

12 CONCESSIONS, SUBSIDIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

Features

- Concessions provided in this Budget on a range of State Government goods and services are significant in helping assist low-income families and individuals in hardship and reducing inequalities in our community.
- In 2003-04, it is estimated that government departments will provide concessions, subsidies, Community Service Obligations (CSOs) and Community Service Activities (CSAs) of \$199.3 million, an increase of \$7.2 million or 3.7 per cent on 2002-03 concessions of \$192.1 million.
- The most significant increases relate to:
 - the Student Assistance Scheme concession provided through the Department of Education. It is estimated that \$5.3 million will be provided in 2003-04, an increase of \$1.0 million or 23.1 per cent on the 2002-03 Budget estimate of \$4.3 million;
 - the CSA payment to Aurora Energy Pty Ltd for electricity concessions provided through the Department of Health and Human Services. It is estimated that \$13.5 million will be provided in 2003-04, an increase of \$4.0 million or 41.3 per cent on the 2002-03 Budget estimate of \$9.6 million; and
 - the CSO payment to Metro Tasmania provided through the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. It is estimated that \$20.9 million will be provided in 2003-04, an increase of \$1.4 million or 6.9 per cent on the 2002-03 Budget estimate of \$19.5 million.

INTRODUCTION

The Government has identified poverty as a priority issue to be addressed through Tasmania *Together* and a number of benchmarks provide a focus for efforts to develop solutions to both the immediate and long-term impacts of poverty in the State.

Concessions are important in combating poverty, providing services and reducing inequalities in our community.

Concessions and benefits assist families and individuals at critical points in their lives and this Budget builds on previous Budgets that have increased the value of concessions provided to applicants, as well as extending concessions to new categories of beneficiaries.

The Government, through various agencies, provides eligible users of its goods or services with a variety of concessions, subsidies, Community Service Obligations (CSOs) and Community Service Activities (CSAs).

It is estimated that in 2003-04, agencies will provide a total of \$199.3 million of concessions, subsidies, CSOs and CSAs. This is an increase of \$7.2 million or 3.7 per cent on the 2002-03 Budget estimate of \$192.1 million.

State Government concessions are defined as a reduction, discount, subsidy, rebate or waiver/exemption provided by State Government agencies on the value of goods or services to an individual, family or household based on one or more of the following eligibility criteria:

- low income;
- in recognition of age or service to the country or community; and
- special needs or disadvantages.

Eligibility is usually, but not always, linked to the production by the recipient of a specified concession card to indicate their inclusion in one of the above groups.

CSOs are defined as commercial activities undertaken by a Government Business Enterprise (GBE) that would not ordinarily be undertaken if the GBE were operating in the private sector. In accordance with the *Government Business Enterprise Act 1995*, a CSO can only be declared where the activity is the result of a Government directive, the activity being undertaken results in a net cost to the GBE, and the activity would not be performed by the GBE if it were free to act commercially.

CSAs are defined as non-commercial activities undertaken by State-owned Companies under contract with the Government. To qualify as a CSA, the activity must meet similar identification criteria and net cost conditions as CSOs.

During the preparation of the 2003-04 Budget, a comprehensive review was undertaken into the level of concessions, subsidies, CSOs and CSAs provided by the State Government. The review indicated that the 2002-03 Budget estimate in Budget Paper No 2 *Operations of Government 2002-03* for concessions, subsidies, CSOs and CSAs had been understated by \$59.1 million.

The 2002-03 Budget estimate has been revised to more accurately reflect the true level of concessions provided by the State Government.

Table 12.1 lists, by agency, the value of State Government concessions to be provided in 2003-04. Details of specific agency concessions are also provided in this Chapter.

Table 12.1: State Government Concessions, 2003-04

Agency	2002-03 Budget	2003-04 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Education	6 337	7 337
Finance-General	80 348	81 172
Health and Human Services	49 551	50 873
Infrastructure, Energy and Resources	48 765	52 750
Primary Industries, Water and Environment	256	278
Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts	33	33
Treasury and Finance	6 836	6 836
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	192 126	199 279

AGENCY CONCESSIONS

Department of Education

The level of concessions provided by the Department of Education in 2003-04 is expected to be \$7.3 million, which is \$1.0 million or 15.8 per cent above the level of concessions provided in 2002-03. The increase reflects a greater level of assistance to students under the Student Assistance Scheme.

Table 12.2 summarises the concessions to be provided by the Department in 2003-04. A description of each concession follows the Table.

Table 12.2: Concessions provided by the Department of Education

	2002-03 Budget	2003-04 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Accommodation Allowance for Tertiary Students	1 445	1 445
Special Bursaries Scheme	22	22
Spectacles Assistance Scheme	100	100
Student Accommodation Allowance for Senior Secondary Students	446	446
Student Assistance Scheme	4 324	5 324
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	6 337	7 337

Accommodation Allowance for Tertiary Students

An allowance is payable to approved tertiary students who are permanent residents of Tasmania to assist with accommodation expenses where the students are required to live away from their usual home within the State to enable them to attend a tertiary institution to undertake their chosen course of study. The accommodation allowance is also available to Tasmanian tertiary students who are studying at interstate institutions if their chosen course of study is not available in Tasmania.

Special Bursaries Scheme

Special bursaries are provided by the Department as emergency assistance towards the purchase of school uniforms, primarily for students in secondary schools and in special schools.

Spectacles Assistance Scheme

The Spectacles Assistance Scheme assists with the cost of the purchase of spectacles for school students of low-income families. Students may be attending a government or registered non-government school, or may be in a registered home education situation.

Student Accommodation Allowance for Senior Secondary Students

An allowance is paid to approved Year 11 and 12 students who are residents of Tasmania to assist with accommodation expenses where the students are required to live away from their primary place of residence to enable them to undertake senior secondary studies.

Student Assistance Scheme

The Student Assistance Scheme covers the cost of eligible students' participation in their chosen educational program and is available to students enrolled full-time in kindergarten through to Year 12 attending a state or registered non-government school or college. Eligibility for assistance is determined by an income test. As part of the 2002-03 Budget, the Department received additional funding of \$1.0 million in 2002-03, increasing to \$2.0 million in outyears, for the Student Assistance Scheme.

Finance-General

The level of concessions provided by Finance-General in 2003-04 is expected to be \$81.2 million, which is \$824 000 above the level of concessions provided in 2002-03.

Table 12.3 summarises the concessions to be provided by Finance-General in 2003-04. A description of each concession follows the Table.

Table 12.3: Concessions provided by Finance-General

	2002-03	2003-04
	Budget	Budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Debits Duty	1 368	1 405
Duty Loan¹	3 500	3 000
Exemption of Duty on the Registration or Transfer of Registration of a Motor Vehicle	430	441
Exemption of Duty on the Conveyance of Real Property used for Primary Production To a Relative	390	400
Land Tax Residential Concession²	17 564	18 049
Land Tax Primary Production Concession²	30 968	31 823
Land Tax Pensioner and Charitable Bodies Concession³	6 620	7 008
Payroll Tax Assistance³	4 730	4 985
Pensioner Rates Remission⁴	14 778	14 061
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	80 348	81 172

Notes:

1. Duty loans for 2003-04 have declined in line with an expected reduction in applications for the First Home Owner Grant.
2. In previous years these concessions have been calculated on the difference between a zero rate of land tax and the previous concessional rate that applied up until 1996. The level of concession for 2003-04 reflects the total concession calculated on the difference between a zero rate of land tax and the general rate.
3. This concession had not previously been included within the concessions table.
4. The estimate for pensioner rate remissions for 2003-04 has been reduced to reflect the actual expenditure during 2002-03.

Debits Duty

An exemption from debits duty applies to a bank account held by an eligible recipient of a pension, benefit or an allowance, into which Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs payments are directly credited. The exemption is specific to a particular account. An eligible recipient is the holder of a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card, a Health Care Card, or its equivalent.

Eligible recipients apply directly to the financial institution for the exemption. However, if the claim needs to be backdated, application is made direct to the Revenue, Gaming and Licensing Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Duty Loan

Duty loans are available to first home buyers where the value of the property does not exceed \$120 000 and the property being purchased will be the principal place of residence. Where the property is purchased in joint names, it must be the first home for both applicants. The loan is interest free and is repayable over two years, by eight quarterly instalments. If default in the repayment occurs, interest can be applied. Applications are lodged with, and processed by, the Revenue, Gaming and Licensing Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Exemption of Duty on the Registration or Transfer of Registration of a Motor Vehicle

Exemption from duty on an application to register, or transfer registration of, a motor vehicle, is granted to a person who owns a vehicle, which is exempted from Motor Tax under the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999* or the *Transport Act 1981*. Eligibility is the same for both exemptions and includes a range of specific criteria applying to both vehicle type and ownership.

The exemption is determined by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and is only referred to the Revenue, Gaming and Licensing Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance if a claim is retrospective. Some further exemptions are available under the *Duties Act 2001*.

Exemption of Duty on the Conveyance of Real Property used for Primary Production to a Relative

This exemption applies to the conveyance of real property, used solely or principally in connection with the business of primary production, from a natural person to a relative of that person. A conveyance can also be to a trustee of a trust of which all the beneficiaries are relatives of the person.

The exemption also applies in certain other circumstances involving the conveyance of real property from a company to a trustee of a trust or a natural person, providing certain conditions are met. These are outlined in Schedule 3 of the *Duties Act 2001*.

Land Tax Residential Concession

An exemption from payment of land tax applies to all owners of land (as at 1 July each year) on which a dwelling, flat or structure used for domestic purposes exists and which is occupied by the owner as the principal place of residence.

Land Tax Primary Production Concession

Land that is used as primary production land in a business-like manner with a reasonable expectation of profit does not attract land tax. Examples of primary production include agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, horse breeding, forestry plantations or dairy farming. Land tax concessions are assessed on the basis of applications forwarded by individual landowners.

Land Tax Pensioner and Charitable Bodies Concession

Land that is owned by the holder of a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card, a Health Care Card or its equivalent and a number of charitable, religious and educational organisations does not attract land tax.

Payroll Tax Assistance

Specific industry assistance

A payroll tax rebate is provided to all childcare centre employers and for employers who are involved in the Information Technology industry. To receive the information technology rebate the employers must have a significant participation in the Information Technology industry, either in Tasmania or elsewhere and be involved with the development of software or hardware.

Training

Payroll tax relief is provided to employers in relation to wages paid to apprentices under the Tasmanian Trainee Apprentice Incentive Scheme (TTAIS). The scheme provides employers of trainees with a rebate equal to the payroll tax paid in respect of those employees. Similar relief is provided to specialised group training schemes in such industries as building and hospitality.

Pensioner Rates Remission

Local councils receive reimbursement of the amount of the concession (rates remission) granted on local government rates paid by pensioners. The remission allowable to pensioners is 30 per cent of their local government rates up to a maximum of \$307 per annum. As part of the initiatives announced in the 2002-03 Budget, indexation will now be applied to the annual maximum limit to ensure rate relief for pensioners will increase fully in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index. The maximum amount of the concession payable in 2003-04 will increase to \$318.

Department of Health and Human Services

The level of concessions provided by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2003-04 is expected to be \$50.9 million, \$1.3 million or 2.7 per cent above the levels of concessions provided in 2002-03.

The increase is mainly attributable to an increase of \$4.0 million in the Community Service Activity (CSA) payment to Aurora Energy Pty Ltd. This increase is primarily the result of a Government initiative to introduce electricity concessions to Health Care Card Holders during the two winter quarters of each year. This concession will commence from 1 July 2003. Partly offsetting this increase is a reduction in the cost of concessions provided under the Public Rental Subsidy, primarily due to an increase in the number of Housing Tasmania clients purchasing surplus public housing under the 'Streets Ahead Program'.

Table 12.4 summarises the concessions to be provided by the Department in 2003-04. A description of each concession follows the Table.

Table 12.4: Concessions provided by the Department of Health and Human Services

	2002-03 Budget \$'000	2003-04 Budget \$'000
Adult Dental Services	450	580
Breast Screening Services – Travel Subsidy¹	20	85
Community Service Activity – Aurora Energy Pty Ltd²	9 570	13 526
Equipment Lending Scheme	349	407
Funeral Allowance	18	18
Home Oxygen Therapy	501	512
Medical Aids and Appliances	490	521
Nocturnal Ventilatory Support Therapy	164	212
Patient Travel Assistance Program	2 100	1 932
Pharmaceutical Benefits (Outpatients)	2 841	2 950
Private Rental Assistance	2 103	2 130
Public Rental Subsidy³	30 395	27 174
Spectacle Assistance Scheme	550	524
Lymphoedema Garment Scheme⁴	80
Enteral Feeds and Supplement⁴	222
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	49 551	50 873

Notes:

1. The increase in the travel subsidy for Breast Screening Services is the result of the transfer of all assessment clinics to Hobart resulting in increased applications for the subsidy.
2. The increase in the Aurora Energy Pty Ltd Community Service Activity is largely attributed to the extension of electricity concessions, previously only available to pensioners, to Health Care Card Holders during the two winter quarters of each year commencing 1 July 2003.
3. Public Rental Subsidy is the difference between the market rent of a property and the amount actually paid by the tenant as an income-based tenant contribution. The reduced cost of the subsidy in 2003-04 is due to the total reduction in rental stock and therefore total market rents. This reduction is primarily due to an increase in the number of Housing Tasmania clients purchasing surplus public housing under the 'Streets Ahead Program'.
4. These are new concessions provided in 2003-04, therefore no comparative data is available.

Adult Dental Services

This concession covers the provision of subsidised dental services to Pensioner Concession Card Holders and Health Care Card Holders. The main services subsidised are the Denture Scheme and the Southern Emergency Pilot Scheme. The Southern Emergency Pilot Scheme involves public sector clients who require emergency care by private sector dentists.

Breast Screening Services – Travel Subsidy

The Breast Screening Services travel subsidy is provided to women attending breast screening assessment clinics. The subsidy is available to women requiring assessment of a detected abnormality. Previously, assessment clinics were held in both Launceston and Hobart. The unavailability of radiologists and

concerns over the ability to provide high quality clinical services now requires all assessment clinics to be held in Hobart, resulting in increased applications for the subsidy.

Community Service Activity - Aurora Energy Pty Ltd

Under arrangements for the electricity supply industry in Tasmania, an agreement for the provision of pensioner concessions has been established between the Government and Aurora Energy Pty Ltd as a CSA. In addition, the Government is funding an initiative to extend the electricity concessions, previously only available to pensioners, to Health Care Card Holders during the two winter quarters of each year commencing 1 July 2003. An amount of \$13.5 million will be paid to Aurora Energy Pty Ltd to fund the CSA in 2003-04.

Equipment Lending Scheme

The Equipment Lending Scheme provides specific equipment to assist people to live independently and safely in their own home. The main client groups are the frail, aged and people with disabilities. The maintenance of all equipment is facilitated through the Department.

Funeral Allowance

Financial assistance may be provided towards the costs of an 'essential care funeral' where the deceased person is without funds in their estate and where relatives of the deceased do not claim the deceased and/or are unable to assist due to extenuating financial circumstances.

Home Oxygen Therapy

This concession covers the provision of long-term and short-term oxygen therapy for acute care and chronic home care of lung disease patients who require continuous oxygen therapy. The concession covers oxygen cylinders and concentrators (which are on loan) and disposable accessories and consumables.

Medical Aids and Appliances

Under this program, aids such as enteral feeding sets and pumps, specialised garments for burn victims, wigs and other specialised aids are provided to patients to assist with independent living. These devices are often required continuously to avoid institutionalised care and complications, for instance, feeding sets for cerebral palsy patients.

Nocturnal Ventilatory Support Therapy

This concession covers the provision of continuous positive airway pressure mask accessories and consumables to medical cardholders and disadvantaged patients with sleep apnoea syndrome. These patients are unable to maintain adequate oxygenation during sleep and require assistance to avoid severe complications.

Patient Travel Assistance Program

Travel expense assistance is provided to Tasmanian patients required to travel outside their region for medical treatment that is not available in the patient's home region. The assistance encompasses expenses relating to patient travel, medical support and close family member travel. Patient treatment may require intrastate and interstate travel.

Pharmaceutical Benefits (Outpatients)

This concession covers the provision of pharmaceuticals, excluding highly specialised drugs, to outpatients of Tasmanian hospitals at concessional rates.

Private Rental Assistance – includes Private Rental Support and Rent Subsidy

The objective of this program is to maintain, support and provide assistance for people on low incomes to live in the private sector rental market. Assistance in the form of bond, cost of removals and rent in advance or arrears is delivered through non-government community organisations in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie.

Public Rental Assistance

Rental property services are provided statewide, with the objective to provide adequate, affordable, appropriate and secure rental housing to people on low incomes, particularly those who have difficulty accessing appropriate housing in the private market. The assistance consists of the provision of direct customer services and the effective management of stock to meet client needs.

Spectacles Assistance Scheme

The Spectacles Assistance Scheme operates through an agreement between the State Government and participating Tasmanian optometrists. The State Government funds the scheme, which currently provides a 75 per cent subsidy for basic frames and lenses and may provide assistance with the purchase of intra-ocular lenses, contact lenses and artificial eyes to eligible permanent residents of Tasmania, who are in receipt of a Commonwealth benefit or pension. Low-income earners not receiving a Commonwealth benefit may also receive assistance, depending on individual circumstance and availability of funding. All eligible clients are permitted one pair of reading and one pair of distance glasses, or one pair of multi-focal glasses every two years. The scheme is demand driven and therefore annual costs can fluctuate.

Lymphoedema Garment Scheme

The Lymphoedema Garment Scheme aims to ensure equitable access to compression garments for all Tasmanians with lymphoedema who have been assessed by qualified therapists as in need of compression garments in the treatment of their condition. This is achieved through the provision of financial assistance to those with a demonstrated need for assistance.

Enteral Feeds and Supplements

This subsidy is provided under the Statewide Home Nutrition Policy for clients accessing enteral feeds and supplements.

Patients are eligible for assistance under this scheme if they have been assessed as requiring enteral feeds or food supplement products and are not eligible for financial assistance from any other government funded program such as Department of Veterans' Affairs and Nursing Home Subsidy payments, and have not received compensation payments that include provision for future home nutrition.

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

The level of concessions provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources in 2003-04 is expected to be \$52.8 million, which is \$4.0 million or 8.2 per cent above the level of concessions provided in 2002-03. The increase is largely attributed to an increase in the Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment to Metro Tasmania of \$1.4 million and a \$1.2 million increase in the Payment to School Bus Operators for Contract Services, both the result of indexation increases.

Table 12.5 summarises the concessions to be provided by the Department in 2003-04. A description of each concession follows the Table.

Table 12.5: Concessions provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

	2002-03 Budget \$'000	2003-04 Budget \$'000
Conveyance Allowance	667	733
Community Service Obligation - Payment to Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd¹	19 527	20 877
Community Service Obligation to the Civil Construction Corporation for the retention of the Fingerpost Depot Waratah	54
Driver Licences	752	772
Motor Tax	753	895
Payment to School Bus Operators - Contract Services¹	17 634	18 832
Payment to School Bus Operators - Route Services	6 610	6 940
Pensioner Aged and Unemployed Concessions (Private Operators)	860	903
Pensioner Air Travel Subsidy	8	8
Registration Fee	1 110	1 280
Transport Access Scheme²	790	1 510
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	48 765	52 750

Notes:

1. The variation in these concessions from 2002-03 is the result of increases in indexation.
2. As from 1 July 2002, the standard taxi concession rate for non-wheelchair members of the Transport Access Scheme rose from 35 per cent to 50 per cent and the single trip concession limit was lifted. Subsequently, increased demand in 2002-03 has resulted in a significant increase in expenditure for this concession. In addition, funding in 2003-04 has been provided for the introduction of wheelchair accessible taxis.

Conveyance Allowance

The Department administers allowances to parents and guardians for the cost of transporting full time students by private car to the nearest appropriate bus stop, or school, if the student lives five kilometres or more from their nearest bus stop or school. Allowances are also paid to some Bass Strait Islands residents to send students to further their education on mainland Tasmania or in other states.

Community Service Obligation to the Civil Construction Services Corporation for the retention of the Fingerpost Road Depot Waratah

This CSO funding represents the State Government's contribution towards the costs of maintaining the operations of the Fingerpost Road depot to ensure both continuing employment and an increased level of service in accordance with the North-West Road Maintenance Contract awarded to the Civil Construction Services Corporation. Funding of the CSO is tied to the duration of the existing North-West Road Maintenance Contract, and is to end on 30 June 2003. The service arrangements relating to the current CSO will be incorporated into the new road maintenance contract, rather than through a new CSO.

Community Service Obligation - Payment to Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd

Funding is provided for the subsidisation of the commercial fares necessary to support the full range of Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd services to pensioners, students and the unemployed.

Driver Licence Concessions

Driver Licence concessions are available to pensioners and drivers over the age of 65. The concession varies depending on the period for which the licence is issued and currently ranges from \$7.55 for a one year licence to \$36.75 for a five year licence. Drivers aged over 65 are exempt from the total cost of the licence fee, paying only \$5.40 to cover the cost of producing the photo licence.

Motor Tax Concessions

A 100 per cent rebate is available to persons in receipt of a totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) pension or persons or their guardians who are members of the Transport Access Scheme. Certain charitable organisations or benevolent societies may also be eligible for the rebate. A 40 per cent motor tax rebate is available to farmers who own a commercial vehicle that is used solely for agricultural or horticultural use. The 40 per cent rebate is also available to holders of pensioner concession cards who own a commercial vehicle for private use.

Payments to School Bus Operators - Contract Services

The Department administers contract payments to school bus operators. Contracts are issued for the conveyance of students to and from school. Contracts are usually issued where there are no other public transport services available and are maintained subject to compliance with criteria such as minimum applicable distances from the closest school and minimum passenger numbers requiring regular transport.

Payments to School Bus Operator - Route Services

In accordance with Government policy, provision is made for payments to operators of private route service buses to supplement the fare revenue from students, which is set at levels significantly below the commercial adult fare. Students who hold approved concession passes travel free and this item provides for payment of the student fare plus government contribution to operators in such instances.

Pensioner, Aged and Unemployed Concessions (Private Operators)

Subsidy schemes are in place to enable pensioners, the aged and unemployed persons to obtain concession fares for travel on privately owned buses and the Mersey River Ferry.

Pensioner Air Travel Subsidy

Aged pensioner residents of the Bass Strait Islands are entitled to the equivalent of 50 per cent of the return airfare for one visit per annum to Northern Tasmania. Aged pensioners travelling between the Bass Strait Islands and Hobart are entitled to a subsidy equivalent to that applying between the Islands and Northern Tasmania.

Registration Fee Concession

The concession is currently 55 per cent of the vehicle registration fee component. It is available to holders of pensioner concession cards and Transport Access Scheme members.

Transport Access Scheme

A range of concessions and benefits are available under the Transport Access Scheme to provide assistance to people who have permanent physical or intellectual disabilities, to enable them to use the range of transport facilities available to the general community.

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

The level of concessions provided by the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment in 2003-04 is expected to be \$278 000, which is \$22 000 or 8.6 per cent above the levels of concessions provided in 2002-03.

Table 12.6 summarises the concessions to be provided the Department in 2003-04.

Table 12.6: Concessions provided by the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

	2002-03 Budget	2003-04 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Game Licence Fee	8	9
Recreational Fishing Licence Fee¹	40	53
Shack Site Pensioner Rebate²	11	10
Recreational Angling Licence Fee³	197	206
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	256	278

Notes:

1. The increase in 2003-04 is a result of an increase in fees under the *Fees Unit Act 1997* and an increased number of concessional licences granted.
2. The decline in the forecast cost of concessions is due to the sale of several shacks on Crown land.
3. This concession had not previously been included within the concessions table.

The concessions provided by the Department apply to the holders of Pensioner Concession, Health Care and Seniors Cards. The Department's concessions are determined on the basis of a 20 per cent discount on the normal full adult rate for game licence fees. For recreational fishing licenses, the discount is \$15 off the recreational licence fee. This concession also applies to persons under the age of 16.

The Recreational Angling Licence concession provides a range of concessions for eligible pensioners, Senior Cardholders and children between the ages of 14 and 17.

Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts

The level of concessions provided by the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts in 2003-04 is expected to remain unchanged from the 2002-03 estimate of \$33 000.

Table 12.7 summarises the concessions to be provided by the Department in 2003-04.

Table 12.7: Concessions provided by the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts

	2002-03	2003-04
	Budget	Budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Hastings Caves/Pool Entry Fee	8	8
Mole Creek Caves Entry Fee	8	8
National Park Entry Fee	17	17
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	33	33

The concessions provided by the Department apply to the holders of Pensioner Concession, Health Care and Seniors Cards. The Department's concessions are determined on the basis of a 20 per cent discount from the normal full adult rate for Hastings Reserve entry fees, Mole Creek Caves entry fees and general National Park entry fees.

Department of Treasury and Finance

The level of concessions provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance in 2003-04 is expected to remain unchanged from the 2002-03 estimate of \$6.8 million.

Table 12.8 summarises the concessions to be provided by the Department in 2003-04. A description of the concessions follows the Table.

Table 12.8: Concessions provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance

	2002-03	2003-04
	Budget	Budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Community Service Obligation - Bass Strait Islands	6 170	6 170
Community Service Obligation - The Public Trustee	666	666
TOTAL CONCESSIONS	6 836	6 836

Community Service Obligation - Bass Strait Islands

This payment is provided to Hydro Tasmania for the delivery of the Bass Strait Islands Community Service Obligation (CSO). The Bass Strait Islands CSO provides for the subsidised supply by Hydro Tasmania of electricity to Bass Strait Islands customers and the provision of concessions to pensioner customers on the Bass Strait Islands.

This CSO has been funded since 1998-99. A contract with Hydro Tasmania was renegotiated and finalised during 2002-03 for a period of three years, expiring 30 June 2005.

Community Service Obligation - The Public Trustee

The Public Trustee provides four categories of CSO to the community, on behalf of the Government:

- administration of Absolute Estates with a gross asset value of less than \$60 000;
- administration of Continuing Trust and Life Tenancy Estates with a gross asset value of less than \$100 000;
- administration and management of Minor Trusts with a gross asset value of less than \$20 000; and
- administration of assets for Represented Persons with a gross asset value of less than \$100 000.

The current CSO contract is due to expire on 30 June 2003. A further three year CSO contract is currently being re-negotiated with The Public Trustee and will commence on 1 July 2003.