18 AM
To: Rachel Hay; TPC Enquiry
Cc: 'James Kirkpatrick'
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Reporting

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for your email and request to meet with John Ramsay, Executive Commissioner of the Commissioner.

John is on leave for 4 weeks, returns Monday 24 October 2022. As his return is so close, I'll forward your email to him to respond in due course.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Claire Hynes
Senior Planning Consultant

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In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present custodians of the Land.

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From: Rachel Hay <rachel@australiainstitute.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 8:52 AM
To: TPC Enquiry <tpc@planning.tas.gov.au>
Cc: 'James Kirkpatrick' <j.kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au>
Subject: State of the Environment Reporting

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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2022 12:54 PM
To: pamdallan@gmail.com; Ramsay, John; rogerhowlett@outlook.com; Cunningham, Ann; Eamonn.Tiernan@taswater.com.au; nickd2118@gmail.com; Stewart, Brett (StateGrowth); maxkitchell1; paulwest.rrc; Hynes, Claire; cunningham_ann
Subject: Direction - State of the Environment Report
Attachments: SIGNED - Amended Letter to TPC enclosing Direction co complete State of the Environment Report - 4 October 2022.PDF; Signed Direction Under TPC Act 1997 - State of the Environment Report - September 2022 - 4 October 2022.PDF

Good afternoon

As discussed at this morning's Commission meeting please find attached a copy of the Direction from the Minister regarding the State of the Environment Report.

Regards
Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

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be fully vaccinated



wear masks when needed



symptoms? get tested



stay home if sick



use Check in TAS



stay up to date



keep hands clean



keep your distance

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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Tuesday, 15 November 2022 9:42 AM
To: Rachel Hay
Cc: 'James Kirkpatrick'
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Reporting

Hi Rachel

I spoke with John (and Claire Bookless who advised she would be away in December) and as John will need to meet with the Minister and also determine resourcing and budgeting requirements he won't be in a position to meet with you until January – can I book a meeting with you all in mid January? At this stage the week of 16th or week of 23rd January would suit best.

Please let me know availability of attendees so we can arrange a meeting.

Regards
Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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From: Hynes, Claire
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:18 AM
To: Rachel Hay <rachel@australiainstitute.org.au>; TPC Enquiry <tpc@planning.tas.gov.au>
Cc: 'James Kirkpatrick' <j.kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Reporting

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Claire Hynes
Senior Planning Consultant

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Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 8:52 AM
To: TPC Enquiry <tpc@planning.tas.gov.au>
Cc: 'James Kirkpatrick' <j.kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au>
Subject: State of the Environment Reporting

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Kind regards,
Rachel

Rachel Hay (she/her)

Secretariat

The Tasmanian Independent Science Council

M 0427 942 923 | **E** info@tassciencecouncil.org

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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 9:11 AM
To: Rachel Hay
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Report

Thanks Rachel – good luck with wherever you go next!

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

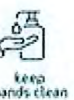
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From: Rachel Hay <rachel@australiainstitute.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 9:10 AM
To: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Report

Thanks Madonna!

I'll forward this appointment to Claire and Eloise Carr (Australia Institute). Their emails are claire.bookless@edo.org.au and eloise@australiainstitute.org.au, should you need to contact them.

I unfortunately will not be able to attend, as my contract ends in December.

Cheers,
Rachel

-----Original Appointment-----

From: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Ramsay, John

Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 8:27 AM

To: Rachel Hay; James Kirkpatrick

Subject: State of the Environment Report

When: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC+10:00) Hobart.

Where: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

Hi Rachel and James

Hope this time suits. Rachel can you forward to Claire Bookless and any other interested parties (just please let me know attendees)

Thanks

Madonna

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McKay, Madonna

From: Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2022 3:35 PM
To: Lees, Christina; Ingerson, Tara (EPA)
Cc: SOE
Subject: RE: Seeking information: Tasmanian presentation at 2020 SoE Forum in SA [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SoE Forum | Information & Updated Agenda [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

OFFICIAL

The forum in Adelaide was 28th and 29th November 2019.

I have found the updated agenda and the e-mailing list has a Tasmanian officer from planning on it (see attached).

No sign of any circulated minutes.

My own (extensive) hand written notes indicate that there was no presentation from Tasmania.

Regards,

Andrew Solomon

Aboriginal Engagement and Science Officer
2023 State of Environment Report, EPA SA, 0407 636 883

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Environment Protection Authority
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From: Lees, Christina <Christina.Lees@dcceew.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2022 10:31 AM
To: Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>; Ingerson, Tara (EPA) <Tara.Ingerson@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SOE <soe@agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Seeking information: Tasmanian presentation at 2020 SoE Forum in SA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Andrew

Really appreciate you having a look for me. Our shared SoE inbox unfortunately lost all email history when we became a new department, so I can't search my own records.

It may have been a bit later than May/June 2020 but certainly around that time from what I've been told.

Thanks again.

Best wishes
Tina

From: Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2022 10:52 AM
To: Lees, Christina <Christina.Lees@dcceew.gov.au>; Ingerson, Tara (EPA) <Tara.Ingerson@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SOE <soe@agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Seeking information: Tasmanian presentation at 2020 SoE Forum in SA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

The only item I can find so far from that time is attached, with no Tasmanian report.

Regards,

Andrew Solomon
Aboriginal Engagement and Science Officer
2023 State of Environment Report, EPA SA, 0407 636 883

Science & Systems Directorate | Environmental Science Branch
Environment Protection Authority
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From: Lees, Christina <Christina.Lees@dcceew.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2022 9:21 AM
To: Ingerson, Tara (EPA) <Tara.Ingerson@sa.gov.au>; Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SOE <soe@agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: Seeking information: Tasmanian presentation at 2020 SoE Forum in SA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Tara, Andrew

I am seeking information regarding a SoE Forum hosted in Adelaide circa. May/June 2020.

If you have the records available, I'd be grateful if you could let me know whether anyone from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service presented on MERI.

Any information you can provide would be much appreciated.

With thanks and regards
Tina

Christina Lees
Assistant Director (A/g), Strategic Partnerships & Reporting section (State of the Environment)

Biodiversity Markets, Economics & Environmental Science | Environmental Science & Nature Based Solutions
Ngunnawal Country, 18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2600
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
P 02 6271 6646 | E Christina.Lees@DCCEEW.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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McKay, Madonna

From: Palmer, David <David.Palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2022 12:45 PM
To: Ramsay, John
Subject: RE: SoE Forums

OK, thanks, I think I will just state that the advice is that someone attended in March 2019 and April 2020.
Cheers

From: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2022 12:42 PM
To: Palmer, David <David.Palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SoE Forums

Apologies David, my system access is down.

I can't now confirm the 2018 meeting, but I can confirm attendance at a meeting on 28/29 March 2019.

John

From: Palmer, David <David.Palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2022 12:29 PM
To: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SoE Forums

Thanks John,
Do we know the date of the 2018 meeting?
Cheers
David

From: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2022 12:28 PM
To: Palmer, David <David.Palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: SoE Forums

David,

From info provided to me, it appears that Tas attended an SoE National Forum meeting in 2018 and 2020.
There may have been other attendances, but I can't locate any records.

I have also been provided with information about the next Forum in February 2023, and will arrange for Tasmania's participation.

John

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McKay, Madonna

From: Pearson, Abigail (EPA) <Abigail.Pearson@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 November 2019 2:28 PM
To: Solomon, Andrew (EPA); Smith, Ben (DEW); Cummings, Courtney (EPA);
jason.mackiewicz@stats.govt.nz; Kari-Ann.West@des.qld.gov.au;
Katrina.Phillips@environment.gov.au; Baldry, Keith (EPA); michael.reid@ces.vic.gov.au;
Bald, Michelle (DEW); Nicholas.Post@environment.gov.au;
scott.rawlings@ces.vic.gov.au; Simon.Roberts@environment.gov.au; Hills, Tobias (EPA);
Ian.Cresswell@csiro.au; jeanette.corbitt@environment.gov.au;
gaston.rozenbids@epa.nsw.gov.au; Vanlaarhoven, Jason (DEW); Miles, Matthew (DEW);
Mitchell.Ryan@environment.gov.au; Steffan.Howe@environment.gov.au;
Katharine.Sale2@environment.gov.au; rebecca.smith@planning.tas.gov.au;
Ken.Horrigan@des.qld.gov.au; Andrew.Rendall@csiro.au; chris.gentle@wabsi.org.au;
claire.howell@agriculture.gov.au
Subject: SoE Forum | Information & Updated Agenda [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: 20191128-29_SoE Forum_Final Agenda.pdf

For Official Use Only

Good afternoon all,

Please find attached an updated agenda for the SoE forum.

In line with the self-funded nature of the Forum meetings, please arrange your own lunch for Thursday prior to the forum and on Friday following the conclusion.

Looking forward to seeing you there tomorrow.

Kind regards
Abi

Abi Pearson
Executive Assistant to Director, Science and Information

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001
T: (08) 8204 2063



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National State of the Environment Forum

Noel Lothian Hall, Adelaide Botanic Gardens
Hackney Rd, Adelaide SA 5000

28 – 29 November 2019

Day One | Thursday 28 November

12:30 PM	Arrive	
1:00 PM	Welcome, introductions and context setting	Michelle/Jeanette
1:10 – 3:00 PM	Updates from each jurisdictions (15 mins each): • Significant SOE related activity in last 6-12 months • Priorities for next 6-12 months	All
1:10 PM Dial in	Tasmania update (Becky Smith)	
3:00 – 3:20 PM	Afternoon tea	
3:20 – 4:00 PM	Impact and purpose of SOE reporting (each Jurisdiction to answer the following questions in preparation to the session) • Who is your SOE targeted at? • Does your SoE have a 'call to action', if so, what is it asking, of who? • What impact do you want your SOE to have, what do you want to happen as a result of the SoE? • Does it achieve this impact? • If not, What do you think prevents it from achieving the intended impact? • What do you think could improve the impact of your SoE? • How do you measure the SoE impact? Exercise to capture and consolidate from each jurisdiction	Michelle
4:00 - 5:15 PM	Presentations on key work underway by Jurisdictions (15 mins each) • NZ – climate change statistics and SEEA nationally/internationally comparable indicators (Jason) • SA – the power of accounting vs power of accounts (Matt Miles)	
4:30 PM Dial in	• Australian Marine Parks MERI – concordance (Steffan Howe and Katharine Sale) • VIC – Challenges in implementing the SDGs as an Organising Framework (Scott Rawlings and Michael Reid)	
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Summary of impact and purpose exercise and wrap up of Day 1	Michelle
7:00 PM	Dinner – TBC (Rundle Street)	All

Day Two | Friday 29 November

8:30 AM	Arrive	
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Summary from Day 1 and context setting	Michelle/Jeanette
9:00 – 10:10 AM	Vision for the National SoE2021	Nick
	Multiple use data structures – a step towards concordance	Ian
	• National SOE Indicators - What is useful – allowing the commonwealth to deliver while also useful for all states and territories • Principles to guide development of indicators	
10:10 AM Dial in	Australian National Outlook (ANO3)	Andrew Rendall (CSIRO)
10:30 – 10:50 AM	Morning tea	
10:50 AM – 11:05 AM	Jurisdiction Presentation	Kari-Ann
Dial in	• QLD - mapping SoE indicators and management responses to SDGs	Ken Horrigan
11:05 AM – 12:30 PM	Multiple use data structures – a step towards concordance (continued)	Ian
	• Linking environmental reporting – SDGs, other International reporting and state reporting • Linking to other Commonwealth initiatives - Digital transformation of EPBC assessments, Strategy for Nature, EEA	Ian/Nick
12:00 PM Dial in	Update on WABSI / Biodiversity Data activity in WA	Chris Gentle
12:30 – 1:00 PM	Wrap up and next steps	Michelle
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Next meeting – timing, location and agenda	Jeanette

McKay, Madonna

From: Rachel Hay <rachel@australiainstitute.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 12:54 PM
To: Claire Bookless; Ramsay, John
Cc: Eloise Carr; James Kirkpatrick
Subject: Re: State of the Environment Report

Hi Madonna,

Unfortunately Eloise Carr is away in January and February, and will not be able to attend this meeting on behalf of the Australia Institute. I also will not be able to attend, as my contract finishes on December 6.

Jamie Kirkpatrick will be attending to represent the Science Council.

Cheers,
Rachel

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From: Claire Bookless <claire.bookless@edo.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:02:49 PM
To: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Eloise Carr <Eloise@australiainstitute.org.au>; Rachel Hay <rachel@australiainstitute.org.au>; James Kirkpatrick <j.kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Accepted: FW: State of the Environment Report
When: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM.
Where: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

Dear Madonna,

Thank you for providing this invitation to meet with Mr Ramsay concerning the SoE report.

I will be attending the meeting on behalf of EDO.

Kind regards,

Claire



Environmental
Defenders Office

Claire Bookless — Managing Lawyer —
lutruwita/Tasmania
(Mon - Thurs)
1/114 Bathurst Street, nipaluna/Hobart TAS
Postal: PO Box 4686 Bathurst Street,
nipaluna/Hobart TAS 7000
P: +61 3 6223 2770
E: claire.bookless@edo.org.au

I use she/her pronouns.

McKay, Madonna

From: Ramsay, John
Sent: Wednesday, 30 November 2022 8:38 AM
To: McKay, Madonna
Subject: FW: meeting request - Environmental Accounting Roadmap for Tasmania (SoE solution)

Madonna, Can you access the link below please and print off the document. Tks J

From: Nepelle Crane <ncrane@nrmsouth.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 2:46 PM
To: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Subject: meeting request - Environmental Accounting Roadmap for Tasmania (SoE solution)

Dear John

I am getting in touch to request a meeting with you to discuss potential solutions and investment pathways that will assist with the development of the State of Environment for Tasmania.

I understand from your Executive Officer that you are intending to meet with people in January, however there is significant momentum nationally – including potential opportunities to secure Australian Government and/or private co-investment. I would very much like to discuss this further with you, and to understand if we can support you, or provide solutions.

By way of background, NRM South is established with NRM North and the Cradle Coast Authority under the Tasmanian *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, and while we are independent organisations, we work with the Tasmanian Government to bring investment into the state, and develop and implement NRM strategies that aim to maintain and restore healthy land, water and natural values as well as sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles.

There are 54 NRM Regions nationally, and collectively, we have been exploring the Natural Capital Accounting methodology for some time. Recently, there has been significant progress made and the first Regional-scale accounts have been developed and released by a NRM organisation in Queensland. Their pilot has developed and trialed the methodology and the first accounts were launched around a fortnight ago by Ken Henry*.

This been a significant achievement and it is a valuable, independently verified, environmental reporting tool in its own right. In addition, the public and private sector response to the release of these accounts has been ground-breaking. Not only has there been significant positive media coverage, by having the accounts in place, the NRM organization has been able to leverage significant corporate investment into their region (for on-ground environmental repair work). If we could be on the front foot with this, it could be a significant opportunity for Tasmania.

I am interested in developing a roadmap to develop the first state-wide accounts, and I think this could be a valuable solution for the State of Environment reporting. Please let me know if you have a window of opportunity to discuss further in December.

*Some related news articles:

- The Business ABC: <https://iview.abc.net.au/video/BUSI2022101691116>
- Article: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-28/economics-has-destroyed-the-environment-could-it-save-it/101693286>
- Ken Henry on ABC RN: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/environmental-accounting-aims-to-attract-billions-in-investment-/101605208>

Kind regards,
Nepelle

Nepelle Crane
Chief Executive Officer
Ph: 0438 664 524

Office: Level 1, 89 Brisbane Street, Hobart
Postal address: PO Box 4657, Hobart TAS 7000



I work flexibly at NRM South and sometimes send emails outside of work hours. Please note these are not sent with the intent that they are read, actioned or responded to outside of your normal work hours. I look forward to your response, if appropriate, at a time that suits you.

From: Amelia Jensen <ajensen@nrmsouth.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Nepelle Crane <ncrane@nrmsouth.org.au>
Subject: FW: General query

Hi Nepelle,

Please see the below response from John Ramsay's EA.

Thanks,

Amelia Jensen
Administration Officer
Working days: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Office: Level 1, 89 Brisbane Street, Hobart
Postal address: PO Box 4657, Hobart TAS 7000



From: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 11:28 AM
To: Amelia Jensen <ajensen@nrmsouth.org.au>
Subject: RE: General query

Hi Amelia

As your no doubt aware there are a number of people wanting to meet with John to discuss the State of the Environment Report. He is currently meeting with the Minister and looking into budget and resourcing at the moment before he starts looking into the practicalities of the report itself.

He is very interested to meet with Nepelle, however at this stage I am currently booking meetings with interested parties in mid-January. He is available pretty much anytime during the weeks starting the 16th or the 23rd.

Thanks

Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Level 3 144 Macquarie Street Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 1691 Hobart TAS 7001

03 6165 6822

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wear masks when needed



symptoms? get tested



stay home if sick



use Check in TAS



stay up to date



keep hands clean



keep your distance

Public Health Hotline 1800 671 738 coronavirus.tas.gov.au

From: Amelia Jensen <ajensen@nrmsouth.org.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 11:22 AM

To: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au>

Subject: RE: General query

Hi Madonna,

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I was hoping to arrange a one-hour meeting between John and our CEO, Nepelle Crane, to discuss the State of Environment Report.

Would John have a spare hour next week to meet? Below are some available times in Nepelle's calendar.

- Monday 21st Nov – 3:30pm-5pm
- Wednesday 23rd Nov – 12pm-3:30pm
- Thursday 24th Nov – 9am-3pm

If none of those days are suitable, Tuesday is also a possibility.

Thank you,

Amelia Jensen

Administration Officer

Working days: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Office: Level 1, 89 Brisbane Street, Hobart

Postal address: PO Box 4657, Hobart TAS 7000



From: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 11:18 AM

To: Amelia Jensen <ajensen@nrmsouth.org.au>

Subject: RE: General query

Hi Amelia

I am John's EA please email me directly.

Regards
Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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GPO Box 1691 Hobart TAS 7001

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From: Amelia Jensen <ajensen@nrmsouth.org.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 11:05 AM

To: TPC Enquiry <tpc@planning.tas.gov.au>

Subject: General query

Good morning,

I was wondering if you could please advise me who John Ramsay's Executive Assistant is? Can you please provide their email address to arrange a meeting?

Kind regards,

Amelia Jensen
Administration Officer
Working days: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Office: Level 1, 89 Brisbane Street, Hobart
Postal address: PO Box 4657, Hobart TAS 7000



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McKay, Madonna

From: Eloise Carr <Eloise@australiainstitute.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 December 2022 10:28 AM
To: Ramsay, John
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Report

Hi Madonna,

Just confirming I am happy for this meeting to go ahead with out me.

I am taking leave all January-February so will be back in touch after I return to work in March.

Thanks and best wishes,

Eloise

Eloise Carr (she/her)
Director
The Australia Institute Tasmania
M 0414 704 709
E eloise@australiainstitute.org.au
Ground Floor
71 Murray St
nipaluna/Hobart TAS 7000
Muwinina Country

From: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Ramsay, John
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 12:55 PM
To: Eloise Carr <Eloise@australiainstitute.org.au>
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Report

Hi Eloise

Did you want me to book in another time for you? Or reschedule this group meeting?

Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

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GPO Box 1691 Hobart TAS 7001

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Eloise Carr <Eloise@australiainstitute.org.au>

Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 12:49 PM

To: McKay, Madonna

Subject: Declined: State of the Environment Report

When: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC+10:00) Hobart.

Where: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

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McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 3:13 PM
To: Stewart, Brett; pamdallan@gmail.com; rogerhowlett@outlook.com; Cunningham, Ann; Eamonn.Tiernan@taswater.com.au; nickd2118@gmail.com; maxkitchell1@gmail.com; paulwest.rrc@outlook.com; Hynes, Claire; Ann Cunningham
Cc: Ramsay, John; Spong, Donna
Subject: Out of Sessions Commission Papers
Attachments: Commission meeting report - TPC State of Environment Report Advisory Committee.pdf; SoE Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference.pdf; Signed Direction Under TPC Act 1997 - State of the Environment Report - September 2022 - 4 October 2022.PDF; SIGNED - Amended Letter to TPC enclosing Direction co complete State of the Environment Report - 4 October 2022.PDF

Good afternoon Commissioners

Please find attached Out of Sessions papers relating to the State of the Environment Report Advisory Committee. Please provide your responses by return email.

Regards
Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

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McKay, Madonna

From: Spong, Donna
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kitto, Melinda
Subject: RE: Sods - - Commission establishment positions 356378 and 355833

Thank you, We will start working on them when the Minister has given us the go ahead, hopefully Thursday this week then to ODD.

The old ones may as well be abolished. Fiona Wells 355833 transferred to state planning office in a permanent role and I'm not sure who had the other position, way before my time.

Thank you

Donna Spong
6165 6823

From: Kitto, Melinda <Melinda.Kitto@justice.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 3:44 PM
To: Spong, Donna <Donna.Spong@planning.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sods - - Commission establishment positions 356378 and 355833

Hi Donna

Probably better to create a new position with business case.
Your SOD needs to go to the ODD team for sizing.
If the other positions are not required any more I can abolish them for you.

Kind regards



Melinda Kitto | Senior Advisor HR Operations
Human Resources
Department of Justice

p (03) 6165 4902
e melinda.kitto@justice.tas.gov.au
w www.justice.tas.gov.au
Level 1, 85 Collins Street, Hobart
GPO Box 825, Hobart, 7001

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From: Spong, Donna <Donna.Spong@planning.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 3:19 PM
To: Kitto, Melinda <Melinda.Kitto@justice.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sods - - Commission establishment positions 356378 and 355833

Thanks Mel,

I had another thought about the new positions. The Commission in the past had specific staff appointed permanently for SOE reporting.

We still have the SODs in our establishment but they are not very current, a band 7 (356378) and a band 6 (355833). Would it be better to amend those to reclassify them, or just base our SODs on the examples you have provided ?

Donna Spong

6165 6823

From: Kitto, Melinda <Melinda.Kitto@justice.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 3:07 PM

To: Spong, Donna <Donna.Spong@planning.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Sods - B8 B9 SES1

Hi Donna

Sods as discussed.
Cheers

Kind regards



Melinda Kitto | Senior Advisor HR Operations

Human Resources

Department of Justice

p (03) 6165 4902

e melinda.kitto@justice.tas.gov.au

w www.justice.tas.gov.au

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McKay, Madonna

From: Newman, Luke
Sent: Monday, 19 December 2022 4:34 PM
To: Nick Heath; maxkitchell1; pamdallan@gmail.com
Cc: McKay, Madonna; Ramsay, John
Subject: State of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting 2023-01 - Agenda and Papers - Thursday 5 January 2023, 2:00 to 3:30pm
Attachments: SoE - Advisory Committee - Meeting Agenda 2023-01 - 5 January 2023.DOCX; SoE - Advisory Committee Meeting Paper - 2023-01 - Item 4 SoE Report background - 5 January 2023.DOCX; SoE Advisory Committee - Item 4 Attachment 3 - 2018 Update Review of the State of the Environment Reporting 2013.PDF; SoE Advisory Committee - Item 4 Attachment 2 - Extract of SoE 2009 Report - Population and Settlement Patterns.PDF; SoE Advisory Committee - Item 4 Attachment 1 - 2009 State of the Environment Report - Executive Summary.PDF; SIGNED Instrument - SoE Advisory Committee.PDF; Signed Direction Under TPC Act 1997 - State of the Environment Report - 4 October 2022.PDF

Hi All,

Please find attached a copy of the Agenda for the first State of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday 5 January 2023, 2:00 to 3:30pm.

Included along with the Agenda are various attachment to aid discussion, including:

- a copy of the Minister's direction;
- a copy of the instrument establishing the Advisory Committee (that includes the terms of reference);
- a meeting paper with 3 attachments providing some background to SoE Reports.

While I have emailed out this agenda and papers, I have included a line item in the agenda for discussion of administrative arrangements, such as distribution of agenda and the like.

I have included a copy of the Teams link from the calendar meeting invitation, below. Both the link below and calendar entry should work.

If you have difficulty accessing the meeting via teams on the day, please contact Madonna (ph 6165 6822) or TPC admin (ph 6165 6828).

Regards,

Luke Newman
Senior Planning Adviser (Major Assessments)

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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Attachments:

SoE - Advisory Committee - Meeting Agenda 2023-01 - 5 January 2023

Signed Direction Under TPC Act 1997 - State of the Environment Report - 4 October 2022

SIGNED Instrument - SoE Advisory Committee (Note includes terms of reference)

SoE - Advisory Committee Meeting Paper - 2023-01 - Item 4 SoE Report background - 5 January 2023

SoE Advisory Committee - Item 4 Attachment 1 - 2009 State of the Environment Report - Executive Summary

SoE Advisory Committee - Item 4 Attachment 2 - Extract of SoE 2009 Report - Population and Settlement Patterns

SoE Advisory Committee - Item 4 Attachment 3 - 2018 Update Review of the State of the Environment Reporting 2013

State of the Environment

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda

Meeting No. 2023-01, 2:00-3:30pm, Thursday 5 January 2023

Location: Hartz room, level 3, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart and by MS Teams

Invitees: Nick Heath
Max Kitchell
Pam Allen

In attendance: Luke Newman, Madonna McKay, John Ramsay

Apologies: None

Item		Paper + attachments	Who
1.	Standing items - None	No	
2.	Introduction - Minister's direction - Advisory Committee terms of reference - Forward staffing and budget arrangements - Key timeframes	Yes	JR
3.	Governance arrangements - General discussion of governance arrangements - disclosure of interests and associations - administrative arrangements, MS Teams, invoicing, meeting minutes	No	NH / All LN LN
4.	SoE Report - General discussion of SoE Report scope - Supported by background paper and attachments	Yes	LN / All
5.	Forward planning - identification of matters to action	No	All
6.	Next meeting: Schedule to be discussed Various stakeholders – 10:30-11:30am Tuesday 17 January 2022 Advisory Committee - 11:00am- 12:30pm, Wednesday, 15 February 2023		

Action list:

Date	What	Who	Action/Status
<meeting date>		<initial>	

Record of decisions:

Date	What
<meeting date>	

Meeting Paper

Agenda item: 4
Meeting No: 2023-01
Meeting date: 5 January 2023
Prepared by: Luke Newman
CM9 reference: DOC/22/139252

Subject: SoE Report background

Summary: This paper provides a brief overview of SoE history, sets out principal acts encompassed within, and relevant to, Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System, along with providing extracts of the 2009 SoE Report and a copy of the 2018 SoE report review.

Resolution: The Advisory Committee notes the SoE background paper.

Background

The Minister for Planning (the Minister), under section 7 of the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997 (TPC Act) directed the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) to prepare a State of the Environment Report (SoE Report) under section 29 of the State Policies and Projects Act (SPP Act) and provide a completed copy by 30 June 2024.

Section 29 of the SPP Act sets out:

- (1) The Commission must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act and after that commencement at intervals of 5 years, produce a consolidated State of the Environment Report relating to—
 - (a) the condition of the environment; and
 - (b) trends and changes in the environment; and
 - (c) the achievement of resource management objectives; and
 - (d) recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.
- (2) The Commission must—
 - (a) submit a State of the Environment Report produced by it to the Minister; and
 - (b) cause notice to be given, as prescribed, that the State of the Environment Report will be available to the public for inspection and purchase.
- (3) The Minister must cause a State of the Environment Report to be laid on the table of each House of Parliament within the first 15 sitting days of the House after the Report is received by the Minister.

Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System

The Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) of Tasmania was established in 1994 with the aim to achieve sustainable outcomes from use and development in of the State's natural and physical resources.

The objectives of the RMPS, are set out in schedule 1 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, below:

1. The objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania are –
 - (a) to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and
 - (b) to provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and
 - (c) to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and
 - (d) to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a) , (b) and (c) ; and
 - (e) to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State.
2. In clause 1 (a) , **sustainable development** means managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while –
 - (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
 - (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
 - (c) avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

The objectives of the RMPS are enlivened in various legislation, with the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the principle planning legislation.

Table 1. provides a list of the legislation that enliven the RMPS objectives, or otherwise have particular relevance to planning and resource management in Tasmania.

Table 1. RMPS relevant legislation

Act	Responsible Agencies	RMPS obligations / interactions
<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>	Planning authorities Commission	Section 5 – obligation to perform functions and exercise powers to further objectives. LUPAA objectives contain the RMPS objectives
<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	EPA	Section 8 – obligation to perform functions and exercise powers to further EMPCA objectives, that contain the RMPS objectives. Requirements for planning referrals and integration in projects of State Significance and major projects.
<i>State Policies and Project Act 1994</i>	Commission	Section 5 – state policies must seek to further RMPS objectives Section 20(5) – integrated assessment must seek to further RMPS objectives Integrated assessment
<i>Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999</i>	Combined planning authorities Commission	Section 6 – obligation to perform and exercise functions and powers to further the LUPAA objectives.
<i>Natural Resource Management Act 2002</i>	NRMs	Section 4 - obligation to exercise powers in a manner that furthers RMPS objectives.
<i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i>	THC	Section 4A(2) – obligation to perform and exercise functions and powers consistent with LUPAA objectives. Requirements for planning referrals and integration in projects of State Significance / major projects.

State of the Environment Advisory Committee

		Fun fact: definitions of development and works are different to LUPA Act.
<i>Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997</i>	Commission	Section 6(3) - obligation to exercise powers in a manner that furthers RMPS objectives.
<i>Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020</i>	TasCAT	Schedule 2 part 8 at clause 5 sets out the Resource and planning stream proceedings are part of the RMPS, the objectives of which are set out in Schedule 1 of LUPAA.
<i>Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995</i>	The Department of Natural Resource and the Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas)	Section 7(2) - obligation to perform and exercise functions and powers in a manner that furthers RMPS objectives.
<i>Marine Farming Planning Act 1995</i>	NRE Tas	Section 4(2) - obligation to perform and exercise functions and powers in a manner that furthers RMPS objectives.
<i>Water Management Act 1999</i>	NRE Tas	Section 6 – incorporates RMPS objectives and obligation to perform and exercise functions and powers in a manner that furthers RMPS objectives. <i>Interacts with planning:</i> Exempt dam works from LUPA Act if a WMA permit for dam works is in force [LUPA Act s.60A]. Section 126(2) exempts well orders from LUPA Act.
<i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>	NRE Tas	Section 4 - obligation to perform and exercise functions and powers in a manner that furthers RMPS objectives.
<i>Urban Drainage Act 2013</i>	Council	Section 4 and 5 – must provide stormwater services in accordance with the objectives of the Act including RMPS objectives.
<i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i>	NRE Tas	Section 3A – qualified obligation to have regard to RMPS objectives in relation to public reserves. Section 29A – requirements for leases and licences of public reserves to be consistent with RMPS Objectives
<i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i>	NRE TAS	Section 5 - qualified obligation to have regard to RMPS objectives.
<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	NRE Tas FPA, planning authorities, Commission	Section 5 - obligation to have regard to RMPS objectives. Requirements for integration in projects of State Significance / major projects.
<i>Housing Land Supply Act 2008</i>	Minister for Planning Commission	Section 6 – obligations to make decisions that would further the LUPAA objectives
<i>Macquarie Point Development Corporation Act 2012</i>	Macquarie Point Development Corporation Minister	Appears to be limited to requiring statements of how amendments to planning schemes further the LUPAA objectives.
<i>Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008</i>	TasWater	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Requirements for planning referrals and integration in major projects.
<i>Launceston Flood Risk Management Act 2015</i>	Launceston Flood Authority	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Requirements for planning referrals

State of the Environment Advisory Committee

<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	councils	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Functions and powers, restrictions on by-laws, rates and charges
<i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i>	FPA	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Conditionally excludes assessment under the FP Act where clearing of trees or clearing and conversion of threatened native vegetation communities is authorised under a LUPAA permit [FP Regs 2017, regulation 4] <i>Interacts with planning:</i> definition of works in LUPA Act does not include forest practices defined in FP Act
<i>Gas Industry Act 2019</i>	Tas Gas	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Requirements for planning referrals.
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975</i>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Requirements integration in projects of State Significance / major projects.
<i>Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous provisions) Act</i>	Councils, Commission, NRE TAs	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Deals with subdivision where not dealt with under planning.
<i>Strata Titles Act 1998</i>	Council, NRE Tas	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Deals with aspects of subdivision by strata division.
<i>Building Act 2016</i>	Department of Justice	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Building act prevails over planning instruments and permit conditions related to technical requirements [s.7 and 9]
<i>Wellington Park Act 1993</i>	Wellington Park Management Trust	While this Act includes the RMPS Objectives at schedule 5 there is no reference to the objectives in the Act. <i>Interacts with planning:</i> Requiring management plan to be incorporated in planning schemes and prevailing where there are inconsistencies.
<i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1995</i>	MRT / Department of State Growth	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> LUPA Act exempts certain activities from assessment.
<i>Public Land (Administration and Forests) Act 1991</i>	Commission	Section 5 – obligation to make recommendations that further the RMPS Objectives
<i>Private Forests Act 1994</i>	Private Forests Tasmania	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> LUPA Act exempts certain activities in private timber reserves from assessment.
<i>Forest Management Act 2013</i>	Sustainable Timbers Tasmania	<i>Interacts with planning:</i> Operated to be excluded as forest practices defined under the FP Act are excluded from the definition of works under the LUPA Act.

SoE Report history

Three SoE Reports have been prepared since the commencement of the SPP Act. Reports were produced in 1997, 2003 and most recently by the Commission in 2009.

The Commission can provide copies of the 1997 and 2003 SoE reports, if required.

The 2009 SoE report was web based, and a copy of the 2009 executive summary is attached for information, along with an extract of a portion of the Population and Settlement report to provide an understanding of the scope/ extent of background analysis undertaken for a single issue.

SoE Report Review

State of the Environment Advisory Committee

Following the 2009 SoE Report, the Commission commenced a review of SoE reporting, with draft reports in 2013 and updates in 2018 examining issues of the approach and scope of SoE Reporting as well as examining if the Commission or other State Service Agencies would be best placed to undertake reporting.

In 2019, the Commission briefed the then Minister on current issues with SoE Reporting and sought approval for a review focusing on issues of which agency should be responsible for, and the content of, SoE Reporting.

The then Minister did not determine the Commission request for review, but did require the Ryan & Lawrie 2020 Independent Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission to examine if the Commission's historically designated roles might be better relocated to another agency or body, in particular the SoE reporting function.

A copy of the SoE review report is attached for information.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – 2009 SoE Executive Summary

Attachment 2 – Extract of Population and Settlement report from 2009 SoE report

Attachment 3 – 2018 update SoE review report

State of the Environment Tasmania 2009[Home](#)**People and Places Chapter**

People and Places Home

Population and Settlement Patterns**At a glance****Issues****Condition**

- Population and Settlement Patterns
- [Aboriginal Heritage](#)
- [Historic Heritage](#)



Source: Photograph courtesy of Tourism Tasmania and Nick Osborne

Pressure

- [Waste Management](#)
- [Energy Sources and Use](#)

Links to content in detail

This 'At a glance' section provides an overview of the issue of Population and Settlement Patterns. The detailed background report and supporting indicators are available through the following links:

- [Population and Settlement Patterns Issue Report](#)
- [Indicators](#)

At a glance – the issue

Settlements are 'the environment' for their citizens and most people interact with the environment through an urban setting. The state of the urban environment directly influences the **quality of life**, health and well-being, and sense of place that people appreciate.

There are a number of significant and compounding planning issues that continue to impact upon the sustainability and livability of settlements in Tasmania. Many issues are long-standing, such as the continuing dispersal of the population away from older denser areas and dependence on the private motor vehicle as a single mode of transport. These widely acknowledged planning issues now have a greater urgency in the context of the immense global challenge to create sustainable settlements.

There are emerging policy and planning priorities relating to the demographics of an ageing population, climate change, coastal vulnerability, vulnerability of settlements to bushfires and the unmet demand for infrastructure. Planning has a pivotal role in Tasmania with respect to creating more resilient futures for communities.

State of Population and Settlement Patterns in Tasmania

There is a great diversity in the human settlements found in Tasmania with the variety of environments giving rise to a corresponding variety of settings and purposes for these settlements. The mountainous terrain and rugged coastline, as well as the historical development and variety of roles performed by settlements, all contribute to this diversity. While many of these qualities remain evident, population decline and other demographic issues such as population ageing have started to impact on some community structures.

In this State of Environment (SoE) Report, a graphical index is included as a visual method to allow a comparison of priority issues. Further information on the index is provided at the Background to Index. The condition of settlements in Tasmania is assessed as variable, although information is generally lacking to evaluate the livability of urban and rural settlements against a comprehensive suite of measures. Increasing pressures on settlements are associated with demographic and environmental change and the unmet demand for infrastructure in outer urban centres.

Population and settlement patterns index



Condition, trends and changes

- Tasmania's population reached 500,300 in December 2008. Since the 2003 SoE Report, the population of Tasmania has increased by 24,100. Tasmania's share of the total population of Australia has continued to decline from 2.9% in 1976 to 2.7% in 1991, 2.6% in 1996, 2.4% in 2001 and 2.3% in 2008. The total resident population of Tasmania from the 2006 census data was 476,481 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 census data).
- Tasmania's population has become slightly more concentrated in the southeast corner of the State during the past five years. This continues a distribution trend that was evident in the 1996 and 2001 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census periods.
- Population growth in the major urban centres of Hobart, Launceston and Devonport (2006 ABS census), is a significant reversal of the decline that occurred in these centres between 1996–01. Population growth in the major centres highlights the positive effect of urban consolidation and renewal policies. However, this increase in population was insufficient to offset the continuing overall decline in the percentage of the Tasmanian population in the large urban centres of Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. The percentage of the Tasmanian population in major centres declined by -0.7% in 2001–06 (ABS 2008).
- In line with national trends, a significant proportion of Tasmania's growth has occurred in the outer local government areas of the major centres. Examples of local government areas experiencing significant population growth over the last census period include Brighton, Latrobe, Sorell and Kingborough. However, local government areas differ in the components of change (net migration and natural increase) that have contributed to their net gain (or loss) of population. Affordable housing has been one key influence on the net migration in a number of these municipalities.
- Between 2001–06, mid-size towns and centres increased their population from 113,483 to 122,187, an increase of 7.7%. Their share of State population also increased slightly from 24.9% to 25.7% (ABS 2008). Mid-size commuting centres have experienced some of the most rapid growth. Margate experienced the largest population increase of mid-sized centres during the period 2001–06. The population of Margate increased from 959 to 1,368 over this period, an increase of 42.6%. This was a major reversal from a population decline of -7.3% from 1996–2001. Pontville was the next fastest growing mid-size urban centre, increasing from a population of 1,652 to 2,163 (30.9%) in the period 2001–06.
- Dodges Ferry, Turners Beach, Legana, Sorell-Midway Point, Port Sorell and St Helens were some of the other rapidly growing mid-size centres. The population of Kingston-Blackmans Bay increased from 14,827 to 17,283, a percentage change of 16.6% in the period 2001–06.
- Population growth has been significant at some localities and villages (with less than 1,000 people). As with mid-size centres, localities that experienced the greatest continuing population growth include fringe-urban coastal centres such as Primrose Sands, South Arm, Dunally and Lewisham in the southeast; Howden, Kettering, and Kempton in the south; and Lanena-Blackwall and Grindelwald in the north.
- Tasmania's population is ageing rapidly and it recently became Australia's oldest state, with the median age passing that of South Australia (Jackson 2009). The number and

proportion of people who are of mature age and retirement age will increase markedly over the next two decades. Low fertility rates are likely to continue, so that young people will represent a declining proportion of the State's future population. An ageing population will have implications for development pressures and service provision as more retirees migrate to rural (tree change) and coastal (sea change) areas. This movement is contributing to increasing migration to, for example, the Break O'Day and Glamorgan/Spring Bay local municipal areas.

- The method of journey to work for Tasmania from the *Census of Population and Housing 2006* highlights this motor car dependence in Tasmania. For trips using only one method or mode of transport, the motor car (as driver or passenger) was used by 139,991 people or 85% of the 163,755 persons who travelled to work ([ABS 2008](#)). A positive sustainability measure is that approximately 10% of the working population in the State walk to work as the usual form of transport if they live within 5 km of their workplace. This is double the percentage of people who walk to work in other Australian cities.
- In fringe urban suburbs, accessibility to services often has to be traded off against affordability. The lack of accessibility to services is a significant form of disadvantage that particularly impacts upon low income households on the urban fringe in Hobart and Launceston. For some communities, increasing transport costs have significantly added to this burden of poor access to services in recent years. Accessibility planning is an important process in providing people better access to services and reducing the environmental and infrastructure impacts associated with the movement of people by motor vehicles.
- The importance of greenspace in towns and cities is widely acknowledged. However, greenspaces remain poorly measured and monitored. Studies have shown that greenspaces provide a range of environmental, economic and quality of life benefits for individuals and communities ([Pyper 2004](#); [House Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage 2005](#)). Little is known about patterns of urban greenspace in Tasmania and how this may positively influence a range of health and environmental outcomes. Access to a diversity of native vegetation and natural environments is a characteristic for settlements across many parts of the State. Hobart has the greatest proximity to a diversity of vegetation communities: there are some 49 different **TASVEG** communities within a 5 km radius of the Hobart urban centre. Proximity to natural environments can provide a broad measure of access to a range of **ecosystem services** provided by these environments, including recreation and health benefits and access to intact water catchments.
- Access to natural environments also presents risks to some settlements. These risks are usually assessed in terms of hazards (e.g. bushfires or coastal inundation), the level of hazard exposure to settlements or populations (e.g. people living in fire-prone areas or low-lying coastal communities), the vulnerability (susceptibility to a particular event), and impact (loss of life, loss of homes and infrastructure or communities).
- Settlements also affect many aspects of environmental condition described in this SoE Report. The ecological footprint is one way to describe some of these impacts and measure sustainability. An ecological footprint is the total area of productive land and water required to produce, on a continuous basis, all the resources consumed and to assimilate all the wastes produced by a defined population. Tasmania's ecological footprint has yet to be calculated and there are factors that may increase or decrease the State's footprint in comparison with other Australian states. Australia's Ecological Footprint in the *Living Planet Report 2008* was estimated at 7.8 global hectares (gha) per person ([WWF 2008](#)).

- [Issue Report - continued in depth](#)



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TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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State of the Environment Tasmania 2009[Home](#)

People and Places Chapter
Population and Settlement Patterns
Issue Report

People and Places Home
Issue Report Home

Background

[Background](#)[Assessing and measuring the current situation](#)[Indicator introduction](#)[Indicators](#)[Management responses](#)

Source: Photograph courtesy of Stephen Waight

Tasmania has a diverse range of communities and settlements, and many are located in natural, dramatic and picturesque settings. Most settlements in the State are located near the coast. Even the most inland population settlement in Tasmania, Tarraleah, is less than 75 km in a direct line from the coast. The mountainous terrain and rugged coastline, as well as the historical development and the variety of roles performed by settlements, all contribute to the diversity. There are, for example, the cities of Launceston, Hobart, Burnie and Devonport; the mining settlements on the west coast; the colonial towns of the Midlands; forestry towns such as Geeveston, Deloraine and Scottsdale; the fishing and holiday communities on Tasmania's east coast such as Bicheno, Orford and Triabunna; and the settlements of Bruny Island, King Island and the Furneaux Group.

Statewide map of Tasmania



However, behind the picturesque qualities of these settlements there are a number of significant and compounding planning issues that impact upon the sustainability and liveability of these places. Planning failures also reduce the ability of settlements to build resilient outcomes in response to key emerging challenges such as climate change, coastal vulnerability and an ageing population. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage 2005 inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025* concluded that Australia, like other countries around the world, is facing an immense challenge – to create sustainable cities. The Inquiry called for sustainable urban development to be placed at the forefront of government agendas.

Settlements in Tasmania continue to be subject to a variety of local, national and international factors: economic, environmental, social and demographic. Increases in house prices, housing demand, national housing policies and the popularity of coastal living have been significant continuing changes. Major regional shopping centre developments have occurred such as at Kingston and Cambridge. The Australian Government *First Home Owners Grant* has also influenced the urban form through the rapid development of new and more affordable suburbs such as Oakdowns on the eastern shore of Hobart and continued growth at Kingston in the south.

The impact of the global financial crisis in 2009 has not been reflected in the available measures of change in this 2009 SoE Report, which contains data that is largely based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Census of Population and Housing 2006* (see [ABS 2008](#)).

Population decline has occurred in some rural communities but the relative influence of different social, economic and environmental factors on this decline is largely unknown. For example, population decline has occurred in a number of traditional fishing communities around the State. For example, the population of Strahan on the west coast declined from 758 to 637 (-16% between 2001–06).

Hydro-electric related communities are another settlement type that have contributed to the diversity of settlements and dispersed character of these places in Tasmania. The 2006 ABS Census indicates a continuing decline in these settlements some years since the end of their hydro-electric development roles. Regional forest related communities are also a key part of the diversity of the State's settlements. While some of these forest communities such as Scottsdale (+3.4% to 1,969 between 2001–06) and Triabunna (+13.6% to 795 between 2001–06) have increasing population, other towns such as Geeveston have declining population (-7.9% to 762 between 2001–06).

Historic development of settlements in Tasmania

In the early years of Tasmanian settlement, most colonial settlers lived in seaports. During this period, ships were then the easiest way to transport livestock, people and cargo around the State. Launceston, Hobart, Burnie, Devonport, Strahan, Zeehan, Orford, Triabunna, Dover and Bicheno were the main settlements. The following maps show the diversity of settlements as represented in various maps from the 1945 *Atlas of Tasmania*. These maps highlight how changes in transport have strongly influenced the pattern of urban growth in the State.

Transport facilities, 1945 Infrastructure, 1945 Population, 1945



When motor cars became more affordable, there was a spread of the urban landscape around the larger cities and towns. Suburbs could develop in areas away from the fixed transport lines—on hill slopes, in bushland or close to rivers and beaches. After the Second World War, increasing car and truck ownership meant that new investment in roads and highways was necessary. Manufacturing underwent widespread relocation from inner city sites to new expansive fringe industrial estates, retailing moved to new one-stop regional shopping centres, and tracts of land previously used for rural activities were converted to accommodate the increased demand for suburban housing.

The role of new transport links in releasing new areas for development was particularly evident on Hobart's eastern shore after the opening of the floating bridge in 1943 and the Tasman Bridge in 1965. Similarly, the opening of the southern outlet in 1970 led to rapid growth in Kingston and Blackmans Bay in the 1970s and 1980s. In Launceston, arterial highways promoted urban expansion to the north in Riverside in the 1960s and to the west at Blackstone Heights in the 1970s and 1980s.

Aerial photo of Hobart Aerial photo of Launceston



Improvements to the Bass Highway and by-passes of urban centres encouraged the spread of settlements along the north-west coast. The most recent census data demonstrates an example of this with the population growth of Carrick from 2001–06 of 41%.

Settlements and the environment – livability

Settlements are 'the environment' for their citizens and most people interact with the environment through an urban setting. So the state of the urban environment directly influences the quality of life and the sense of place that people appreciate.

Urban design is a key contributing factor—with health, education, employment and other social considerations—in assessing the 'liveability' of settlements. Liveability is based on the cultural and natural relationship of people to the environment. The liveability of a place is determined by the way the quality of the built and natural environment, and the activities that take place within this environment, add to a person's or group's quality of life.

People may experience a sense of liveability in an urban environment through the natural setting, cultural heritage, vibrant and varied uses, intact streetscapes and ease of access to services. While liveability may be perceived to be subjective, many of its contributing qualities are measurable. Indeed, there are a number of global indexes of the most liveable cities. Vancouver in Canada was awarded the title of the World's Most Liveable City in 2009 ([The Economist 2009](#)). Some of the qualities of Vancouver would also be familiar to residents of Hobart, Launceston and other parts of Tasmania. These qualities include a favourable climate, natural setting, access to pollution-free beaches, recreation, safety, extensive natural areas and high standard of living.

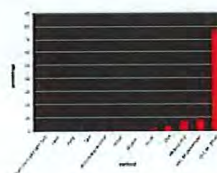
The following images show some of these qualities and issues of livability. The Queens Domain (below left) has many of the qualities of the natural environment (remnant grassy woodland vegetation communities and a number of threatened species) and activities (athletics, swimming and tennis). The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and Government House are located on Lower Domain Road. Yet some of these features and qualities are isolated and impacted by the surrounding road network. This road network also dictates that the dominant form of transport to the activities and natural environment within the Queens Domain is by motor vehicle. The impact of roads in separating people from open and vibrant urban spaces is also evident in Hobart central business district (CBD) where Sullivans Cove is isolated from the city by the network of major arterial roads, particularly Macquarie and Davey Streets. In Launceston, access to City Park (below right) is easy because it is not isolated from the CBD to the same extent by the surrounding road network.

Queens Domain, Hobart City Park, Launceston



Major centres in Tasmania are more likely to rank lower than other international settlement benchmarks due to their constrained transport options (modes such as cycling and mass transit) and more limited access to services. Tasmanian settlements centres are also typically highly car-dependent with vehicle ownership rates amongst the highest in Australia. The method of journey to work for Tasmania from the 2006 ABS Census highlights the State's dependence on the motor car. Trips using only one method or mode of transport, the motor car (as driver or passenger) was used by nearly 140,000 people or 85% of persons who travelled to work (from a total of 163,755 persons) ([ABS 2008](#)). A positive sustainability measure is that approximately 10% of the working population in Tasmania walk to work as the usual form of transport if they live within 5 km of their workplace, as shown in the following graph. This is double the percentage of people who walk to work in other Australian cities ([ABS 2008](#); [ABS 2008](#)).

Method of journey to work, Tasmania 2006



Greenspace and reserves

The importance of greenspace in towns and cities is widely acknowledged. Studies have shown that greenspace provides a range of environmental, economic and quality of life benefits for individuals and local communities ([Pyper 2004](#)). Open space is one of the key linkages between the urban environment, physical activity and positive health influences. This recognition is reflected in initiatives such as the Metropolitan Greenspace Program in Sydney that has sought to improve links between bushland, parks, waterways and population centres ([Department of Planning 2009](#)). The Commonwealth Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage noted in 2005 that the conservation of bushland, significant heritage and urban green zones were some of the practical sustainability actions that Australian cities should undertake ([House Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage 2005](#)).

However, urban greenspace is often difficult to quantify and compare ([Newton et al. 2001](#)). Little is known about patterns of urban greenspace in Tasmania and how this may positively influence a range of health and environmental outcomes. It is unknown how the available greenspace varies across different communities and suburbs in Tasmania and how Tasmania compares with mainland cities and towns. There are issues of distribution and access to the full range of urban greenspace, including backyard gardens, parks and sporting grounds, street trees and nature strips ([Pyper 2004](#)). Greenspace and reserve and bushland areas in Hobart are illustrated in the following maps.

Population and Settlement Patterns

Hobart greenspaces

Hobart reserves and bushland



Hobart and Launceston have some outstanding examples of public greenspace as highlighted in the Quickbird satellite data and aerial photography below. Quickbird satellite data is high resolution and can be an effective way to identify greenspace ([Barnett et al. 2004](#)). The Hobart Rivulet Linear Park is an example of greenspace that provides qualities of heritage significance, a connection between the mountain and the city, and a walking and cycling commuter route to inner suburbs. In Tasmania, the proximity to significant natural areas and reserves such as Wellington Park also complements the available urban greenspace. Wellington Park covers an area of 18,250 hectares.

Hobart Rivulet Linear Park walking track



Hobart, Oblique

Hobart and suburbs

Greater Hobart



Launceston, Oblique

Launceston

East Launceston



Tasmania's vegetation map (TASVEG) can also be used to identify the proximity of settlements across the State to a diversity of vegetation types. TASVEG data highlights that the proximity to a diversity of natural vegetation and environments is a feature of many of Tasmania's settlements. Hobart has the greatest proximity to diverse vegetation communities: there are some 49 different TASVEG communities within a 5 km radius of the Hobart urban centre. Towns on Tasmania's west coast such as Rosebery and Strahan are also close to significantly diverse vegetation communities. Towns and villages in the State's southeast with high level access to diverse vegetation communities include Kettering, Snug and Franklin. Access to natural environments can provide a broad measure of access to a range of ecosystem services provided by these environments, including recreation and health benefits and access to intact water catchments.

However, access to natural environments also presents risks to some settlements. These risks are usually assessed in terms of hazards (e.g. bushfires or coastal inundation), the level of hazard exposure to settlements or populations (e.g. people living in fire-prone areas or low-lying coastal communities), the vulnerability (susceptibility to a particular event), and impact (loss of life, loss of homes and infrastructure or communities)

Dispersed settlement patterns in fire susceptible bushland continue to present challenges in managing fire risk. Some settlements in low-lying coastal areas are vulnerable to storm events that may have a greater frequency and intensity because of climate change. Recent research has estimated that Australia's average annual insured loss due to natural perils to be around one billion dollars ([Crompton and McAneney 2008](#)). This study identified that the increasing cost of insured losses is overwhelmingly explained by demographic and societal changes. To date, there is no discernible evidence that human-induced climate change is significantly impacting Australian insured losses, ([Crompton and McAneney 2008](#)). Note that this research pre-dated the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires in early 2009.

Viewfields and landscape qualities

The subdivision of high ground areas, especially ridges, is a trend in many municipalities around Tasmania. Subdivisions in these vulnerable areas is a regional issue both in terms of changes to the physical environment and, because of the region's diverse topography, development in one municipality will be likely to have an effect on the image of another-one region's development is another region's view. Increased land value has meant that residential development is more economically viable on what was previously marginal land. In this regard, land values have partly offset the prohibitive cost of providing necessary infrastructure (e.g. water, sewage, roads).

Because much of the high ground and ridges around Hobart is owned privately, it is often prohibitively expensive for local government to acquire this land to protect bushland, skylines and viewfields. However, land purchase by local governments has occurred in Tasmania to protect these values. For example, in 2006, the Hobart City Council, in partnership with the Australian Government acquired Porter Hill in Sandy, Hobart. The purchase of Porter Hill at a cost of six million dollars was aimed at protecting an important wildlife corridor and a key feature of Hobart's skyline. Further information on Porter Hill is available from the Hobart City Council ([Porter Hill, Hobart](#)).

Viewfields and landscape qualities are measurable and guidelines for planning can be implemented. In Hobart, this was undertaken through the preparation of *Planning Guidelines for Urban Skylines and Hillfaces* ([Urban Skylines and Hillfaces Committee 2000](#)). This report outlines the steps needed to determine the relative visual sensitivity of skyline and hillface areas using:

1. elevation;
2. significant natural features;
3. slope; and
4. visibility.

In Tasmania, the importance of viewfields and landscape qualities is not confined to urban areas. As shown in the following map, the 1945 *Atlas of Tasmania* recognised the importance of scenic qualities for tourism.

Tourist map, 1945



Accessibility to services

Accessibility to services is generally viewed as the travel time between an individual requiring a service and the closest provider. The types of services needed within a community can be multi-faceted and depend on considerations such as the population characteristics of a local community. The characteristics of a local community are important as mobility will be more limited for the young or the old, thereby limiting their ability to use public or private transport to access services. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used to accurately measure access to a variety of services such as general practitioners, local corner stores and grocers, pharmacists, greenspace (ovals, parks and bushland) and recreational clubs. In a locationally advantaged suburb such as West Hobart, there is also likely to be better access to local jobs, services, public transport and fresh food shops.

West Hobart



In fringe urban suburbs, accessibility often has to be traded off against affordability. The lack of accessibility to services is a significant form of disadvantage that impacts particularly upon low income households. For some communities, increasing transport costs have significantly added to this burden of poor access to services in recent years. The House Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage noted that the cost of poorly managed urban development is significant, and that neighbourhoods that face spatial barriers to

employment and training may result in successive generations trapped in welfare dependency ([House Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage 2005](#)).

Settlements and transport

The strong tendency for centralised workplaces, and the potential for further dispersal of the resident population into low density rural-residential areas, tends to demand the construction of road infrastructure. The ubiquitous use of the private motor car for transport is a principal influence of both transport and settlement form. This further encourages the urban and suburban development of peripheral areas and further reliance on the road network.

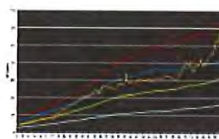
Motor transport, Hobart Bitumen road, Ulverstone



These patterns tend to be inefficient in terms of absolute space occupied and the costs of servicing with roads, sewerage and water. They may also be inequitable in terms of isolation from existing services for some sections of the population.

The following graph provides one key measure of the cost of transport in Hobart. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services for a variety of goods and services. Transportation has been selected in the graph and presented in comparison with the national CPI for goods. The graph shows the significant price increases and price volatility in automotive fuel in Hobart. The price of motor vehicles has remained relatively flat during the 1990s and 2000s. However, the price of transport fares has increased at a greater rate than fuel costs.

Consumer price index, transport, Hobart



The data points to three basic patterns: increasing private motor vehicle ownership, increasing proportions of trips by private motor car and decreasing urban density associated with the subdivision of previously rural land or bushland, primarily for housing. Time savings achieved through high quality outlet roads are largely annulled by residential changes driven by travel time and location preferences. However, detailed analysis of travel times by travel mode is required to measure these trends.

Data on average kilometres travelled by states and territories shows some variation over the 10 years, although the average kilometres travelled in 2007 was approximately the same as at the commencement of the time series in 1998. The Australian Capital Territory is the only jurisdiction to show a decline in average kilometres travelled over the period. The latest available data for 2007 shows that South Australians now drive fewer kilometres in private motor vehicles than Tasmanians.

There are also key relationships between land-use patterns, transport and impacts on human health, social equity and environmental quality. The increasing average age of the Tasmanian population is increasing and older persons are more likely to be injured or killed in motor vehicle accidents. The increasing frailty of the population also means that an increase in protection to road users is required. Further, an ageing population will increase the proportion of the population potentially disadvantaged through loss of access to services if they are no longer physically or financially able to drive.

Lifestyles are based on individual mobility and Tasmania has a highly dispersed settlement pattern. The dispersed pattern affords its own qualities of spaciousness and can reduce some impacts on the natural environment where native vegetation retention and stewardship exists. Lower density living and spaciousness also afford greater opportunity for food production. Conversely, Hobart and Launceston both have examples of higher density living with very high levels of amenity and there are clear environmental and infrastructure benefits in higher densities. These factors illustrate the contradictory issues associated with lower and higher density living.

Ecological footprints

The previous section identified that many people experience the environment through an urban or suburban setting. So the state of the urban environment influences the quality of life and the sense of place that people and visitors to the Tasmania appreciate. Settlements also affect many aspects of environmental condition described in this SoE Report.

The ecological footprint is one way to describe some of these impacts and to measure sustainability. An ecological footprint is the total area of productive land and water required to produce on a continuous basis all the resources consumed and needed to assimilate all the wastes produced by a defined population. For example, urban areas consume quantities of energy (electricity, gas etc), food (often transported long distances), materials (building and technological goods), land (for buildings and recreation) and water. At the same time, these urban areas generate large amounts of waste (atmospheric, chemical, water borne, solid and organic). The aim of the ecological footprint is to define how much land is required to support the region's population indefinitely at a given material standard. The idea of an ecological footprint is based on the work of William Rees ([Rees 1995](#)) and William Rees and Mathis Wackernagel ([Rees and Wackernagel 1994](#)).

Australia's Ecological Footprint in the *Living Planet Report 2008* was estimated at 7.8 global hectares (gha) per person per annum ([WWF 2008](#)). This is 2.8 times the average global Footprint (2.7 gha per person per annum), and well beyond the level of what the planet can regenerate on an annual basis – an equivalent of about 2.1 gha per person per annum. The ecological footprint of Victoria was assessed by the Victorian Commissioner for the Environment in 2008 at 6.8 gha per person per annum (see [Commissioner for the Environment 2008](#)). Victorians' ecological footprint is larger because people live in large cities and relatively large houses, travel long distances, and their energy needs are currently sourced primarily from fossil fuels.

The ecological footprint of Tasmania is yet to be calculated and there are factors that may increase or decrease the State's footprint in comparison with other Australian states and territories. Access to renewable energy will help to reduce Tasmania's ecological footprint, although it is unknown whether this would offset higher levels of motor vehicle dependency, dispersed settlements and other transport costs as an island State.

Population and Tasmania's environment

Tasmania has eight statistical boundaries: North Western Rural, Burnie Devonport, Greater Launceston, North-Eastern, Central North, Western, Southern and Greater Hobart (see, for example, [ABS 2009](#); [ABS 2009](#); [ABS 2008](#)). These boundaries are used by the ABS to assess population growth across the State.

Statistical geography, Tasmania



For example, the boundaries of Greater Hobart are defined by the ABS as spreading 10 km south to Kingston and Margate, and 20 km east to Sorell, confined only to the west by Mt Wellington. Suburban Hobart now extends almost continuously 20 km north of the CBD up the western side of the Derwent Estuary to Granton. It is also spreading increasingly on the eastern shore, and numerous 'satellite' towns now surround Hobart with commuter/commercial influences extending as far as the Tasman Peninsula, Orford, Kempton and Huonville. Urban centres, towns and localities are components of these larger statistical boundaries.

Tasmania's population reached 500,300 people in December 2008, an increase of 4,900 people over the previous year. Tasmania had the smallest percentage gain in population over the 12 month period ([ABS 2009](#)). These estimates are preliminary data for the year to 30 June 2008. The total resident population of Tasmania from the 2006 census data was 476,481 (2006 census Quick Stats). Since the 2003 SoE Report, the population of Tasmania has increased by 24,100. Tasmania's share of the total population of Australia has continued to decline from 2.9% in 1976 to 2.7% in 1991, 2.6% in 1996, 2.4% in 2001 and 2.3% in 2008.

Title: [State and territory population, December, 2008](#)

Source: [ABS 2009](#)

Population distribution and regional change

Tasmania's population has become slightly more concentrated in the southeast corner of the State during the past five years. In spatial analysis, a gravity centre of a region is the location of maximum accessibility for the greatest number of people. Shifts in the gravity centre provide a measure of change in population distribution and concentration. Gravity centre analysis (a measure of spatial distribution and concentration) was undertaken for the population of Tasmania for the 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 census. The results indicate a slight shift to the southeast in the gravity centre of the Tasmanian population to the southeast of the State.

In line with national trends, a significant proportion of Tasmania's growth has occurred in the outer Local Government Areas of the major centres. However, it is also evident that population growth is also now occurring in the major urban centres of Hobart, Launceston and Devonport (see the embedded table). This is a significant reversal of the population decline that occurred in these centres between 1996–01. This inner city population growth is also a key trend in the major mainland cities of Sydney and Melbourne ([House Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage 2005](#)).

Population growth in the major centres highlight the positive effect of urban consolidation/densification policies. It is a positive trend in contributing to urban renewal and revitalisation. It also highlights the emerging preference for inner city accommodation rather than the established trend of the population dispersing away from older denser areas. However, this increase in population was insufficient to offset the continuing overall decline in the percentage of the Tasmanian population in the Hobart urban centre. The percentage of the Tasmanian population in major centres declined by -0.7% in 2001–06 ([ABS 2008](#)).

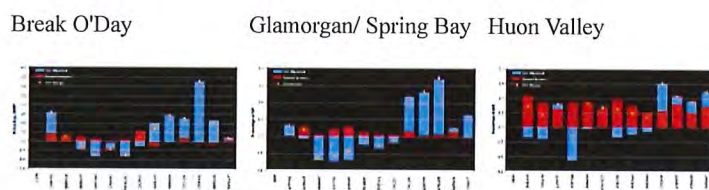
Title: [Population change in large population centres](#)

Source: [ABS 2008](#)

Local government areas on the fringe of major urban centres that have experienced significant population growth over the last five years include Brighton, Latrobe, Sorell and Kingborough. Local government areas differ in the components of change (net migration and natural increase) that have contributed to their net gain or loss of population. The following graphs highlight the contribution of net migration in population increase in selected local government areas. Affordable housing has been one key influence on the net migration in a number of these municipalities. More information on calculations and data for all Tasmanian local government areas can be found on the [Tasmania's Population](#) website.



The following graphs show that net migration is also a key influence on population growth in many local government areas around the State such as the Break O'Day and Glamorgan/Spring Bay municipalities.



Residential density

Residential or dwelling density is the number of dwellings within a given area (often expressed as dwellings per hectare). For a given area, an increase in dwelling density will come about as a result of net gain in dwelling numbers (dwellings constructed less dwellings demolished) and may be indicative of urban consolidation.

The count of private residential dwellings in an area usually includes some that are unoccupied at a given time. Growth in the number of dwellings does not necessarily require an increase in population. Housing demand can increase at a faster rate than the population because of smaller household sizes. Population data for Tasmania show that the numbers and proportions of one- and two-person households are growing. This information is presented in the residential density indicator.

Age-sex structure

Similar to Australia, the population is ageing rapidly in Tasmania. A growing proportion of people from the large 'baby boomer' generation (those born between 1946 and 1965) is now of mature age. The number and proportion of people who are of mature age and retirement age will increase markedly over the next two decades. The low fertility rates are likely to continue, so that young people will represent a declining proportion of the State's future population. Low birth rates result in a decline in the proportion of younger people and an increase in the proportion of older people. Tasmania has recently become the Australian state with the oldest population, with its median age passing that of South Australia ([Jackson 2009](#)). Changes in the age structure of the State's population can be represented in population pyramids. The population pyramids detailed in the indicator on population aging show the changes in the age structure of the Tasmanian population from 1971 to 2006 ([Jackson 2009](#)).

An ageing population will have implications for the structure of the Tasmanian society, economy and the environment, including the following:

- more retirees migrating to rural (tree change) and coastal (sea change) areas with high natural amenity, leading to increasing development pressures as indicated in the graphs on migration in the Break O'Day and Glamorgan/Spring Bay municipalities
- increased demand for goods, services and infrastructure, including public transport and community support;
- difficulties in attracting and retaining younger skilled workers;

- a higher proportion of people who are not in the workforce (retirees) compared to workers resulting in difficulties in paying for social and environmental welfare; and
- more people with age-related health difficulties, and the associated increase in demand for appropriate accommodation, hospitals and health care.

Household structure and change

While population growth is driven by natural increase and net migration, other factors influence the number and type of households that are formed. Household arrangements are closely associated with life stage and age. Older populations are more likely to have increasing numbers of small households ('empty nesters') and aged single person households. Such household trends and changes have been evident in Tasmania. These life stage and population ageing changes will require new forms of flexible housing, infrastructure and services. Proximity to services and public transport will be an important criterion for older populations.

However, building approvals data for Tasmania indicate that a rapid change in the diversity of housing is needed to meet these emerging needs for an ageing population. Population ageing will result in more households containing fewer people than today. Most future households in the State will consist of only one or two people. These changes are already evident in Tasmania as shown in the following table.

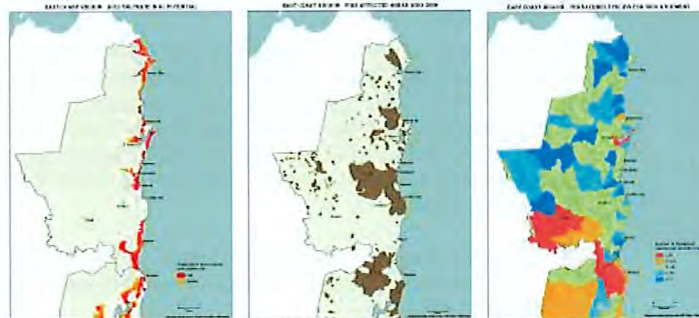
Title: [Change in household composition and dwelling structure, 1996-2006](#)

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing

Assessing and measuring the current situation

Requirements for information differ between local and regional planning and SoE reporting. In this regard, SoE reporting is concerned with gaining a better understanding of conditions, trends and changes in settlements with a view to informing policy and decision making. It relies on broad measures or indicators of the condition of settlements and their environments. Local and regional planning requires multiple layers of spatial information. An example of the information requirements is illustrated in the East Coast Regional Planning Project. The maps below form part of the Project and they show threatened species and areas potentially affected by acid sulfate soils and fire. The costs of undertaking new data collection often means a reliance on existing data that are readily available particularly through sources such as The List.

Acid sulfate soils Fire affected areas Threatened species



Planning professionals, other decision makers and the wider community require measures or indicators to be able to understand the consequences of particular decisions and to know whether planning intervention has produced benefits such as through improvements in urban design, liveability and reduced environmental impacts. Planning professionals also need to know whether decisions are helping to avoid unintended hazards for particular communities such as a result of coastal inundation or fire events.

Indicator introduction

Indicators may be physical, chemical, biological or socio-economic and they provide useful information about the whole system. In SoE reporting, indicators are also often classified as to whether they relate to the condition of the environment, pressures caused by people on the environment or management responses (in seeking to reduce pressure and improve condition).

The indicators included in this SoE report provide a guide to some of the key information requirements. The Index of Indicators Table detailed below provides a component of the state of the population and settlement environment because there are a number of limitations and caveats with data availability and the data presented. One key limitation is that it is difficult to know whether settlements in Tasmania are becoming more or less dispersed. The urban area is not easily definable because it consists of a continuum from heavily built with small lot sizes to lightly-built with large lot sizes in bushland settings. The urban area can be based on a physical or land cover description, statistical boundaries such as Greater Hobart, community-based boundaries such as the location of towns and suburbs, or municipal boundaries.

Population data are collected through the Census of Population and Housing 2006 that is undertaken every five years by the ABS (Australia's latest census was in August 2006) (see [ABS 2008](#)). Challenges related to

these estimates arise particularly in the periods between the census collection dates, particularly relating to net migration. More information on these issues can be found on the [Tasmania's Population](#) website.

In the 2009 SoE website, an indicator may be used across more than one issue report or chapter. For example, measures of sea-level rise around the Tasmanian coastline tell us that a rise in the level of the seas has been occurring at a sustained rate over the last 100 years (see [Hunter 2007](#)). These changes tell us about pressures that might occur to natural values and communities that are found in low-lying coastal areas as a consequence of increased storm surges and rising sea-levels.

Index of population and settlement patterns indicators

Condition indicators	Pressure indicators	Response indicators
Indicators	Indicator description	
Population Distribution	Reports on absolute and percentage changes in population and number of households	
Population Ageing	Describes changes in demography and population ageing in Tasmania	
Residential and Population Density	Uses residential density and population density as measures of the spatial concentration of dwellings and populations	
New Dwelling Completions and Subdivision Activity	Provides information on how and where urban growth is affecting environmental and natural resource values	
Coastal Discharges	Reports on the location and number of licensed point-source discharges into estuaries, lagoons, bays and coastal waters, including the type and volume of materials discharged	
Sea-level Change	Reports on Tasmanian regional implications of sea-level change	
Coastal Inundation Hazard	reports on urban coastal inundation hazard	

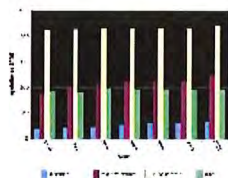
Indicators

Tasmanian population centre of gravity 1991-2001



Source: [ABS 2008](#)

Population change by urban centres, localities and rural areas, 1976-2006



Source: [ABS 2008](#) and [ABS 2007](#)

Population change by municipality, 2001-2006

Population Distribution - at a glance

- [Continued in depth](#)

This indicator presents data on changes in population size and distribution in Tasmania from the 1996, 2001 and 2006 census ([ABS 2008](#)). Changes in population size and distribution can have environmental effects. Settlements with growing populations that are expanding place additional pressure on the environment through development and increased human activity. Conversely, settlements with declining populations may lack sufficient resources to address existing and emerging environmental concerns. Expansion of settlements into environmentally inappropriate locations may also pose risks for residents of these communities. Key findings are as follows:

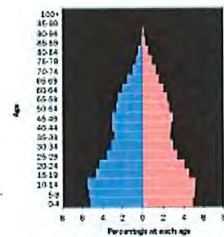
- Tasmania's resident population in December 2008 was 500,300 ([ABS 2009](#)). On the census night in 2006, the total population (location on census night) of Tasmania excluding, overseas visitors, was 454,841 ([ABS 2006](#)).
- In spatial analysis, a gravity centre of a region is the location of maximum accessibility for the greatest number of people. Shifts in the gravity centre provide a measure of change in population distribution and concentration. Gravity centre analysis (a measure of spatial distribution and concentration) was undertaken for the population of Tasmania for the 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 census. The results indicate a slight shift to the southeast in the gravity centre of the Tasmanian population.
- Between 2001–06, the major centres of Devonport, Launceston and Hobart experienced a combined population growth of 2.9% compared with a stable population between 1996–01. The Launceston urban centre experienced the largest population growth of the three centres of 4.3% from 2001–06.
- Between 2001–06, mid-size centres increased their population from 113,483 to 122,187, an increase of 7.7%. Their share of State population increased slightly from 24.9% to 25.7% ([ABS 2008](#)). The graph highlights that population increase in Tasmania has largely been concentrated in mid-size centres and, to a lesser amount, in localities. Mid-size commuting centres have experienced some of the most rapid growth.
- Margate experienced the largest population increase of mid-sized centres during the period 2001–06. The population of Margate increased from 959 to 1,368 over this period, an increase of 42.6%. This was a major reversal from a population decline of -7.3% from 1996–2001. Pontville was the next fastest growing mid-size urban centre, increasing from a population of 1,652 to 2,163 (30.9%) in the period 2001–06.
- Dodges Ferry, Turners Beach, Legana, Sorell-Midway Point, Port Sorell and St Helens were some of the other rapidly growing mid-size centres. The population of Kingston-Blackmans Bay increased from 14,827 to 17,283, a percentage change of 16.6% in the period 2001–06. Once the population of Kingston-Blackmans Bay exceeds 20,000, it will be classified as a major centre.
- The mid-size centres that experienced the greatest continuing population growth are typically fringe-urban coastal centres, although significant growth also occurred in a number of rural centres such as Perth, Deloraine, Westbury, Longford and St Helens.



Source: [ABS 2008](#)

- Population growth has been significant at some localities and villages. As with mid-size centres, localities that experienced the greatest continuing population growth include fringe-urban coastal centres such as Primrose Sands and Lewisham in the south and Lanena-Blackwall and Grindelwald in the north.
- Significant growth also occurred in a number of rural centres within a relatively short commuting distance of major centres. Examples include Howden, Dunalley, Kettering, South Arm and Kempton in the south. In the north, population grew rapidly in Carrick from 312 to 439 between 2001–06. Carrick is in close commuting distance to Launceston.
- In the midlands region, Campbell Town and Ross increased their population slightly while Outlands experienced a small population decline.
- A number of key fishing communities in Tasmania have experienced population decline between the census periods. Population decline occurred at Stanley, Dover, Bicheno and Strahan.
- Settlements are also affected by changes in the economy and industrial restructuring. Highlighting changes to its role as a centre for hydro-electricity development on Tasmania's west coast, the population of Tullah declined by 21.9% to 196 people in 2006.
- Local Government areas are coarse regional boundaries and considering population change using such these areas in population analysis will often mask significant local or regional trends. For example, significant population growth in centres within commuting distance to a major centre may mask population decline in other parts of the same municipality.
- The map shows the rapid population growth experienced in Sorell, Brighton and Kingborough in the southeast. The growth in mid-size centres such as Margate and Kingston-Blackmans Bay and localities such as Howden contributes to the significant overall growth experienced in the Municipality of Kingborough. Similarly, the rapid population growth experienced in mid-size centres such as Dodges Ferry and Sorell-Midway Point and localities such as Lewisham contributes to the rapid population growth experienced in the Municipality of Sorell.
- Population decline in a number of key centres on the west coast contributes to the overall decline in population in the Municipality of West Coast during the period 2001–06. Several key mining and fishing communities recorded a declining population. The population of Queenstown declined by 10%, while the localities of Tullah, Roseberry, Zeehan and Strahan also declined.

Population, 1971



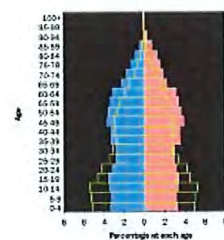
Population Ageing - at a glance

- [Continued in depth](#)

This indicator reports on the ageing of the Tasmanian population. The following analysis of numerical and structural ageing in the State is provided by Natalie Jackson from the University of Tasmania. More information can be found on the [Tasmania's Population](#) website.

- In 2009, 2010 and 2011, Tasmania had between 2,200 and 2,300 more people aged 65+ years than it did in the previous year. In 2012, as baby boomers begin to reach the age of 65, the annual increment is expected to increase to 3,586 aged 65+ years, and it will remain around 3,000 additional 65+ year olds every year until approximately 2026, after which the annual increase will slowly subside.
- The outcome of structural shifts will see those aged 65+ years increase from their current 15% share of the total population to around 27% by 2056.

Population, 2008



Dwellings per hectare, Hobart



Residential and Population Density - at a glance

- [Continued in depth](#)

This indicator reports on residential density and population density, which are used as measures of the spatial concentration of dwellings and populations. The environment is influenced by settlement density. High density development and the high per capita land consumption rates associated with low density development can both result in negative environmental consequences. Residential or dwelling density is the number of dwellings within a given area that is often expressed as dwellings per hectare. Population density is a measure of the number of persons living within a given land area. Growth in the number of dwellings may occur without a corresponding increase in population. A decline in household occupancy may increase the number of dwellings without an increase in population as people move to lower density housing options.

Dwellings per hectare,
Launceston

- Residential density and population density data for this indicator were sourced from the ABS 2006 Census ([ABS 2006](#)). Compared with Census Collector District boundaries use in the 2003 SoE Report, the draft mesh-blocks used in this SoE Report for mapping density provide a finer scale resolution.
- Mesh-blocks were developed by the ABS as a new micro-level of geographic unit, and they are about four or five times smaller than Census Collector Districts. Mesh-blocks are small so that they can aggregate reasonably accurately to many different geographical regions ([ABS 2003](#)). Of particular importance for this SoE Report is that they have the capability of aggregating more accurately to river catchments and Interim Biogeographical (ecological) Regions.
- Data on changes to occupancy rates in Tasmania are also included in this indicator. These data show that the numbers of one and two person households are growing in Tasmania.

Area of subdivisions,
2000–05Greater Hobart
subdivisions, 2000–05

New Dwelling Completions and Subdivision Activity - at a glance

- [Continued in depth](#)

This indicator reports on subdivision activity for the period 2000–05. The data for this indicator were extracted and compiled early in the reporting period for this SoE Report, and subdivision activity is based on data extracted from the VISTAS database ([DPIWE 2005](#)). Urban growth occurs as a progression from subdivision activity, to building approvals and completion of new dwellings. Various information sources allow these activities to be identified and mapped. The maps included in this indicator are based on the data contained in the following table.

Title: [Subdivisions by locality and area, 2000-2005](#)

Source: [DPIWE 2005](#) data extraction from VISTAS provided by Mark Parssey, DPIWE

- Subdivision activity provides an indication of the location and intensity of development pressure. Subdivision may occur as 'infill' development in relative proximity to existing services and infrastructure or as growth at the urban periphery. The latter may be associated with greater potential for environmental impacts on native vegetation and social impacts arising from isolation from existing services and infrastructure. The number of dwellings constructed is both a response to housing needs and population growth, and a pressure on resources, such as land, infrastructure, materials and energy.
- The VISTAS subdivision data indicates that in 2005 the largest total area of subdivision activity occurred in localities including: Kingston (>90 ha), Primrose Sands (34 ha) and Rokeby (79 ha). Subdivisions also occurred in regional centres such as Bronte Park (28 ha). Subdivision activity, as recorded in the VISTAS database, may occur for a number of reasons such as splitting or consolidating rural land titles as well as subdivision for housing development. In the case of the former, land use and land cover may not change appreciably as a result of the subdivision. In contrast, subdivision for housing development of some other form of development is likely to result in changes to land cover and, in some cases, loss of native vegetation or natural values.

Subdivision, Claremont Subdivision, Oakdowns



Subdivision, Tranmere Subdivision, Sorell



Sewage treatment plants
(north)Sewage treatment plants
(south)

Coastal Discharges - at a glance

- [Continued in depth](#)

This Indicator focuses on emissions to water from wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), industry, and waste treatment and disposal services. Much of this information is derived from the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI). Recreational water quality in the Derwent Estuary is also included as a measure of impacts from coastal discharges. Key points are summarised below.

- The Wastewater Management Unit within the Environment Division of DPIWE regulates Level 2 (>100 kilolitres/day) WWTPs in Tasmania. At the time of writing this SoE Report, the Wastewater Management Unit regulated around 90 wastewater treatment plants around the State. Local Councils also regulate smaller wastewater treatment activities.
- The data indicate that improvements appear to have been made at WWTPs located at Macquarie Point, Prince of Wales Bay, Rosny, Riverside, Ti-Tree Bend and Wynyard. Some of the improvements may be due to increased chlorination of water. For example, increased chlorine emissions were reported to the NPI in 2006–07 for Macquarie Point, Rosny and Ti-Tree Bend.
- Total reported emissions to water of nitrogen, phosphorous, ammonia and chlorine have all increased between 2000–01 and 2006–07. Some of this rise is likely to reflect an increase in treatment of wastewater where previously this waste was discharged directly to estuaries untreated ([Aqueenal and DEPHA 2008](#)).
- The 2004 report card on the Derwent Estuary reported a mixed performance for 2003–04, with an overall increase in some contaminants from sewage plants (suspended solids up by 20%, dissolved nitrogen up by 5%) but a reduction in BOD (down 10%) ([Derwent Estuary Program 2004](#)). A recent report card on the Derwent Estuary (2007) states that sewage treatment plants continue to contribute the majority of nutrients to the Derwent Estuary ([Derwent Estuary Program 2007](#)). In 2006, dissolved nitrogen loads from WWTPs remained relatively steady, while phosphorus loads increased by 10%. Of the 12 plants around the Derwent Estuary, the Selfs Point and Rokeby plants treat wastes to a tertiary level and the two Brighton Council plants have achieved full effluent reuse.
- In 2008, the State of the Tamar Estuary Report identified that there are ten WWTPs in the Tamar Valley, of which seven discharge treated effluent into the Tamar River ([Aqueenal and DEPHA 2008](#)). In 2005, combined total average daily flow from all 10 plants was approximately 57,000 kilolitres; and about 70% of this volume derived from the Ti-Tree Bend plant (the largest STP WWTP in Tasmania). The Ti-Tree Bend facility also accounted for the majority of sewage derived total suspended solids (TSS) discharged into the Tamar Estuary. The Riverside, Hobblers Bridge and Newnham WWTPs all had elevated levels of thermotolerant coliforms in their effluent.
- During the 2006–07 and 2008–09 seasons, most of the popular swimming beaches located in the Derwent Estuary received either good or intermediate ratings. The best water quality was measured at Taroona, Hinsby and Blackmans Bay beaches followed by Opossum Bay and Little Sandy Bay. In 2006–07, Howrah Beach and the eastern end of Nutgrove Beach were upgraded from poor to intermediate water quality ([Derwent Estuary Program 2007](#)). At the time, Nutgrove West and Browns River were assessed as suitable for swimming. In 2008–09 the western end of Nutgrove Beach continued to have intermediate water quality and the New Norfolk Esplanade was upgraded from intermediate to good ([Derwent Estuary Program 2008](#)).
- Major industries discharging contaminants to the Derwent Estuary in 2007 include the Zinifex Hobart Smelter, Norske Skog paper mill located at Boyer, and Nyrstar Hobart Smelter.
- Major industries discharging contaminants to the Tamar Estuary in 2006 include the Rio Tinto Alcan aluminium smelter, TEMCO ferroalloy plant and Beaconsfield Gold Mine. Mining operations at Beaconsfield were discontinued between April 2006 and April 2007 and therefore, NPI reporting thresholds were not reported against in 2006–07. Gunns Tamar North/South wood chipping facility (formerly Boral Timber and North Forest Products) discharged directly to the Tamar Estuary up until September 2005, after which a new irrigation system for wastewater commenced operation.
- Other industry sectors emit metals and compounds into water. The NPI identified 10 facilities in Tasmania classified as Metal Ore Mining (ANZSIC group 080); 5 facilities as Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Manufacturing (ANZSIC code 1510); and 3 facilities as Waste Treatment and Disposal Services (ANZSIC code 2921) reporting emissions to water in 2006–07.

Key tide gauge stations
in Tasmania

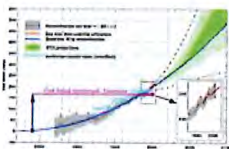
Sea-level Change - at a glance



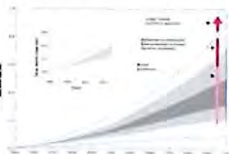
Distribution of relative sea-level trend



Historical sea-level



TAR and AR4 projections



• [Continued in depth](#)

This indicator reports on Tasmanian regional implications of data from the National Tidal Centre (NTC) in South Australia, which calculates annual sea-level trends at 35 longer-term sites (>25 years) under the Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project (ABSLMP) and 16 high accuracy SEAFRAME (SEA-level Fine Resolution Acoustic Measuring Equipment) sites around Australia. Other key references used for this indicator are the *Indicative Mapping of Tasmanian Coastal Vulnerability to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise* ([Sharples 2006](#)); *Historical and Projected Sea-level Extremes for Hobart and Burnie, Tasmania* ([Hunter 2008](#)); and the DPIW policy report titled: *Sea-Level Extremes in Tasmania: Summary and Practical Guide for Planners and Managers* ([DPIW 2008](#)).

- Sea-level measurements based on an early colonial tide gauge at Port Arthur suggest a rise of at least 13 cm, with an average annual rate of $0.8 \text{ mm/yr} \pm 0.2 \text{ mm/yr}$ relative to the land in the southeast of Tasmania during the period 1841 to 2002 ([Pugh et al. 2002](#); see also [Hunter et al. 2003](#); [Sharples 2006](#)). Much of this rise has probably occurred during the last century. The southward extension of the warmer Eastern Australian Current (EAC) waters is also predicated to result in a sea-level rise above that of global background sea-level rise.
- Data from the NTC indicates that the overall pattern of relative sea-level trends around the Australian coastline, including those at Burnie, Hobart and Spring Bay, is geographically uniform. Burnie (-1.5 mm/yr) is among five sites showing negative trends partly due to unstable tide gauge datum (particularly prior to 1975). The overall average relative sea-level rise around Australia is 1.2 mm/yr ([NTC 2007](#)). This is consistent with a global average sea-level rise over the last 100 years of $1.7 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm/yr}$ ([Church et al. 2005](#)).
- According to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, over 20% of the Tasmanian coastline will be at risk from sea-level rise, erosion and recession, and more severe storm surges associated with climate change ([DCC 2008](#)).
- In areas where coastal flats grade up more gradually and any break of slope is less distinct, there may be a more significant increase in the areas flooded in these places under the maximum 2100 scenario as compared to the 2004 scenario ([Sharples 2006](#)). However, in many other flood prone coastal locations the land area that would be flooded under the maximum 2100 scenario is only a little greater than that which is potentially prone to flooding under the 2004 scenario. Although the 2100 maximum flooding scenario involves a significant rise in water levels, this extra rise is expected to create only a minor additional area of flooding since the increased flooding depth is accommodated by a minor horizontal extension over the more steeply-rising ground. Overall, approximately 247 km² of Tasmanian coastal areas (including Bass Strait islands) would be flooded by 0.01% exceedance storm surge events by 2100 ([Sharples 2006](#)).
- Coastlines that are subject to development are less resilient to changes in sea-levels. In addition, if human responses to rising sea-levels are to defend the coast with artificial structures such as sea walls, existing potential for natural shoreline adjustment to the changing conditions will be further reduced. This may result in less natural shoreline and fewer areas for the retreat of vulnerable plants, animals and landforms.
- Sea-level projections for the 21st century from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report (TAR) of 2001 and the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of 2007 identify that observed sea-level is currently tracking near the upper limit of the IPCC model projections from the start date of the projections in 1990 (see [Rahmstorf et al. 2007](#); [IPCC 2001](#); [IPCC 2007](#)). The IPCC TAR Report model projections estimated a sea-level rise of between 9–88 cm by 2100. The IPCC AR4 model projections (with a 90% confidence range) revised this estimate and calculated a sea-level rise of between 18–59 cm by 2095 plus an allowance of another 10–20 cm for a potential dynamic response related to the melting of land ice in Antarctica and Greenland (see also [Church et al. 2008](#); [IPCC 2007](#); [Church et al. 2006](#); [Earth Observatory 2006](#)). However, more recent published work suggests that a rise of up to 2 m is possible ([ACE CRC 2008](#)) and it could be more than 5 m by 2100 ([Hansen 2007](#)). CSIRO promotes the range 18–79 cm for Australia ([CSIRO 2009](#)). Even with a rise of mean sea-level of approximately 50 cm, it is predicated that events which now happen every few years could occur every few days in 2100 and that larger increases in the frequency of extremes could occur in Bass Strait, along the coastline of Western Australia and urban centres such as Sydney, Brisbane and Hobart ([Hunter 2007](#)).

Clarence



Coastal Inundation Hazard - at a glance

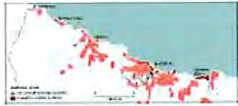
• [Continued in depth](#)

This indicator responds broadly to the recommendation in the report entitled *Indicative Mapping of Tasmanian Coastal Vulnerability to Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise: Explanatory Report* ([Sharples 2006](#)), which notes that the indicative coastal vulnerability assessment should be used in combination with

Latrobe



Central Coast



West Tamar



socio-economic data and trends to identify indicative coastal vulnerability areas that are under significant pressure from development or use, and hence should be priorities for site-specific vulnerability assessments. Information is included on key urban areas that are vulnerable to sea-level rise. The following eight residential zones that are potentially vulnerable to coastal inundation that are exemplified in the indicator are West Tamar, Waratah-Wynyard, Latrobe, George Town, Clarence, Circular Head, Central Coast and Break O'Day.

Information is also drawn from a report prepared by SGS Economics and Planning conducted a study on coastal inundation for the Clarence City Council in response to Council and community concerns about erosion of beaches and flooding events in coastal areas (see [SGS Economics and Planning 2009](#); [SGS Economics and Planning 2008](#)). The study was initiated by Clarence City Council in response to Council and community concerns about erosion of beaches and flooding events in coastal areas. The project was supported by the State Emergency Service and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change ([Clarence City Council 2009](#)). Eighteen coastal locations were assessed using six key and thirteen secondary variables. Erosion and recession hazard lines were calculated for a 100 year ARI (1% AEP) erosion event with present-day conditions and for 2050 and 2100 ([SGS Economics and Planning 2009](#); [SGS Economics and Planning 2008](#)). The primary risks of erosion/recession, wave runup and inundation were quantified (where relevant) for each location for a 100 year Average Return Interval (ARI) event (which is equal to a 1% Average Exceedance Probability (AEP) event). The results were expressed as indicative setbacks for erosion/recession and as elevations for wave runup and inundation. The findings of this study are important because they are relevant to other municipalities in Tasmania that are needing to assess the impacts of climate change, sea-level rise and coastal inundation and plan for inundation and erosion hazards into the future.

- The SGS Economics and Planning study found that while risks are projected for five sea level scenarios (present day, mid and high range for 2050 and 2100), there is an increasing probability of damaging events occurring each year between these dates in the Clarence City Council municipal area, as well as an increased level of damage expected from such events. More property is also being affected each year.
- At present, the Clarence City Council and the community face ongoing issues concerning erosion of beaches, flood risks and rising salinity of the groundwater.
- The SGS Economics and Planning study also found that adaptation can reduce impacts of sea level rise from a factor of 10 up to a factor of 100, and economic costs of adaptation would be minor compared to the damage avoided ([SGS Economics and Planning 2009](#)). The study recommended that for sea-level rise related erosion to property, planning set backs ought to be established that allow for expected erosion over the coming century while ensuring continued foundation stability. In addition, while setting floor levels to suit 2100 high scenario flood effects or set backs for erosion may be appropriate as a general 'deemed to comply' basis for development, it was also suggested that the emphasis should be on encouraging performance based responses that maintain acceptable levels of risk over the life of the structure. Thus, a dwelling designed to be moved back from a moving erosion face, piled to be stable in spite of erosion and capable of withstanding waves or a structure designed to be elevated readily as sea levels rise might comply with acceptable planning provisions.
- For areas where climate change and sea-level rise risks cannot be managed realistically (e.g. where erosion threatens future development and protection is either impractical or undesirable) SGS Economics and Planning recommends that a freeze on development approvals may be the most appropriate mitigation planning approach.
- Significantly, the SGS Economics and Planning study identifies that it is appropriate that community members who choose to live in coastal areas that are vulnerable to sea-level rise and gain the substantial benefits these areas provide—even while knowing the long term risks—accept and pay the costs of managing any climate change related risks that they incur. The study deems that it 'would be poor public policy to subsidise people to locate in areas of known increasing risk' ([SGS Economics and Planning 2009](#)).

Management responses

Climate and energy initiatives

The Tasmanian Government has partnered with local government, government business enterprises (GBEs), research institutions, industry and the general community to learn more about the implications of climate change and develop strategies aimed at adaptation. Some key initiatives include the following:

- In 2009, the Tasmanian Government announced that the 5-Star energy efficiency standards (R-0.5 building standard) will apply to new residential dwellings and extensions in Tasmania from 1 January 2010 (see [Singh 2009](#)).

- The Tasmanian Government also commissioned a report undertaken by the University of Tasmania that found that low-income households are likely to be healthier if their homes are energy efficient. The report found that measures such as stopping draughts, using insulation, installing solar hot water systems, purchasing energy smart appliances and making the most of natural sunlight, all contributed to better health of residents (see [Department of Infrastructure 2008](#)).
- The Tasmanian Climate Change Office was established in 2008. A target reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) of 60% by 2050 was set through the [Climate Change \(State Action\) Act 2008](#).
- The *Building Resilience into Natural Systems: Adaptation to Climate Change* project was initiated to develop and implement adaptation responses to reduce the vulnerability of natural values to climate change.
- Coastal geomorphic mapping has been extended and the *Climate Change and Coastal Risk Management Project* has been established to improve the information on extreme sea-levels in Tasmania.
- Some local councils are conducting climate change related risk assessments (e.g. the Clarence City Council study on coastal inundation for Clarence coastal areas).
- Collaborative projects such as *Tasmania Sustainable Yields* and *Climate Futures for Tasmania* aim to provide the science to help underpin the planning and sustainable management of the State's water resources and interpret climate projections at a local scale.

Planning scheme review and planning templates

Since 2003, a more consistent approach to development control has been required. Councils preparing a draft planning scheme are required to use a common format and uniform definitions of uses, zones and administrative provisions. These are set out in *The Format and Structure of Planning Schemes - a Common Key Elements Template*. This template must be used, unless the Tasmanian Planning Commission approves a variation.

More recently, the *Regional Planning Initiative* was announced in 2007 as the first step towards achieving consistent and contemporary planning schemes across the State based on a regional land use strategy.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission has developed a practical user guide for the preparation of a planning scheme for planning authorities. The *Template Guide* provides information about key provisions in the *Common Key Elements Template* as well as guidance on how to draft a planning scheme in accordance with this template. The objectives of the template are to:

- bring greater consistency to the structure and 'key elements' of planning schemes by providing common administrative provisions, sequence of parts and a set of mechanisms for their operation;
- ensure planning schemes comply with the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the LUPA Act) and further the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System;
- ensure planning schemes are presented in an easy to understand and user friendly style; and
- provide for flexible approaches to the control of use and development.

State Architect

A new position of Tasmanian State Architect has been established. The State Architect provides strategic and independent advice to the Tasmanian Government on matters relating to planning, urban design, building architecture and built heritage issues. The State Architect also provides an advisory role in the Government's own building and infrastructure projects. The State Architect will also lead the development of best practice guidelines around specific design and sustainability issues.



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State of the Environment Report 2009

Indicators

Population Distribution

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Indicator description

[Why is it indicative?](#)

The absolute and percentage changes in population and number of households. Changes should be reported by location of the settlements and by settlement size (i.e. large, medium or small settlements).

Why is it indicative?

[Data](#)[Related Issues](#)

Changing populations have environmental effects. Settlements with growing populations are generally expanding, and therefore place additional pressure on the environment through development and increased human activity. Conversely, settlements with declining populations may lack the resources to address existing and emerging environmental concerns. There are also relationships between the **land use** pattern of population change and transport needs.

Data

State population: overview

Tasmania's resident population as at December 2008 was 500,300 ([ABS 2009](#)). On census night 2006, the total population (location on census night) of Tasmania excluding overseas visitors was 454,841 ([ABS 2006](#)).

Gravity centre analysis

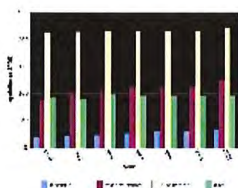
In spatial analysis, a gravity centre of a region is the location of maximum accessibility for the greatest number of people. Shifts in the gravity centre provide a measure of change in population distribution and concentration. Gravity centre analysis was undertaken for the population of Tasmania for the 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 census. The results shown in the map again indicate a continuing slight shift to the southeast in the gravity centre of the Tasmanian population.

Tasmanian population centre of gravity 1991-2001

Source: [ABS 2008](#)**Urban centres and localities**

The following graph highlights that population increase in Tasmania has largely been concentrated in mid-size centres and, to a lesser amount, in localities. Mid-size commuting centres have experienced some of the most rapid growth.

Population change by urban centres, localities and rural areas, 1976-2006

Source: [ABS 2008](#) and [ABS 2007](#)

Major centres

Major population centres, population time series, 1996-2006

Geographic Area	Census population 1996	Census population 2001	Census population 2006	% change 96-01	% change 01-06
Devonport	22,299	21,575	22,313	-3.2	3.4
Launceston	67,701	68,443	71,402	1.1	4.3
Hobart	126,118	126,048	128,586	-0.1	2.0
Total major centres	216,118	216,066	222,301	0.0	2.9
Total population (Tasmania)	459,212	455,726	475,558	-0.8	4.4
% Total population in major centres	47.1	47.4	46.7	-0.6	3.4

Source: [ABS 2008](#)

Between 2001–06, the major centres of Devonport, Launceston and Hobart experienced combined population growth of 2.9% compared with a stable population between 1996-01. The Launceston urban centre experienced the largest population growth of the three centres of 4.3% from 2001-2006.

Their share of State population of these major centres declined from 47.4% in 2001 to 46.7% in 2006 ([ABS 2008](#)). The following maps show urban centre population growth for Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. Tasmania's total population increased by 4.4% in the period from 1996-2001.

Mid-size centres (1,000-19,999 people)

Mid-size population centres, population time series, 1996-2006

Geographic Area	Census population 1996	Census population 2001	Census population 2006	% change 96-01	% change 01-06
Margate (L)	1,034	959	1,368	-7.3	42.6
Pontville	1,424	1,652	2,163	16.0	30.9
Dodges Ferry	2,077	2,476	2,958	19.2	19.5
Turners Beach	1,184	1,259	1,476	6.3	17.2
Kingston-Blackmans Bay	13,746	14,827	17,283	7.9	16.6
Legana	1,987	2,144	2,496	7.9	16.4
Sorell-Midway Point	3,596	3,606	4,185	0.3	16.1
Port Sorell	1,818	1,937	2,211	6.5	14.1
St Helens-Stieglitz	1,776	1,800	2,049	1.4	13.8
Perth	1,863	1,984	2,241	6.5	13.0
Deloraine	2,168	2,032	2,239	-6.3	10.2
Westbury	1,280	1,241	1,356	-3.0	9.3
Longford	2,829	2,827	3,031	-0.1	7.2
Smithton	3,313	3,149	3,356	-5.0	6.6
Old Beach	1,708	1,979	2,105	15.9	6.4
Huonville-Ranelagh	1,718	1,708	1,811	-0.6	6.0
Burnie-Somerset	19,134	18,095	19,166	-5.4	5.9
Latrobe	2,765	2,690	2,833	-2.7	5.3
Beaconsfield	1,014	1,007	1,051	-0.7	4.4
New Norfolk	5,286	5,011	5,228	-5.2	4.3
Hadspen	1,730	1,848	1,925	6.8	4.2
Wynyard	4,509	4,635	4,803	2.8	3.6
George Town	4,522	4,129	4,271	-8.7	3.4
Scottsdale	1,922	1,904	1,969	-0.9	3.4
Ulverstone	9,792	9,515	9,759	-2.8	2.6
Bridgewater-Gagebrook	7,451	6,693	6,830	-10.2	2.0
Penguin	3,030	2,910	2,955	-4.0	1.5
Evandale	1,033	1,057	1,062	2.3	0.5

Seven Mile Beach	1,057	1,084	1,063	2.6	-1.9
Bridport	1,234	1,352	1,325	9.6	-2.0
Lauderdale	2,485	2,445	2,386	-1.6	-2.4
Beauty Point	1,194	1,176	1,118	-1.5	-4.9
Queenstown	2,631	2,352	2,115	-10.6	-10.1
Total	114,310	113,483	122,187	-0.7	7.7
Total population (Tasmania)	459,212	455,726	475,558	-0.8	4.4
% population in mid size centres	24.9	24.9	25.7	1.0	7.9

Source: [ABS 2008](#)

Between 2001-06, mid-size centres increased their population from 113,483 to 122,187, an increase of 7.7%. Their share of State population increased slightly from 24.9% to 25.7% ([ABS 2008](#)).

Population growth experienced at some of these mid-size centres has been significant and has been sustained over a number of census periods. Margate experienced the greatest population increase from a population of 959 to 1,368, an increase of 42.6%. This was a major reversal from its population decline of -7.3% from 1996-2001. Pontville was the next fastest growing mid-size urban centre, increasing from a population of 1,652 to 2,163 (30.9%) in the period from 2001-06.

Dodges Ferry, Turners Beach, Legana, Sorell-Midway Point, Port Sorell and St Helens were some of the other rapidly growing mid-size centres. The population of Kingston-Blackmans Bay increased from 14,827 to 17,283, a percentage change of 16.6% in the period 2001-06. The population of Kingston-Blackmans Bay is approaching 20,000, when it could be considered as a major centre.

The mid-size centres that experienced the greatest continuing population growth are typically fringe-urban coastal centres, although significant growth also occurred in a number of rural centres such as Perth, Deloraine, Westbury, Longford and St Helens.

Localities and villages (200-999 people)

Localities and villages, population time series, 1996-2006

Geographic Area	Census population 1996	Census population 2001	Census population 2006	% change 96-01	% change 01-06
Leith	185	213	-	-	-
Binalong Bay	-	-	205	-	-
Cambridge	-	-	210	-	-
Rosevears	-	-	267	-	-
Hillwood	-	-	339	-	-
Acton Park	-	-	788	-	-
Howden	263	294	462	11.8	57.1
Carrick	331	312	439	-5.7	40.7
Sisters Beach	277	278	379	0.4	36.3
Primrose Sands	698	678	897	-2.9	32.3
Kettering	314	310	394	-1.3	27.1
Grindelwald	n.a.	592	738	-	24.7
Sulphur Creek	319	350	424	9.7	21.1
Lanena-Blackwall	488	524	615	7.4	17.4
Eaglehawk Neck	209	233	269	11.5	15.5
Orford	461	485	552	5.2	13.8
Triabunna	766	700	795	-8.6	13.6
Opossum Bay	251	268	304	6.8	13.4
Dunalley	286	277	314	-3.1	13.4
Kempton	327	316	358	-3.4	13.3
Lewisham	647	708	802	9.4	13.3
Gawler	271	248	280	-8.5	12.9

Dilston	323	296	334	-8.4	12.8
White Beach	261	246	274	-5.7	11.4
Snug	804	794	880	-1.2	10.8
Otago	470	514	567	9.4	10.3
Low Head	463	431	475	-6.9	10.2
South Arm	496	536	585	8.1	9.1
Bothwell	356	350	379	-1.7	8.3
Nubeena	264	255	276	-3.4	8.2
Exeter	382	313	338	-18.1	8.0
Bagdad	646	682	735	5.6	7.8
Franklin	454	423	455	-6.8	7.6
Richmond	768	827	879	7.7	6.3
Collinsvale	297	277	294	-6.7	6.1
Scamander	435	475	504	9.2	6.1
Swansea	495	529	559	6.9	5.7
Forth	342	347	366	1.5	5.5
Sheffield	1,016	982	1033	-3.3	5.2
Cygnat	851	800	840	-6.0	5.0
Fingal	379	325	341	-14.2	4.9
Campania	230	226	237	-1.7	4.9
Branxholm	266	232	241	-12.8	3.9
Mole Creek	256	213	221	-16.8	3.8
Bracknell	367	360	373	-1.9	3.6
Railton	878	862	893	-1.8	3.6
Cressy	637	648	670	1.7	3.4
Ridgley	427	435	449	1.9	3.2
Campbell Town	816	755	773	-7.5	2.4
Ross	275	266	271	-3.3	1.9
Fern Tree	584	593	597	1.5	0.7
Cremorne	357	403	403	12.9	0.0
Maydena	331	247	245	-25.4	-0.8
Stanley	543	463	459	-14.7	-0.9
St Marys	588	538	524	-8.5	-2.6
Ringarooma	232	226	215	-2.6	-4.9
Dover	481	489	464	1.7	-5.1
Woodbridge	246	286	271	16.3	-5.2
Zeehan	1,116	892	844	-20.1	-5.4
Currie	841	793	746	-5.7	-5.9
Oatlands	539	585	541	8.5	-7.5
Rosebery	1,439	1,115	1030	-22.5	-7.6
Gravelly Beach	559	581	536	3.9	-7.7
Geeveston	778	827	762	6.3	-7.9
Waratah	230	246	226	7.0	-8.1
Heybridge	341	324	296	-5.0	-8.6
Lilydale	343	321	290	-6.4	-9.7
Bicheno	700	711	639	1.6	-10.1
Strahan	701	758	637	8.1	-16.0
Tullah	268	250	196	-6.7	-21.6
Total	30,964	30,833	33,994	-0.4	10.3
Total population (Tasmania)	459,212	455,726	475,558	-0.8	4.4
% population in localities and villages	6.7	6.8	7.1	-3.3	-2.0

Between 2001–06, localities and villages increased their population from 30,383 to 33,994, an increase of 10.3%. Their share of State population increased slightly from 6.8% to 7.1% ([ABS 2008](#)). Some localities and villages were defined for the first time in the 2006 census, which is generally because their population was more than 200 people for the first time. These centres were Binalong Bay, Cambridge, Rosevears, Hillwood and Acton Park.

Population growth has been significant at some localities and villages. As with mid-size centres, localities that experienced the greatest continuing population growth are include fringe-urban coastal centres such as Primrose Sands and Lewisham in the south and Lanena-Blackwall and Grindelwald in the north.

Significant growth also occurred in a number of rural centres within a relatively short commuting distance of major centres. Examples include Howden, Dunalley Kettering, South Arm and Kempton in the south. In the north, population grew rapidly in Carrick from 312 to 439 between 2001–06. Carrick is in close commuting distance to Launceston.

In the Midlands, Campbell Town and Ross, increased their population slightly, while Outlands experienced a small population decline.

A number of key fishing centres around Tasmania experienced some population declines between the census periods. Population decline occurred at Stanley, Dover, Bicheno, and Strahan. The largest population decline occurred at Tullah on the west coast. Its population declined from 250 to 196 (-21.6%) in the period 2001–06.

Local Government Areas

Population change for local government areas is presented in the following map. This thematic map provides a broader perspective on the changes identified in urban centres and localities outlined above. For example, rapid population growth in mid-size centres such as Margate and Kingston-Blackmans Bay and localities such as Howden contributes to the overall significant overall growth experienced in the Municipality of Kingborough. Similarly, the rapid population growth experienced in mid-size centres such as Dodges Ferry and Sorell-Midway Point and localities such as Lewisham contributes to the rapid population growth experienced in the Municipality of Sorell.

Population decline in a number of key centres on the west coast contributes to the overall decline in population in the West Coast Local Government Area in the period 2001–06. Several key mining and fishing communities recorded a declining population. The population of Queenstown declined by 10%, while the localities of Tullah, Roseberry, Zeehan and Strahan also declined.

Local Government Areas are a coarse regional boundary to consider population change as such an analysis will often mask significant local or regional trends. For example, significant population growth in centres within commuting distance to a major centre may mask population decline in other parts of the municipality.

Population change by municipality, 2001-2006



Source: [ABS 2008](#)

Related Issues

Within the structure of State of the Environment Tasmania, an indicator can be related or associated with any number of issue reports (or vice versa). The data within an indicator is used to inform an issue report and any related recommendations. For example, the Climate Change issue report is linked to indicators on sea-level change, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, and ecological responses to climate change. The following table lists those issue reports that have been related with the indicator you are currently reading. The link below takes you to the introduction to each issue report, so you can navigate to the indicator section within each issue report to find out more about why and how an indicator is informing an issue report.

[Population and Settlement Patterns](#)



Quick links to: [Home](#) | [Contents](#) | [Chapters](#) | [Indicators](#) | [Sources](#) | [Tables](#) | [Search](#) | [Glossary off](#) | [Maps](#) | [Graphs](#) | [Photos](#) | [Diagrams](#)

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Last Modified: 1 Mar 2010

URL: <http://soer.justice.tas.gov.au/2009/indicator/32/index.php>

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State of the Environment Report: Tasmania 2009



FULL REPORT: www.planning.tas.gov.au/soe

State of the Environment Report:

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Recommended citation

Tasmanian Planning Commission 2009, *State of the Environment Report: Tasmania 2009*, Tasmanian Planning Commission, Tasmania.

Cataloguing-in-Publication-data:

State of the Environment Report: Tasmania 2009,
Tasmanian Planning Commission.
Bibliography
ISBN-13: 978-0-7246-6514-3
Environmental policy—Tasmania
Natural resources—Tasmania
Man—Influence on nature—Tasmania

Tasmanian Planning Commission

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Contributing organisations

The following organisations have contributed information and advice to help compile this SoE Report. Their time, the use of their data and assistance is gratefully acknowledged. While care has been taken in consulting with information providers, contributions do not imply any endorsement on the part of these organisations of the interpretation contained in this SoE Report. This is entirely the responsibility of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Readers are also referred to the general disclaimer and copyright notice.

Tasmanian Government and corporations: Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment; Environment Protection Authority; Heritage Tasmania; Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute; Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research; Forest Practices Authority; Forestry Tasmania; Hydro Tasmania; Natural Resource Management bodies.

Australian Government and national organisations: Bureau of Meteorology; CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research; Australian Antarctic Division.

Disclaimer

The Tasmanian Planning Commission has compiled the *State of the Environment Report: Tasmania 2009* in good faith, exercising all due care and attention. No representation is made as to the accuracy, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose of the source included in this SoE Report.

Design concept

Julie Hawkins

This *State of the Environment Report: Tasmania 2009* presents information for the reporting period from 2003 to 2008 and reflects a new and evolving context for resource management and land use planning.

Future state of the environment (SoE) reporting will review baseline environmental data that have been analysed by data custodians within an agreed sustainability reporting framework. It will provide a high-level summary of key findings, trend identification, and scientifically observed environmental risks and threats. Key environmental indicators will identify trends that inform strategic priorities and the direction of environmental management for government and the community. It will also effectively inform land use and infrastructure planning strategies and improve our knowledge base to address sustainability issues, especially those arising from climate change.

There are significant data in Tasmania from an extensive range of sources, and often these are not comparable, not consistent nor necessarily up-to-date (often as a result of resourcing constraints). Key datasets need to be identified and agreed upon by the data custodians and Tasmanian Planning Commission to ensure they meet environmental management needs.

In recognition of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and responsibilities as the State's land use planning body, the

Glossary

GBE	Government Business Enterprise
RMPS	Resource Management and Planning System
SoE	State of the Environment
TPC	Tasmanian Planning Commission

Right: Calcareous coccolithophorid (*Emiliania huxleyi*) is an organism that is vulnerable to increasing ocean acidification
Gustaaf Hallegraeff

Tasmania 2009

Commission has identified a number of strategic actions that it will take to assist in delivering improved environmental outcomes for the State. Key among these is building from the SoE reporting base and moving to a regular reporting process of core physical environment and heritage indicators that will reflect and inform Tasmania's environmental status.

There is no suggestion that a shift to sustainability reporting will be easy: a changing environment requires the ability to adapt and respond to change. An adaptive reporting approach is, and will continue to be, a challenge to all resource and environmental managers. Accessibility to data in a manner that reflects contemporary issues and emerging themes needs to be continually revised.



Greg Alomes

EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

October 2009

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- Role of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) in furthering the sustainability objectives, Tasmania's fundamental environmental principles, and the Commission's priorities

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- Recommendations for future action to be taken by the Tasmanian Government and the Commission

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Towards Sustainability



As the State's land use planning body, the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) has an integral role in furthering the objectives of Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS).

In very simple terms, the concept of sustainable development means that the wellbeing of our society and economy is dependent on a healthy environment. Society and its economy exist within the parameters of the natural environment.

Supporting the overarching RMPS objectives are objectives specific to the land use planning process that essentially seek to:

- require sound strategic planning and coordinated action by Local and State governments;
- establish a system of planning instruments to be the principal way of setting objectives, policies and controls for the use, development and protection of land;
- ensure that the effects on the environment are considered and provide for explicit consideration of social and economic effects when decisions are made about the use and development of land; and
- ensure that land use and development planning and policy is easily integrated with environmental, social, economic, conservation and resource management policies at State, regional and municipal levels.

While it is recognised that the RMPS objectives are essentially aspirational there is scope for these concepts to be translated from high-level statements of intent into tangible resource management and planning strategies, policies and actions.

Objectives

The overall statutory objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System are:

- to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and
- to provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and
- to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and
- to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in the above paragraphs; and
- to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of government, the community and industry in the State.

Fundamental to the objectives is the concept of 'sustainable development'. The RMPS objectives define sustainable development as:

- managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:
 - (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
 - (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
 - (c) avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

State of the environment (SoE) reporting has the potential to play a pivotal role in guiding policy development and management strategies, and furthering the RMPS objectives. It will review baseline environmental data that have been analysed by data custodians within an agreed sustainability reporting framework. Reporting will also provide a high-level summary of key findings, trend identification and scientifically observed environmental risks and threats, to better inform policy and decision-makers.

For example, two fundamental and observable pressures on the Tasmanian environment feature in each chapter of the 2009 SoE Report, namely:

- climate change; and
- land and water use activities.

Climate change is a difficult pressure to report on because of its potential for far reaching effects on all aspects of the environment and because the majority of changes are projected to occur in the future: it is a problem characterised by uncertainty, complexity, and urgency. Additionally, although a range of measures have been identified to assess the physical effects of climate change, indicators are still being developed to monitor and report on the costs and benefits of management actions in a consistent and comparable manner.

Responses to climate change are generally classed as either mitigation (reducing emissions of greenhouse gases) or adaptation (responding to the unavoidable consequences of climate change). While there are no immediate comprehensive solutions in place for either mitigation or adaptation, there are many available options and strategies that can assist in reducing risk and promoting the resilience of natural and human systems. While governments around the world work toward ways to slow climate change, this will only occur over a long period. For resource management it is critical to gain an understanding of the nature and magnitude of climate change and aspects of the environment that are likely to be impacted (both positively and negatively). Climate change will require a rethink on how and where people live and use natural resources. There is a need to respond quickly to the environmental changes through policy and adaptive management practices.

Land use planning is one mechanism that can ensure sustainable allocation and use of natural resources. The regional land use planning initiative is a major step toward updating planning schemes, but to do this effectively baseline environmental data are required. There is an urgent need for accurate, comparable, consistent, reliable and up-to-date data to help implement responses to both of these pressures.

Achievement of resource management objectives continues to be difficult to determine in the absence of audits and evaluations of relevant legislation, policies, strategies and programs. Sustainability reporting by Government agencies and bodies responsible for natural resource management is required.

Priorities

Over the next five years the Tasmanian Planning Commission's top priority is to improve the standard of land use planning and to ensure that Tasmania's sustainable development objectives are furthered as far as possible. This SoE Report is a first step to facilitate that change without losing our baseline environmental performance data and reporting framework. This will be achieved through a number of mechanisms including:

- performing its statutory roles and functions effectively and efficiently in accordance with section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* and the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*;
- improving and developing a range of planning instruments that can give practical effect to furthering the RMPS objectives;
- identifying the need for and developing resource management and planning policies;
- facilitating the preparation and implementation of regional land use strategies and state of the region reporting that meet the needs of Local and State governments; and
- participating in the management of electronic planning information and data.



Future Actions

Managing our environment is a responsibility shared by all Tasmanians and the Government of the day, which sets policy and prioritises expenditure through the budget process.

Previous SoE reports have contained a large number of specific and detailed recommendations, many of which have been taken up and implemented or dealt with through other mechanisms before the reports have been published.

For this SoE Report the Commission has focussed on high-level strategic recommendations that further the RMPS objectives, and lay the foundations for more efficient and cost effective data collection and analysis that is made publicly available for multiple use. The recommendations are aimed at enabling all levels of government and government business enterprises (GBEs) to achieve the following outcomes:

1 improved coordination of data collection and analysis; and

2 improved alignment of policy development, implementation and management across Government, with the RMPS objectives.

The recommendations are presented within a sustainability framework that highlights the structural connections and potential synergies and partnerships between the Tasmanian Government, GBEs, the Commission and other non-government environmental managers.

The Commission is not necessarily advocating an increase in the total quantity of data collected. Rather, there is a need to ensure that data collection and analysis is strategic, complementary and reflects policy priorities and that datasets and analytic outputs are publicly available.

These recommendations are submitted for consideration and response by the Tasmanian Government.



Trousers Point Cove, Flinders Island
Tourism Tasmania and Steve Lovegrove



Colebrookdale at Colebrook
is part of Tasmania's historic
heritage
Heritage Tasmania



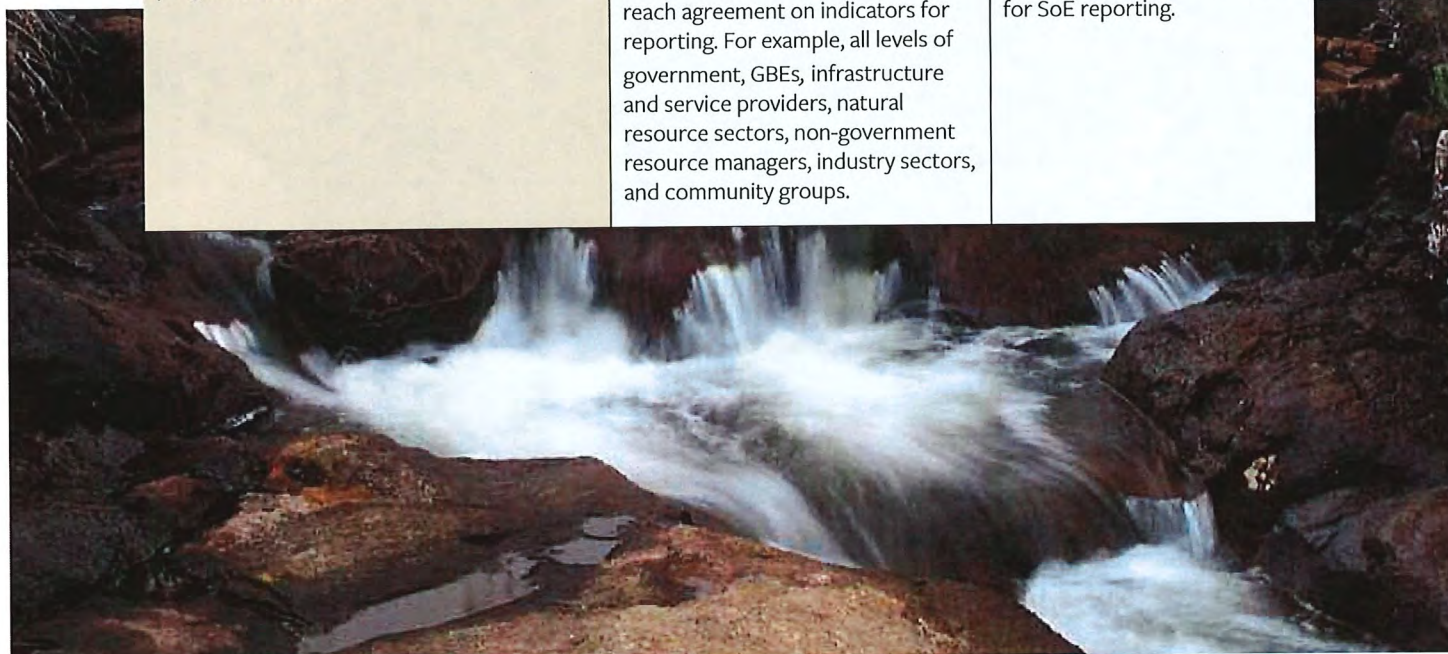
Drowned sea-cave at Cape Pillar,
Tasman Peninsula
Roland Eberhard

Opposite:
Arve River, Hartz Mountains
Sean McPhail

1 ACTION NO. 1

Improved coordination of data collection and analysis

Issue	Government's role	Commission's role
Quality data is not accessible for planning, management and reporting. Data collection and analysis is often not: • consistent; • coordinated; • comparable; or • reliable; And can be: • fragmented; or • out-of-date. SoE reporting provides an example of a planning process that has been constrained by deficiencies in access to consistent, reliable and comparable data since it commenced in 1996. Governments, GBEs, infrastructure and service providers, natural resource sectors and industry sectors do not have a process or system that facilitates a strategic and cost effective approach to data collection whilst meeting the needs of multiple users. This needs to be resolved to maximise the knowledge base, with benefits for SoE reporting.	Governance structure Review current governance structures for coordination and management of key datasets to facilitate spatial analysis and the development of indicators for sustainability reporting. Extend a strategic approach to indicator development, monitoring and data collection and maintenance to meet the information needs of all resource managers. For example, all levels of government, GBEs, infrastructure and service providers, natural resource sectors, and non-government resource managers.	Participate in the governance review on the management and use of key datasets and the development of indicators for SoE reporting.
Deficiencies in communication and the sharing of information by data collectors. Lack of awareness of other data collection programs that are the same or similar.	Engage with stakeholders Engage with stakeholders that have, or could use, key datasets and reach agreement on indicators for reporting. For example, all levels of government, GBEs, infrastructure and service providers, natural resource sectors, non-government resource managers, industry sectors, and community groups.	Liaise with stakeholders to reach agreement on indicators for SoE reporting.



1 ACTION NO. 1

Improved coordination of data collection and analysis (continued)

Lack of metadata (structured record of who, when, why and where data were collected) can make data unusable. Monitoring programs are often conducted using different methodologies and data management tools making comparison difficult. Data can get 'lost' or become inaccessible when organisational change occurs within a Government agency.	Policies and management systems	
	Apply nationally accepted metadata standards to the collection of all datasets. Review and implement data collection policies and management systems to ensure that data are collected, managed and interpreted to acceptable standards of efficiency and effectiveness. Enable access to key datasets and analysis.	Review metadata requirements for planning purposes. Establish and/or, facilitate an information technology system to manage and maintain planning schemes and other related information. Use key data to inform SoE reporting, and strategy development and evaluation, and to meet sustainability objectives.
Often the quality and reliability of data cannot be verified.	Policies and management systems	
	Audit and review Regularly audit and review the collection, management and accessibility of key datasets and indicators and adjust policies and conduct performance reviews as required.	Evaluate on a regular basis the performance of the collection, management and accessibility of key datasets and indicators and adjust policies as required.



Fertile soils near Mt Roland
Tourism Tasmania and Dennis Harding

Wedge-tail eagle (*Aquila audax*)
Nick Mooney



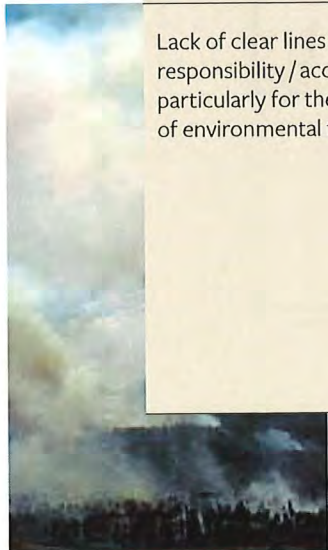
Smoke in the hills from a bushfire west of Cornwall on the east coast, December 2006
The Mercury



ACTION NO. 2

Improved alignment of policy development, implementation and management across Government with RMPS objectives

Issues	Government's role	Commission's role
Lack of broad 'whole of government' direction to the development of environmental policies by Government agencies. A 'whole of government' approach will assist the delivery of RMPS objectives.	Governance structure	
	Develop an environmental policy framework to provide direction and improve coordination of Government agency outputs. This will ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to policy development and implementation of resource management and planning regulatory mechanisms, policies, strategies and management systems. A risk assessment for each of the key environmental issues identified in this SoE Report would enable the development of a long-term strategic environmental management plan to ensure the efficient and effective allocation of resources for future environmental management.	Consistently apply resource management and planning policies through the decision-making process.
Confusion and misunderstandings about environmental management policies that arise within and across all levels of government, GBEs, infrastructure and service providers, natural resource sectors, non-government resource managers, industry sectors, and community groups.	Engage with stakeholders	
	Continue to work with all levels of government, GBEs, infrastructure and service providers, natural resource sectors, non-government resource managers, industry sectors, and community groups.	Provide information and feedback to Government on planning and environmental and resource management issues.
	Policies and management systems	
	Develop policies and management systems that ensure integration and coordination between Government agencies responsible for different, but interrelated, aspects of resource and environmental management.	Apply SoE reporting framework to report on key resource sectors and include assessment in the next SoE Report.
Lack of clear lines of responsibility / accountability, particularly for the management of environmental threats.	Audit and review	
	Expand and enhance sustainability reporting, and conduct audit and performance reviews as required, for the governing body, with information to be provided by Government Agencies with environmental management responsibilities. This will provide a mechanism to evaluate environmental outcomes and provide greater accountability and responsibility for the achievement of those outcomes.	Apply SoE reporting framework to report on key resource sectors and include assessment in the next SoE Report.



Tasmania's Environment

The 2009 SoE Report contains four major environmental themes: *Air, Water, Natural Values, People and Places*. Each of these chapters is made up of condition and pressure Issue Reports. These Issue Reports present information for the reporting period from 2003 to 2008 and are supported by environmental indicators that have been compiled using data from a variety of sources. Longer-term datum is included where it provides context to more recent trends and changes. The reports draw on a number of different indicators to provide analysis of conditions, trends and changes.

A recurring constraint while preparing this SoE Report has been the lack of knowledge about a number of environmental themes or issues and the lack of consistent data collection. This constraint has seriously limited the ability to fully report on trends and changes in an informed way. Notwithstanding this limitation the report provides an overall snapshot of the condition of Tasmania's environment and a number of emerging trends and changes.

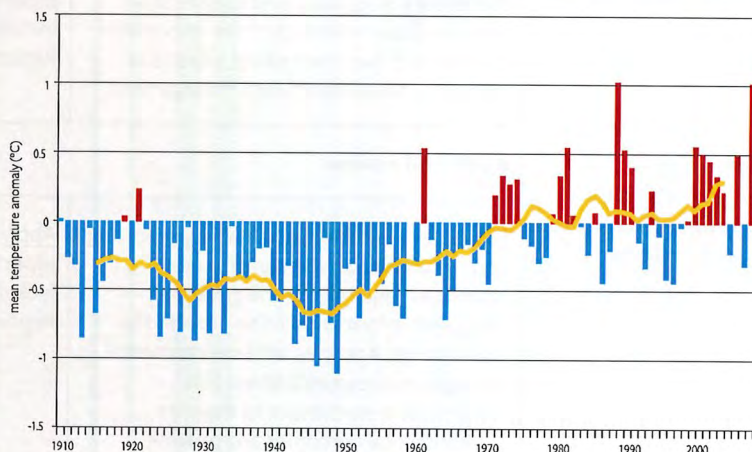
Tasmania's environment is diverse and has a wide range of terrestrial, freshwater and marine plants and animals. Trends and changes to these species and their ecosystems have occurred due to interrelated pressures including:

- climate change;
- land and water use practices;
- pests and diseases; and
- consumption.



Storm waves breaking over the sea-wall at Nutgrove Beach, 27 September 2009
Sam Shelley Photography

Long-term changes in
Tasmanian annual temperature,
1910 to 2008
Bureau of Meteorology



CLIMATE CHANGE

The long-term temperature, rainfall and streamflow records demonstrate that Tasmania's climate is naturally variable. This variability is evidenced over the last five years in drying as well as recent periods of record high rainfall in 2009. Many components of the environment have remained resilient to this variability. For example, many rivers, lakes and wetlands retain healthy aquatic systems and are among the best preserved in southeast Australia. In addition, little overall change has been observed in marine rocky reef communities and at times, the State experiences some of the best ambient air quality in Australia. However, it is becoming evident that longer-term climate change is leading to the redistribution of some species and altered ecosystem dynamics. Observable effects of climate change include the inundation and erosion of vulnerable coastal shorelines from more severe storm surges and sea-level rise, and an increase in sea temperature resulting from the warm Eastern Australian Current advancing down the east coast.

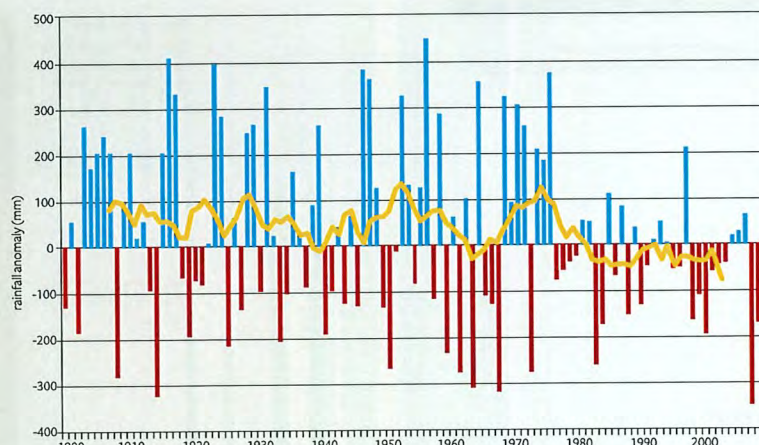
Responding to this pressure, the Tasmanian Government has partnered with local government, GBEs, research institutions, industry and the general community to learn more about the implications of climate change and develop strategies aimed at adaptation including:

- Establishment of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office in 2008.
- Establishment of a target reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) of 60% by 2050 through the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.
- Collaborative projects such as *Tasmania Sustainable Yields* and *Climate Futures for Tasmania* aim to provide the science to help underpin the planning and sustainable management of the State's water resources and interpret climate projections at a local scale.
- The *Building Resilience into Natural Systems: Adaptation to Climate Change* project aims to develop and implement adaptation responses to reduce the vulnerability of natural values to climate change.
- Coastal geomorphic mapping has been extended and the *Climate Change and Coastal Risk Management Project* has been established to improve the information on extreme sea-levels in Tasmania.
- Some local councils are conducting climate change related risk assessments e.g. Clarence City Council's study on coastal inundation for Clarence coastal areas.

Dry eucalypt forest,
Northern Midlands
Stephen Waight



Long-term changes
in Tasmanian annual
rainfall, 1900 to 2008
Bureau of Meteorology



LAND AND WATER USE PRACTICES

Primary production and urban development has led to increasing pressures on natural values. One example is the clearance and modification of native vegetation and landforms for agriculture, forestry and settlements. Efforts to manage and conserve the environment include:

- Major policy reforms phased out broadscale vegetation clearing. Revision of the *Policy on Maintenance of a Permanent Native Forest Estate* in 2005 raised the retention levels set for the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate from 80% to 95% of the 1996 native forest area.
- Listing threatened native vegetation communities under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and other relevant legislation has provided protection for threatened native vegetation from clearance and conversion.
- Expansion of the *Natural Values Atlas* to provide electronic data on natural values including plants, animals and threatened species.
- Establishment of the *Statewide Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Program* has significantly improved the coverage and availability of data on water quantity and quality. Other initiatives include the development of the *Tasmanian Index of River Condition* and the *Wetlands Strategy for Tasmania*.
- The *Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystems Values* project has been a key action to ensure that high priority freshwater values are considered in the management of Tasmania's natural resources.
 - The *Derwent Estuary Program*—a partnership between State and local governments, industry and the general community—has implemented a range of water quality and biodiversity monitoring programs.
 - Establishment of a *Natural Resource Management Framework* and the development of strategies for the long-term management of natural resources by the three Natural Resource Management bodies.
 - The *Soil Condition Evaluation and Monitoring* project commenced in 2004 in response to the need for more comprehensive soil research, the *Tasmanian Salinity Strategy* was released in 2007 and a *Salinity Hazard and Critical Assets Assessment* is being conducted in municipalities that are highly susceptible to salinity.
 - *Private Land Conservation Program* commenced in 2006 to facilitate the sustainable management of natural diversity on private land.
 - Seabed mapping has been undertaken as part of the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute *Seamap Project* to provide high quality information on marine habitat types to 1.5 km of the Tasmanian shore.



The extent of native forest and non-forest vegetation, 2007
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and Landscape Logic

Tasmanian devil
(*Sarcophilus harrisi*)
Department of Primary
Industries, Parks, Water
and Environment

Tasmanian tree frog
(*Litoria burrowsae*)
Matthew Pauza



PESTS AND DISEASES

The number of introduced plant and animal pests, such as the introduction of the European fox and long-spined sea urchin is increasing in Tasmania. Native plant and animal diseases, such as the Devil Facial Tumour Disease that is severely impacting Tasmanian devils and the disease phytophthora that is affecting native vegetation, continue to be significant threats to vulnerable native species. Key management responses include:

- Release of the *Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy* and the *Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy* in 2007 to mitigate land- and marine-based weeds, pests, diseases and other invasive species.
- Revision of the Tasmanian weed management strategy—*WeedPlan*—to reflect the policy goals and principles of the *National Weeds Strategy*.
- Many weed-related strategies, plans, processes and procedures have been developed by the Natural Resource Management bodies, working with government, GBEs, industry, non-government organisations and community members to control the spread of weeds and diseases.
- The *Phytophthora Cinnamomi Strategic Regional Plan* was developed in 2003 to conserve plant species and communities threatened by this root rot fungus.
- The 2008 *Review of Wildlife Monitoring Priorities* and *Wildlife Monitoring Strategy* set monitoring priorities for introduced animals; and priorities for species that are listed as threatened, species subject to a potential threat, and species that are harvested or culled.
- The most specific species conservation initiative in the last five years has been to save the Tasmanian devil from extinction. In 2005, the *Devil Facial Tumour Disease Management Strategy* was established to improve disease management and risk minimisation, and a five-year plan has been developed to guide the *Save the Tasmanian Devil Program* until 2013.
- Expansion of the fox eradication effort in 2006, established the *Fox Eradication Program* with combined Commonwealth and State funding for a ten-year *Fox Eradication Strategy*.
- The *Carp Management Program* has eradicated the majority of European carp from Lake Crescent and Lake Sorell, and the *Plan for the Eradication of Rabbits and Rodents on Subantarctic Macquarie Island* was implemented in 2007.
- Initiatives to control animal diseases include the *Wildlife Disease Strategy* for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, the *Chytrid Research and Management* project to conserve frog populations, and the *Platypus Conservation Program* to conserve platypuses.
- Collaborative efforts between marine scientists and the Tasmanian rock lobster fishing industry have trialled methods to control the spread of the long-spined sea urchin by releasing mature rock lobsters into waters along the east coast to prey upon the marine pest.

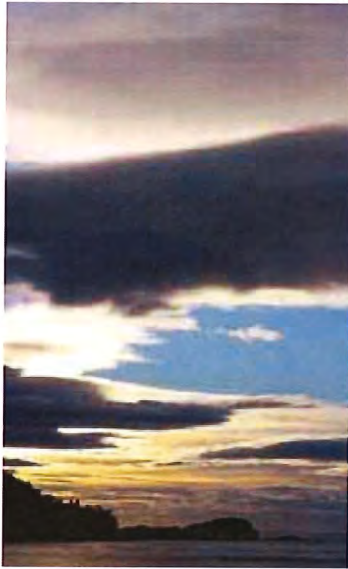
The Northern Pacific seastar (*Asterias amurensis*) is an invasive marine pest that has invaded shallower waters along the east coast and the southern estuaries
CSIRO

Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is an invasive weed found on coastal dunes around the State
Tim Rudman

The European wasp (*Vespula germanica*) is an invertebrate pest that is now widespread and common
Robert Luttrell

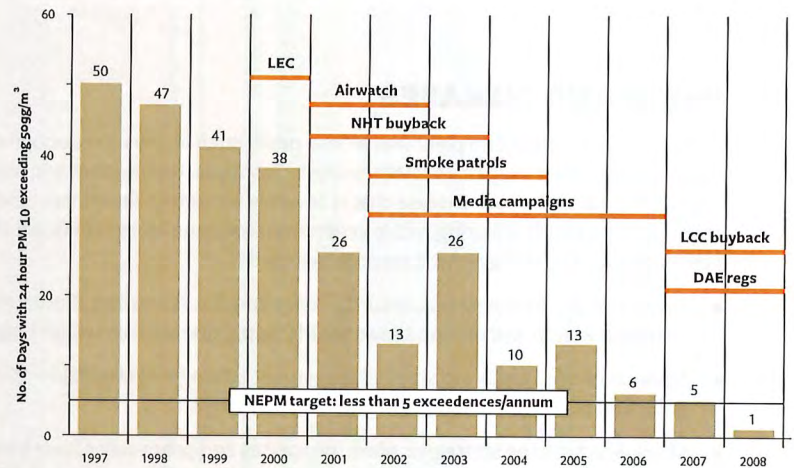
The long-spined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) is an invasive marine pest that has progressively moved down the east coast
Scott Ling





Cloud formations at Sleepy Bay,
Freycinet National Park
Tourism Tasmania and Paul Sinclair

Exceedences of the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (the Air NEPM) for particles smaller than 10 µm in diameter at Ti Tree Bend, Launceston
Environment Protection Authority



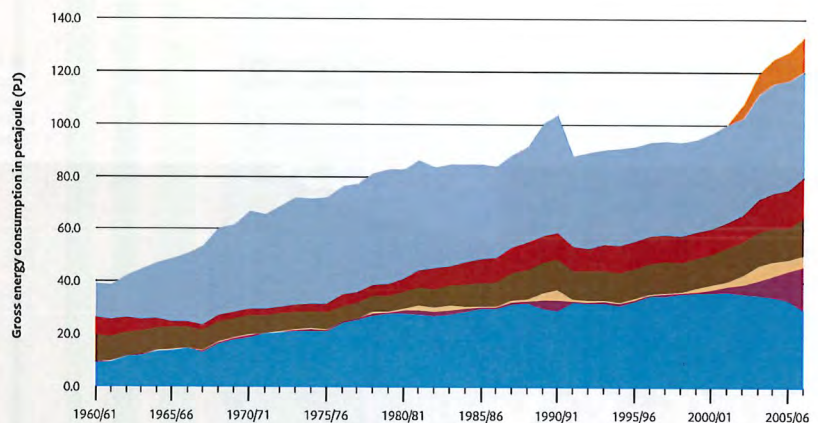
CONSUMPTION

Human activities including the construction of buildings and infrastructure, industrial manufacturing and processing, energy use, the sourcing of household and other goods, and recreation contribute to pollution, the generation of waste, and pressures on natural resources and Aboriginal and European heritage.

- The *Regional Planning Initiative* was announced in 2007 as the first step towards achieving consistent and contemporary planning schemes across the State based on a regional land use strategy.
- The *Tasmanian Air Quality Strategy* and *Tasmanian Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality)* were finalised in 2005 to reduce, and report, the discharge of air pollutants. New baseline air quality monitoring stations are operating and regional air quality is being monitored.
- Substantial improvements have been made to air quality in the Launceston airshed, a region that has experienced elevated levels of particle pollution particularly over winter. A range of measures including the Launceston wood heater replacement program (LCC buyback) has resulted in a 30% decline in wood heater use and a corresponding reduction in particle pollution.
- Tasmania was connected to the national piped gas supply in 2003 as part of the *Tasmanian Natural Gas Project*. In 2006, Basslink joined the State to the national electricity grid.

Key energy consumption in Tasmania by fuel, 1960 to 2007
(solar energy and town gas comprise only a small proportion of energy use)
Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Hydro electricity
Electricity – other
Thermal electricity
Wood, woodwaste
Black coal
Petroleum products
Natural gas



KEY FINDINGS

Key findings distilled from the Issue Reports are set out in the table below.

- TREND represents the likely trend direction since the 2003 SoE Report.
- CONDITION trends provide an indication about how healthy the environment has been over the past five years.
- PRESSURE trends indicate if stressors are potentially affecting the condition of the environment.

Legend:

Likely trend direction since 2003	Trend
CONDITION of the environment likely to have	 improved  deteriorated
PRESSURES on the environment likely to have	 decreased  increased
Trend steady	
Trend is not clear, uncertainty	
Condition not applicable	N/A

Issue Report	Trends or changes		Comments
	Condition	Pressure	

Air

Climate variability and change			Changes have occurred in the regional patterns of climate variability.
Stratospheric ozone			The 2006 ozone hole was a record for the amount of ozone destroyed.
Ambient air quality			Air quality for the Launceston airshed has improved with a significant reduction in particulates correlating with a reduction in the use of wood heaters. The impact from bushfires and regeneration burns on air quality is not well understood.
Indoor air quality			Indoor air quality is an emerging issue and our knowledge is limited.



Deciduous beech (*Nothofagus gunnii*) and pandani (*Richea pandanifolia*)
Corbett Collection

Tree decline and wind erosion, Southern Midlands
Marcus Hardie

Small tarn near Lake St Clair
Sean McPhail

Issue Report	Trends or changes		Comments
	Condition	Pressure	

Water

Water quality	~	~	Water quality in some rivers has been affected by climate variability, decreasing streamflows during the recent drought, and catchment land use activities.
Water quantity and use	?	⬆️	While there is significant inter-annual variability, water quantity has declined with decreasing streamflows during the recent drought.
Aquatic health	~	~	Aquatic health varies across the State but has generally remained stable.
Groundwater	?	⬆️	Monitoring of groundwater is not sufficient to establish groundwater condition in relation to quantity or quality.
Estuarine water quality	?	⬆️	Estuarine conditions range from pristine (Port Davey–Bathurst Harbour) to modified to degraded (Derwent and Tamar estuaries).
Riparian vegetation	~	~	Riparian vegetation varies across the State, however, its condition has generally remained stable.
Wetlands	?	⬆️	Long-term changes in rainfall and natural inflows are affecting some wetlands.
Catchment land use	N/A	⬆️	One third of the State's river network is subject to catchment disturbance. The remaining river network is comparatively free from catchment disturbance.
Water extraction and storage	N/A	⬆️	Tasmania has the highest proportion of its agricultural land under irrigation of any Australian state. Prolonged low rainfall reduced storage levels for hydro-electricity generation during the period between 1996–2006.
Climate change and water	N/A	⬆️	There have generally been less wet years and less autumn rainfall since the 1980s.

Issue Report	Trends or changes		Comments
	Condition	Pressure	

Natural values

Native vegetation	?		There is significantly more native forest than non-forest vegetation such as grassland. The reduction in the native forest estate between 1997–98 and 2007–08 was approximately 132,120 ha.
Native animals	?		There is uncertainty about the condition of many native animal populations.
Geodiversity	~		The condition of karst systems of porous limestone and dolomites caves and streams appears stable to improving, whereas the condition of fluvial and coastal systems appears to be declining.
Soil diversity			Soil structure decline is one of the most serious forms of land degradation.
Threatened species and communities			In total, 608 species of plant and animal are listed as threatened.
Estuarine, coastal and marine	?		It is not possible to report on the state or trends in the condition of estuarine, coastal and marine environments because they have been incompletely described and inconsistently monitored.
Plant pests (weeds) and native plant diseases	N/A		Seven of the 20 Weeds of National Significance species are in Tasmania. Between 2001–07 the number of declared weeds increased from 86 to 102. The introduced soil-borne root rot disease, <i>Phytophthora</i> , is the most significant biotic fungal threat to native vegetation.
Animal pests and native animal diseases	N/A		Effects of animal pests and native animal diseases on Tasmania's native plants, animals and ecosystems are increasing.
Estuarine and marine pests and diseases	N/A		The distribution and impacts of introduced marine species and diseases remains largely unknown and unstudied. The effects of marine pests are increasing.
Salinity (soil and water)	N/A	~	Salinity distribution and pressure on affected areas is relatively stable.
Climate change and natural values	N/A		Changes in climate are affecting natural values in all environments.



Woolnorth
Studland Bay
Wind Farm
Roaring Forties
Tasmania



Damage to middens by 4WD vehicles
at Ordnance Point, west coast
Colin Hughes



Built in 1938, the old Hydro-Electric
Commission building is now occupied
by the Hobart City Council
Heritage Tasmania



Issue Report	Trends or changes		Comments
	Condition	Pressure	

People and places

Population and settlement patterns	?	↑	Tasmania's population reached 500,300 in 2008. For the reporting period, the population increased by 24,100.
Energy use	N/A	↑	Energy use increased by approximately 14% during the reporting period.
Waste	N/A	↑	Consumption of goods and services and the subsequent quantities of waste that are produced have increased. Improved management actions have kept the overall volume of waste stable.
Aboriginal heritage	?	↑	Long-standing pressures continue to affect Aboriginal cultural heritage. Over 65,000 ha have been returned to the Aboriginal community since 1995.
Historic heritage	?	↑	The capacity to assess trends in the condition of historic places is limited. Heritage Tasmania has 5,450 listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

Right: Egg Beach (boulder beach),
Flinders Island
Ian Household

Below: Giant kelp
(*Macrocystis pyrifera*), Bicheno
Graham Edgar



Left: The Lake Margaret
Woodstave Pipeline on the
west coast is part of Tasmania's
historic heritage
Heritage Tasmania



Left: Hobart and the Derwent
Estuary from Mt Wellington
Tourism Tasmania and Garry Moore

Below: Tasmanian native bee
(*Megachile maculariformis*)
Robert Luttrell



Right: New River Lagoon
is a pristine estuary found
within the Tasmanian
Wilderness World Heritage
Area
Grant Dixon

Left: The Ballroom
in Exit Cave, Ida Bay
Ian Household



19

Below: Tamar Estuary wetlands provide important habitat for wildlife
Tourism Tasmania and Geoffrey Lea



Above: Russell Falls, Mt Field National Park
Stephen Waight

State of the Environment Report: Tasmania 2009



Tasmanian Planning Commission

GPO Box 1691

Hobart Tasmania 7001

Phone: (03) 6233 2795

Fax: (03) 6233 5400

Email: enquiry.planning@justice.tas.gov.au

FULL REPORT: www.planning.tas.gov.au/soe

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Instrument of Establishment

Acting under section 9 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (the Act), the Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission) resolved by written approval to an Out of Session Paper on 7 December 2022 to appoint a State of the Environment Advisory Committee (the Committee) comprised of Commissioners Nick Heath (Chair), Max Kitchell and Pam Allan.

The State of the Environment Advisory Committee is established for the purpose of assisting the Commission in preparation of State of the Environment Reports under section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.

The initial approved Terms of Reference for the Committee are at Appendix A.

Date: 13 December 2022

THE COMMON SEAL of the TASMANIAN
PLANNING COMMISSION was hereunto
duly affixed in the presence of:-



.....
COMMISSIONER

.....
COMMISSIONER

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

State of the Environment Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference – December 2022

Background

The Minister for Planning directed the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) under section 7 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*, to prepare a State of the Environment Report (SoE Report) by 30 June 2024.

The *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, at section 29 requires a SoE Report to be produced at intervals of 5 years, and relating to:

- the condition of the environment; and
- trends and changes in the environment; and
- the achievement of resource management objectives; and
- recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.

Approaches to, and scope of, SoE reports have evolved since the first SoE report was completed by the Sustainable Development Advisory Council in 1997, and subsequent Tasmanian SoE reports were completed in 2003 and 2009. Consequently, expertise and experience in governance, environmental processes and impacts, and natural resource management is necessary to inform the development of subsequent SoE Reports

The Commission established the SoE Advisory Committee, under section 9 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*, to provide advisory support and guidance to Commission Staff, along with high level reporting and recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and Commission.

The SoE Advisory Committee consists of Commissioners Nick Heath (Chairperson), Max Kitchell (member), and Pam Allan (member).

Terms of Reference

The SoE Advisory Committee will undertake the following:

- (1) to oversight the development of an SoE Report as directed by the Minister for Planning;
- (2) providing advice and guidance on the scope and outputs of SoE Reporting;
- (3) access expert advice as appropriate to the scope and outputs of the SoE Report
- (4) conduct or direct, stakeholder engagement, including community consultation where appropriate;

- (5) if necessary, to provide recommendations to the Executive Commissioner on resourcing requirements;
- (6) monitor and review issues arising from preparation of SoE Reports, in particular the effectiveness of the SoE report format and outputs in meeting its intended purpose; and
- (7) monitor issues arising from stakeholder engagement and expert advice in particular: data availability, veracity, and suitability; and the extent to which the SoE report duplicates information available elsewhere.

Review of the Terms of Reference

The SoE Advisory Committee is at liberty at any time, to seek a revision of these terms of reference to take into account new or emerging issues, as the work on the preparation of the SoE Report evolves.

Reporting to the Commission

The chairperson will provide oral or written reports to the Commission as appropriate on the activities of the SoE Advisory Committee at each monthly Commission meeting.

NRM SOUTH and TPC MEETING AGENDA

22 December 2022

ATTENDEES:

- Nepelle Crane, Chief Executive Officer, NRM South
- Matthew Taylor, consultant to NRM South
- John Ramsay, Chair and Executive Commissioner TPC
- Nick Heath, Commissioner TPC
- Max Kitchell, Commissioner TPC
- Pam Allen, Commissioner TPC
- Luke Newman, Officer TPC

MEETING DETAILS:

- Tuesday 22 December 2022 – 12PM
- Location – Level 3, 144 Macquarie St

AGENDA ITEMS:

Item	Presenter
Introductions	
Case Study – BMRG	Matthew Taylor
Opportunities for Tasmania	Nepelle Crane
State of Environment linkages	Discussion

McKay, Madonna

From: McKay, Madonna
Sent: Wednesday, 21 December 2022 7:31 AM
To: nickd2118@gmail.com; maxkitchell1; pamdallan@gmail.com
Cc: Newman, Luke; Ramsay, John
Subject: FW: AGENDA: Environmental accounts - Tasmania
Attachments: NRM South and TPC Meeting Agenda.docx; DRAFT_Tasmanian case study_Environmental Accounts.pdf

Good morning

Attached are the documents provided from Nepelle for tomorrow's meeting re: SoE. She has advised she is also bringing along Matthew Taylor to talk to a case study in Qld and answer any technical questions.

Cheers
Madonna

Madonna McKay
Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Level 3 144 Macquarie Street Hobart TAS 7000
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03 6165 6822

www.planning.tas.gov.au

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We act with

Integrity

Respect

Accountability

Our workplaces are

Inclusive

Collaborative



be fully vaccinated



wear masks when needed



symptoms? get tested



stay home if sick



use Check in TAS



stay up to date



keep hands clean



keep your distance

Public Health Hotline **1800 671 738** coronavirus.tas.gov.au

From: Nepelle Crane <ncrane@nrmsouth.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 7:20 PM
To: Ramsay, John <John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au>

Cc: McKay, Madonna <Madonna.McKay@planning.tas.gov.au>; Matthew Taylor <mtaylor@ecotec.au>

Subject: AGENDA: Environmental accounts - Tasmania

Dear John,

Please find attached an agenda and background paper (noting this is a concept draft only) for further discussion on Thursday.

Madonna, if you could please circulate these in confidence to the other participants for the meeting, that would be wonderful.

Kind regards,
Nepelle

McKay, Madonna

Subject: State of Environment Report
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting/Hartz

Start: Thu 22/12/2022 12:00 PM
End: Thu 22/12/2022 1:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Ramsay, John
Required Attendees: Nepelle Crane; Nick Heath; pamdallan@gmail.com; maxkitchell1@gmail.com; Newman, Luke
Resources: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

Hi
John is meeting with Nepelle from NRM South if you are able to join?
Madonna

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 460 879 879 984

Passcode: sQhg2G

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McKay, Madonna

Subject: State of the Environment Steering Committee Meeting
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Thu 5/01/2023 2:00 PM
End: Thu 5/01/2023 3:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: McKay, Madonna
Required Attendees: Nick Heath; pamdallan@gmail.com; maxkitchell1@gmail.com; Newman, Luke; Ramsay, John
Resources: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: mL3tmQ

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[+61 2 9053 4881,,59625410#](#) Australia, Sydney

Phone Conference ID: 596 254 10#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)



[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

McKay, Madonna

Subject: State of the Environment Report
Location: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)
Start: Tue 17/01/2023 10:30 AM
End: Tue 17/01/2023 11:30 AM
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: Ramsay, John
Required Attendees: Rachel Hay; James Kirkpatrick <j.kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au>
Resources: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

Hi Rachel and James

Hope this time suits. Rachel can you forward to Claire Bookless and any other interested parties (just please let me know attendees)

Thanks

Madonna

McKay, Madonna

Subject: State of the Environment Steering Committee
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Wed 15/02/2023 11:00 AM
End: Wed 15/02/2023 12:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: McKay, Madonna
Required Attendees: Nick Heath; maxkitchell1@gmail.com; pamdallan@gmail.com; Newman, Luke; Ramsay, John
Resources: TPC Hartz Meeting Room (level 3, 144 Macquarie Street)

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 413 597 759 495

Passcode: kENG7Y

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Phone Conference ID: 510 632 504#

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DIRECTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OF THE TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION ACT 1997

I, Michael Ferguson MP, pursuant to section 7 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (the Act) and as Minister administering the Act, hereby direct

The Tasmanian Planning Commission

to prepare a State of the Environment Report that provides relevant and robust information that will inform future policy development. In accordance to section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* the Commission is required to produce a report relating to

- a) the condition of the environment; and
- b) trends and changes in the environment; and
- c) the achievement of resource management objectives; and
- d) recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.

The Report is to be completed and provided to my office by 30 June 2024.

Signed at Hobart this 4th day of October 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ferguson'.

**Hon Michael Ferguson MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Planning**

Critical Date: ASAP

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED / NOTED
SIGNED: <i>Mr Ferguson</i>
DATE: <i>4/10/2022</i>

Minute to the Minister for Planning

Tasmanian Planning Commission - State of the Environment Reporting

Minister's notation:

A modest but sufficient budget ask should be prepared as soon as possible. A RAE may be possible in 2022-23 if the project plans

RECOMMENDATION: *could be brought forward.*

That you: *I intend to see this done with*

1. Note the contents of this Minute; and *minimal interruption to the TPC's many other*
2. Approve and sign the attached direction and letter to the Tasmanian Planning Commission. *pressing priorities.*

KEY ISSUES:

1. The *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* includes provisions that require the Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission) to complete State of the Environment Reports at intervals of 5 years.
2. The Commission has not produced a State of the Environment Report since 2009 as other reform and functions of the Commission were deemed a priority for the Commission.
3. The attached direction and letter exercises powers conferred upon you by the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* and directs the Commission to produce a State of the Environment Report by June 2024.

BACKGROUND:

- Section 7 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* provides the Minister administering the Act with the power to direct the Commission to undertake particular functions including the provision of advice and support to the Minister.
- The *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* requires that a direction made by the Minister be included in the Gazette within 14 days from the date a direction is given. Following approval of this Minute the Department will arrange for the direction to be included in the Gazette.
- State of the Environment Reporting has been discussed at regular monthly meetings with a number of options regarding next steps being considered. In consultation with your office, it was determined that a direction be made under the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* to direct the Commission to commence development of a State of the Environment Report.
- Section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* provides
 - (1) The Commission must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act and after that commencement at intervals of 5 years, produce a consolidated State of the Environment Report relating to—
 - (a) the condition of the environment; and
 - (b) trends and changes in the environment; and
 - (c) the achievement of resource management objectives; and
 - (d) recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.
 - (2) The Commission must—
 - (a) submit a State of the Environment Report produced by it to the Minister; and
 - (b) cause notice to be given, as prescribed, that the State of the Environment Report will be available to the public for inspection and purchase.
 - (3) The Minister must cause a State of the Environment Report to be laid on the table of each House of Parliament within the first 15 sitting days of the House after the Report is received by the Minister.
- The Commission does not currently possess the expertise or capacity to complete the Report in accordance with section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.
- It is unlikely that the cost of acquiring the required expertise and capacity could be met within the Commission's budget. The Department will include an estimate of the additional funding required to complete the Report in its 2023-24 Budget Submission for consideration.

- The attached letter and direction to John Ramsay, Chairperson and Executive Commissioner of the Tasmanian Planning Commission, advises of the direction made under the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* and provides guidance as to the content of the report along with the due date of 30 June 2024.

Ross Smith

Deputy Secretary – Regulation and Service Delivery

Prepared by:	Bailey Fraser	Cleared by:	Ross Smith
Position:	Acting Policy and Project Officer	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	61 65 3653	Phone:	61 65 4943
Date:	29 September 2022	Date:	30 September 2022

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Direction Under Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997 - State of the Environment Report
2. Attachment 2 – Letter Enclosing Direction to complete State of the Environment Report - Tasmanian Planning Commission

State of Environment Reporting – Tasmanian Planning Commission

State of Environment Reporting

The Commission must submit a State of Environment Report (SoE) to the Minister by 30 June 2024, as directed on the 4 October 2022, pursuant to section 7 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*.

The *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* requires production of a state of the Environment Report at intervals of 5 years

Given the limited timeline to produce a SoE Report, the following bid, is the likely minimum amount that will be required. As the Commission has no current resources, engaging staff asap to commence the work is essential to meeting deadline to submit the report. As the work gets underway, further resources may be sought as appropriate.

Ministerial Portfolio

Minister for Planning

Policy Objective

To provide 'relevant and robust information that will inform future policy development in accordance with section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (as stated in the direction from the Minister)

Priority and Policy Links

Minister has directed a report to be provided by 30 June 2024. The Commission needs resources to employ a project manager and support staff with capability to produce a meaningful report.

Other Government Entity Impacts

High level stakeholder consultation with a number of government agencies is required.

The implications for government agencies that hold data and information resources essential for the delivery of State of the Environment Reporting has not yet been established.

Identified through Community Consultation

Yes.

Community questioning of the Minister:

Meg Webb MLC, Environmental Defenders Office, The Australian Institute Tasmania, Independent Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission 2020.

Financial Information

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cost				
Operating				
Capital				
Total Cost				
Less Existing Funding/Revenue				
Net Cost				

(Base annual salaries as at 29 November 2022 in Salary wages agreement 2019) + super and wage increase

Research Assistant (GIS skills and knowledge) Band 5	89,600
Spatial Information Officer Band 4 0.5 FTE	37,300

SOE Report Manager (base salary range of 175000 – 185000)	185000
Administrative Officer Band 4	74,600
SOE Sub- Committee Meetings – 3 senior planning consultants and 3 Commissioners at current Delegate rate: - \$150 per hour, Commissioner chairperson - \$100 per hour, Commissioner members, - Professional Band 5senior planning consultant 1 day a month	100,000
Stakeholder Engagement, including community consultation, and expert advice expenses will depend on inter- agency cooperation to provide timely and relevant data that is fit for purpose - to be discussed at Cabinet	(Included in the above 100k)
Office accommodation and ICT support for SOE staff and meetings	
Publishing and editing expenses for report - publication on 5 year reporting cycle	40,000

General Comments

Production of a State of the Environment Report is a statutory required output, directed by government.

If funding is not provided the Commission will not have resources available to produce a meaningful report that meets statutory requirements.

The 2020 independent review of the Commission identified that government, industry, community and professional stakeholders considered that accurate State of the Environment reporting is essential to inform decision-making in planning, environmental land management, and government policy.

An internal 2004 review of State of the Environment reporting identified that in other jurisdictions, resources are allocated for a 3 year period, with budgets in the range of \$0.8 to 1.0 million.

Additional resourcing, including procurement of consultancies may be required depending on data availability and quality, and if data held by Government agencies is fit for purpose.

The *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* requires production of a State of the Environment Report at intervals of 5 years.

Alternative options to address policy objective

Given the direction to produce a State of the Environment report by 30 June 2024, no alternative options are identified to achieve the output within the required timeframe.

Meeting Paper

MEETING No:	2022-11A
MEETING DATE:	Out of Sessions – 7 Dec 22
PREPARED BY:	Luke Newman
CM9 REFERENCE	DOC/22/133574

Subject: Tasmanian Planning Commission – State of the Environment (SoE) Advisory Committee

Summary: The Minister for Planning has directed the Commission to produce a State of the Environment Report by 30 June 2024. The establishment of State of the Environment Advisory Committee under section 9 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1993*, will enable issues of scope, process and the like to be worked through while funding and resources are obtained. Once resources and funding are obtained an advisory committee can provide ongoing advice and guidance to staff.

Resolution: that the Commission resolves to:

- 1 establish a State of the Environment Advisory Committee under section 9 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1993*;
- 2 adopt the Terms of Reference, at attachment 3, for the State of the Environment Advisory Committee;
- 3 appoint Nick Heath, Max Kitchell and Pam Allan to the committee, as chairperson and members respectively, to be remunerated consistently with the Commission's delegate rate; and
- 4 advise the Committee that the Commission's Code of Conduct for the Executive Commissioner, Commissioners Delegates and Major Project Panels, January 2021, applies.

Background

The Minister for Planning (the Minister), under section 7 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (TPC Act) directed the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) to prepare a State of the Environment Report (SoE Report) under section 29 of the State Policies and Projects Act (SPP Act) and provide a completed copy by 30 June 2024. Copies of the letter and direction from the Minister are included at attachments 1 and 2.

Section 29 of the SPP Act sets out:

- (1) The Commission must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act and after that commencement at intervals of 5 years, produce a consolidated State of the Environment Report relating to—
- (a) the condition of the environment; and
 - (b) trends and changes in the environment; and
 - (c) the achievement of resource management objectives; and
 - (d) recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

- (2) The Commission must–
 - (a) submit a State of the Environment Report produced by it to the Minister; and
 - (b) cause notice to be given, as prescribed, that the State of the Environment Report will be available to the public for inspection and purchase.
- (3) The Minister must cause a State of the Environment Report to be laid on the table of each House of Parliament within the first 15 sitting days of the House after the Report is received by the Minister.

Three SoE Reports have been prepared since the commencement of the SPP Act. Reports were produced in 1997, 2003 and most recently by the Commission in 2009.

Following the 2009 SoE Report, the Commission commenced a review of SoE reporting, with draft reports in 2013 and updates in 2018 examining issues of the approach and scope of SoE Reporting as well as examining if the Commission or other State Service Agencies would be best placed to undertake reporting.

In 2019, the Commission briefed the then Minister on current issues with SoE Reporting and sought approval for a review focusing on issues of which agency should be responsible for, and the content of, SoE Reporting.

The then Minister did not determine the Commission request for review, but did require the Ryan & Lawrie 2020 *Independent Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission* to examine if the Commission's historically designated roles might be better relocated to another agency or body, in particular the SoE reporting function.

While the Ryan & Lawrie review found that the Commission was not the appropriate body to prepare the SoE Report, and that there is an urgent need for a SoE Report to be prepared, it did not consider the scope of SoE Reporting.

Currently the Commission does not have funding for dedicated SoE staff, or adequate staffing resources and relevant expertise to undertake SoE Reporting, while also performing its other statutory obligations.

For the Commission to seek to deliver a SoE report as required by the Minister's direction, there is an urgent need to commence resolving issues of SoE report scope, processes and the like, while funding and staffing resources are secured.

Discussion

An appropriate mechanism to commence resolving these issues would be for the Commission to establish a committee under section 9 of the TPC Act.

Section 9 of the TPC Act, sets out:

the Commission may, by instrument in writing, establish committees of such persons as the Commission considers appropriate for the purpose of assisting it in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.

The purpose of a committee would be to commence resolving issues of scope, process and the like, while providing ongoing advice to the Commission and guidance to dedicated SoE staff, once these resources are secured. The purpose and scope is more fully set out in the attached draft Terms of Reference (attachment 3).

The Commission's Code of Conduct for the Executive Commissioner, Commissioners Delegates and Major Project Panels, January 2021, does not explicitly apply to committees established under section 9 of the TPC Act. The requirements of the Code of Conduct appears to be suitable to be applied to committees to the extent that the functions of the committee are proposed to broadly align with those of Commissioners, delegates, and major project panels..

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Remuneration for an advisory committee of this nature, which will have a variable meeting schedule and require work outside of formal meetings is recommended to be consistent with the Commission's delegate rate.

The Commission's current delegate rate is:

\$150 per hour for the chair; and

\$100 per hour for members.

Membership of a SoE advisory committee, will require a range of expertise and experience in governance, environmental processes and impacts, and natural resource management.

It is recommended that Nick Heath, Max Kitchell and Pam Allan are appointed to the committee, as chairperson and members respectively, due to their range of expertise and experience in relevant areas.

Each of the proposed appointees have indicated they are available and are not aware of any real or potential conflicts of interest, which cannot be adequately managed.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. establish a State of the Environment Advisory Committee under section 9 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1993*;
2. adopt the Terms of Reference, at attachment 3, for the State of the Environment Advisory Committee;
3. appoint Nick Heath, Max Kitchell and Pam Allan to the committee, as chairperson and members respectively, to be remunerated consistently with the Commission's delegate rate; and
4. Advise the Panel that the Commission's Code of Conduct for the Executive Commissioner, Commissioners Delegates and Major Project Panels, January 2021, applies to the committee.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Letter to TPC enclosing Direction to complete State of the Environment report - 4 October 2022

Attachment 2 – Signed Direction Under TPC Act 1997 - State of the Environment Report - 4 October 2022

Attachment 3 – SoE Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference

**Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Planning**

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Phone: (03) 6165 7701; Email: Michael.Ferguson@dpactas.gov.au



4 OCT 2022

John Ramsay
Chairperson and Executive Commissioner
Tasmanian Planning Commission

By email: John.Ramsay@planning.tas.gov.au

Dear John

I am writing in regard to the State of the Environment Reports required under section 30 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*. As you would be aware, section 29 of that Act provides that these reports are to be completed at intervals of five years.

I understand that these reports have not been completed for some time for various reasons. However, given the obligations under the *State Policies and Projects Act*, I ask that you please arrange for the Commission to commence work on this report as soon as practicable. As a formality I have made the attached direction in accordance with section 7 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*.

I note section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act* sets out the information in which the report should include, which is also specified in the attached direction. It is my expectation that the report be focused on meeting the requirements specified under section 29.

I request that this report is completed and provided to my office by June 2024.

I recognise that completion of the report will require an appropriate level of resources. Should additional resources be required by the Commission, I request that these be included for consideration in the Department of Justice's 2023-24 Budget Submission.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ferguson MP
**Deputy Premier
Minister for Planning**

The Executive Commissioner advised this will be raised at the Delegates Panel meeting and practice notes or guidance notes can be issued to set as required to ensure that the submitted documents meet the requirements of the Act and Commission practice notes.

4.3 LPS update

LPS Update Report noted.

In addition to the report provided with the agenda, it was advised:

- 3 more LPS should be approved by early Novembers.
- 5 expected to have hearings in the next 3 months
- 5 not yet finalized for exhibition and no draft LPS has been submitted from King Island.
- Expect to be finalized by mid next year.
- Executive Commissioner noted some assessments may need to be reassigned amongst delegates and this will be further discussed at the Delegates Panel meeting.

5.0 FOR INFORMATION

5.1 STRLUS Amendments

Noted amendment to the Southern Regional Land Use Strategy (the Strategy) has been approved by the Minister, allowing the Commission to consider amendments to planning schemes for additional residential growth in named settlements located outside the urban growth boundary. Will discuss further at the Delegates Panel meeting.

It was noted that the information in the Consultation Report was not in the public domain and had only been sent to those who provided submissions on the proposed changes to the Strategy.

Commissioner Howlett raised the need to advise affected councils of the changes and their requirements. Executive Commissioner Ramsay advised guidance notes would be drafted and issued which will come to the Commission for approval.

5.2 Hearing & Delegation allocation and scheduling

Noted – to be updated after each Commission meeting and sent to delegates.

5.3 Right to Information Request and release of documents on State of the Environment Reporting

Paper on documents released as a result of an RTI request on SoE noted. Executive Commissioner Ramsay advised that the Minister and Department had been advised of the release of information relating to the status of the State of the Environment Report noting that the Minister for Planning is still responsible for this report under the Act.

Executive Commissioner also noted that the Commission should have a public disclosure log on our website for RTI released information and this addition to the website has been requested and the released documents will be uploaded ASAP.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

Meeting closed: 11:15am

Next meeting: Monday, 5 September 2022

5.1 Memo to Staff

The Executive Commissioner referred to the recent Memo to Staff, the non filling of the 4th Senior Planning Consultant (SPC) and the panel of 15 Delegates now able to participate in hearings.

It is proposed that the funding available from the non filling of the SPC position will contribute to the creation of 3 level 7 positions planning adviser positions. A business case to support this proposal is being prepared.

A Level 8 Planning Adviser position has been approved by the Justice Department Executive to support North West Transmission Upgrade assessment. A Level 7 Planning Adviser position had similarly been approved to support the initial work on the North East Wind Project.

Initial work to develop a replacement for iPlan has been agreed and local IT business Geometry will prepare a detailed proposal for further consideration by the Commission. A contract for the initial work is being prepared.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 COVID vaccinations

Executive Commissioner Ramsay advised of the Department's recent update on the double vaccination requirement and whether the Commission should continue to require evidence of double vaccination for participation in hearings. . It was decided that it would be discussed at the upcoming Delegates Panel meeting on 19 September.

6.2 Alex Brownlie and Kevin Hazell Curriculum Vitae

Executive Commissioner Ramsay advised of the appointment of Senior Planning Consultants (Casual) of Alex Brownlie and Kevin Hazell. Their qualifications and experience are such that they are able to join the Delegates Panel and participate in hearings. .

6.3 State of the Environment Report

Commissioner Heath requested an update on the State of the Environment Report. Executive Commissioner Ramsay advised that to his knowledge the Department of Premier and Cabinet were considering the issue and nothing further has been requested of the Commission.

Meeting closed: 10:55am

Next meeting: Monday, 3 October 2022

5.4 Draft amendment to SPPs-01-2022, proposed amendment to LUPA Amendment Regulations, and related Draft Planning Directive – Container Refund Scheme – consultation

The Commission resolved to respond to the Minister advising the Commission would not be making a comment at this time.

5.5 State of the Environment Report

The Commission noted that the Minister for Planning issued a media release on 29 September 2022 announcing the Commission will be directed to prepare a State of the Environment (SOE) Report by June 2024. It was noted that it would come to the Commission again once the formal directions under the TPC Act has been received.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Appointment of Commissioner Howlett to approve draft amendments to IPS and LPS

On 20 September 2022, an Out of Sessions Paper was distributed by email to Commissioners recommending that the Commission approve the appointment of Commissioner Roger Howlett to approve draft amendments to Interim Planning Schemes in accordance with its powers under section 42(3)(a)(ii) and (3A) of the former provisions of the Act ; and draft amendments to Local Provisions Schedules in accordance with its powers under section 40R(2) of the current Act. This appointment will be enacted while the Chairperson is on leave from 23 September until 20 October 2022.

The Commission noted that members endorsed the appointment by return email.

Meeting closed 11.35

Next meeting: Monday, 14 November 2022

5.0 FOR INFORMATION

5.1 North East Major Wind Project assessment – update

A verbal update was provided to the Commission.

5.2 Bridgewater Bridge permit – update

A verbal update was provided to the Commission.

5.3 North West Transmission Line major project – update

A verbal update was provided to the Commission.

5.4 State of the Environment Report

A verbal update was provided to the Commission. A further update will be provided at the next Commission meeting in December. *ACTION: A copy of the Ministers Direction and cover letter to be circulated. Add to the Actions List.*

5.5 Huon Valley Draft LPS request to withdraw

A verbal update was provided to the Commission. Will be an agenda item on the next Commission meeting in December.

5.6 Out of sessions approval – Glenorchy PLAM 21-04

Noted.

5.7 Out of sessions approval – Remove requirements for vaccination certificates at hearings

Noted.

5.8 Out of sessions approval – West Tamar amendment 02-22

Noted.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- Commissioner Allan requested a leave of absence for the February 2023 meeting.
- Commissioner Heath noted for the Commission's information that the Hobart short term vacancy draft amendment was advertised in the public notices on Saturday with hearings set down for 28 and 29 November 2022.

Meeting closed 11.35am

Next meeting: Monday, 5 December 2022

4.4 Chair's briefing

- Advised that in supporting major projects a Level 8 position was advertised with no successful applicants; therefore Senior Planning Consultants (Casual) have been asked to be planning leads on Major Projects;
 - Alex Brownlie – will support North West Transmission Upgrades Project
 - Kevin Hazell – will support North East Wind

noting this won't affect the Budget as will be paid for by proponents.

- Numbers are down on Planning Advisors who can support LPS which also affects amendments and revised staffing solution are being progressed with the Department.

5.0 FOR INFORMATION

5.1 State of the Environment Report

The Commission will establish a Steering Committee (as outlined in Section 9 of its Act) to have oversight over and progression of the State of the Environment Report. Discussed having three Commission members on the Committee. Discussed community consultation and external representations and possible technical advisory committee.

TPC has been working to establish a budget bid identifying resourcing, which the Deputy Secretary has agreed in principle to:

• SoE Report Manager	\$175-180K
• Research Assistant	\$90K
• 50% GIS	38K
• Admin Assistant	\$70K
• Committees and Consultation	\$100K
TOTAL Budget Bid	\$490K

Luke Newman (Major Projects) has capacity and is an effective Project Manager and will undertake set up of Committee and ToRs.

There has been considerable interest from Not for Profit environmental organisations to offer advice including NRM South, Tas Science Council, Environmental Defenders Office and Australian Institute who have arranged meetings with the Executive Commissioner.

Resolved: Steering Committee to consist of Commissioner Heath (Chair) and Commissioner's Allan and Kitchell.

ACTIONS: Set up of Committee and Terms of Reference to be resolved Out of Session. Forward NRM South documents to Steering Committee.

5.2 Regional Planning Framework Discussion Paper & Structure Plan Guidelines.

Noted. Response is due 28 February 2023. Commission staff will review the documents and provide advice to the Commission.

Action: Advice to be provided at February 2023 Commission Meeting

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- North East Wind Project Update by Commissioner Kitchell
 - Working on criteria
 - Site inspection this week
 - Resolved issue of proponents wanting a jetty over mobile sand dunes likely not being an integral part of the project.
- North West Transmissions Update – no new updates. Discussed provision of oral update if
- Delegate Chair Commissioner Howlett no longer on the Commission.

Meeting closed: 11:40pm

Next meeting: Monday, 6 February 2023