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### Treasury's Federation Garden

The redevelopment of the forecourt of 21 Murray Street was completed in December 2001 with the construction of a decorative wrought iron fence.

In design, the paths and garden beds in the Federation Garden are now similar to those that existed at the time of federation. This redevelopment has also enabled Treasury to include an unobtrusive disabled access along the northern side of the Garden.

We invite you to have a look at the forecourt and we'd also appreciate your feedback. Let us know by e-mail what you think of the Federation Garden, Treasury's contribution to the Centenary of Federation celebrations.

Contact:  
robert.cockerell@treasury.tas.gov.au

## HEADLINE NEWS

### Common Use Contracts

The Government has introduced a consolidated approach to the advertising of vacancies, tenders and public notices. A new contract is being established to facilitate the new arrangements. *More on page 5*

### Contractor Health and Safety

Draft *Guidelines for Contractor Health and Safety-Management of Tasmanian Government Building Works and Maintenance Services* have been distributed for comment. *More on page 5*

### Disclosure of Contract Information

The Treasurer has recently approved the disclosure of additional contract information for all contracts with a value in excess of \$50 000. *More on page 4*

### Economic News of Interest

This update summarises Tasmania's performance on selected economic measures, such as private new capital expenditure, exports and employment. *More on page 6*

### Integrated BMFRS

The Integrated Budget Management and Financial Reporting System is now operating. *More on page 3*

### New on the Web

#### Disclosure of Contract Information

*More on page 4*

Go to:

[www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders)

#### Electricity Reform

*More on page 2*

Go to: [www.treasury.tas.gov.au](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au) > Energy Markets

To access the terms and conditions for Tasmania's transition to the National Electricity Market (NEM)

Go to: [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

#### Tasmanian Revenue Online

*More on page 2*

Go to: [www.treasury.tas.gov.au/tro](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/tro)

#### Treasury's Customer Service Charter

Go to: [www.treasury.tas.gov.au/About Us](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/About Us)

### Meet the Buyers

Plans are underway for the 2002 Meet the Buyers events to be held on 18 June in Hobart and 21 June in Launceston. *More on page 4*

### Procurement Training Forum

A report will be distributed in March on the outcomes of the forum held in February 2002 to discuss the strategies identified in the Discussion Paper *Better Procurement in Government*. *More on page 4*

### Property Sales Web Site

Information on the sale of non-strategic Government properties is now available in a user-friendly, easy access format on Treasury's Web site. *More on page 5*

### SPP Principles and Guidelines

Cabinet has now endorsed both the *Special Purpose Payments Best Practice Principles and Guidelines*. *More on page 3*

### Tasmanian Revenue Online Project Web Site Launched

*Tasmania Revenue Online* will be available in June 2002. In the interim, the Project Team has launched a Project Web site. *More on page 2*

### Tasmania to Receive its full share of NCP Payments

The Commonwealth Treasurer has approved the third tranche of Tasmania's National Competition Policy (NCP) payments, estimated at \$17.4 million. *More on page 3*

### Tender and Contract Reporting

Tasmanian businesses successfully competed for 73 of the 93 contracts awarded by inner-Budget agencies, GBEs and SoCs in the September quarter 2001. *More on page 5*

### Tender Review Committees

The Treasurer has approved the establishment of agency Tender Review Committees to review the purchase or lease of all goods and services over \$50 000. *More on page 4*

## **Superannuation News**

With the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee rate from 1 July 2002, most public servants appointed after 14 May 1999, and all parliamentarians, judges and governors first elected or appointed after 30 June 1999, will receive employer superannuation support at the rate of nine per cent of salary.

These new superannuation arrangements were introduced in 1999, and have resulted in the most equitable public sector superannuation arrangements within Australia. This is an outcome of the Government's decision to close the major 'public sector defined benefit schemes' to new entrants and provide for employer superannuation support to be paid to either the Retirement Benefits Fund (RBF) Tasmanian Accumulation Scheme, or a complying accumulation scheme of the employees' choice.

The new arrangements also provide for fund choice. A whole-of-government survey conducted on 30 June 2001, clearly demonstrated that fund choice was favoured by many public sector employees. At that date, there were 1 972 employees in 215 complying superannuation schemes, other than the RBF schemes. Many employees recruited from the mainland have elected to remain in their superannuation schemes.

The effect of the introduction of fund choice, together with the closure of the RBF defined benefit scheme to new entrants, and the consequent reduction in the number of members in that scheme, has led to a situation where approximately 60 per cent of all public sector employees belong to fully funded accumulation schemes.

Contact: Greg Philp on 6233 3055 or  
e-mail [greg.philp@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:greg.philp@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **State Taxation Update**

### **Tasmanian Revenue Online Project Web Site Launched**

The State Revenue Office will introduce *Tasmanian Revenue Online* in June 2002, with a first release version due in early April 2002. *Tasmanian Revenue Online* is a Web-based system that allows registered clients to lodge monthly and annual returns, send details of documents subject to duty, stamp those documents, and pay state taxes via the Internet.

The Project Team has recently launched a special *Tasmanian Revenue Online* Project Web site that will operate while the online facility is being finalised. The Project Web site provides clients with access to:

- the latest information on the status of the project;
- specific information relating to your business or industry;
- answers to frequently asked questions;
- access to a demonstration model which takes you through realistic examples of how the system will look and operate; and
- contact details if you would like any more information.

The State Revenue Office is very keen to involve clients in testing and reviewing early versions of the system to ensure your business requirements will be met.

If you are interested in testing early versions of *Tasmanian Revenue Online*, and in providing valuable input, please contact Marita Holding on (03) 62 333678 or send an e-mail to [tro@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:tro@treasury.tas.gov.au).

For more information on *Tasmanian Revenue Online* and the potential benefits to your organisation, please visit the Project Web site at: [www.treasury.tas.gov.au/tro](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/tro).

Contact: Marita Holding on 03 6233 3678 or  
e-mail [tro@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:tro@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Tasmania set to enter the National Electricity Market**

The countdown has started to the State's eventual full participation in the National Electricity Market (NEM), in conjunction with the completion of Basslink. Two major milestones have recently been achieved: authorization by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the signing of agreements between participating jurisdictions.

### **ACCC Authorisation**

In November 2000, Tasmania submitted two applications for authorisation of transition arrangements to the ACCC. These were:

- the proposed amendments to the National Electricity Code (NEC) to facilitate a smooth transition to the national market arrangements; and
- the vesting contract between Aurora Energy Pty Ltd (Aurora) and Hydro Tasmania that provides Aurora with protection from market risk for its energy purchases for non-contestable customers (those that buy electricity from Aurora under regulated tariffs).

On 20 July 2001, the ACCC released a Draft Determination in relation to the two applications. Following a period of public consultation, the ACCC released its Final Determination on 14 November 2001.

The terms and conditions of Tasmania's participation in the NEM have now been finalised. Details can be found on the ACCC's Web site: [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au).

### **Agreements between Jurisdictions**

In December 2001, a number of agreements were signed between jurisdictions in the NEM (NSW, Vic, Qld, SA and the ACT) and Tasmania. These agreements will enable Tasmania to:

- be recognised as a participating jurisdiction in the NEM;
- become a party to the NEM Legislation Agreement; and
- be admitted as a member of the two NEM institutions: the National Electricity Market Management Company (NEMMCO) and the National Electricity Code Administrator (NECA).

Gaining membership of the NEM institutions (NEMMCO and NECA) will ensure that Tasmania has a voice on the Board of each Company, through an appointed director. Tasmania's representation will facilitate progress on all steps necessary for the NEM to commence in Tasmania.

### **Commencement of the NEM in Tasmania**

The legislation to extend the NEM to Tasmania, *Electricity – National Schemes (Tasmania) Act 1999*, has been passed by the Tasmanian Parliament and was recently proclaimed to commence in December 2003. At this stage, it is anticipated that the National Electricity Market will be able to start in Tasmania during December 2003. This will result in the State's electricity sector being subject to the rules of the NEM, including the specific arrangements approved by the ACCC for Tasmania.

### **Benefits**

Linking Tasmania's electricity system to the NEM, via Basslink, will facilitate the development of Tasmania's significant wind energy potential. It will also provide valuable drought insurance for the State's electricity system. The extension of the NEM to Tasmania will provide a solid regulatory platform for the future evolution of the State's energy sector and, for the first time, will enable competition and choice for users of electricity.

### **More Information**

For more information on electricity reform in Tasmania go to Treasury's Web site, [www.treasury.tas.gov.au](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au) and follow the link to the Energy Markets page.

Contact: Richard Sulikowski on 03 6233 2600 or e-mail [richard.sulikowski@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:richard.sulikowski@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Commonwealth/State Relations**

### **SPP Principles and Guidelines**

An article about the *Special Purpose Payments (SPP) Best Practice Principles and Guidelines* was included in the October issue of @treasury.tas. Cabinet has now endorsed both the Principles and the Guidelines.

Prior to the commencement of negotiations, officers considering the State's commitment to a new SPP, or renewing an existing SPP, should contact:

Wendy Sawford (03 6233 2835) Director, Intergovernment and Financial Policy, Treasury <a href="mailto:wendy.sawford@treasury.tas.gov.au">wendy.sawford@treasury.tas.gov.au</a>	Kerry Burns (03 6233 3706) Assistant Director, Policy Division, DPAC <a href="mailto:kerry.burns@dpac.tas.gov.au">kerry.burns@dpac.tas.gov.au</a>
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To obtain copies of the Principles and the Guidelines:

Contact: Jodi Booth 03 6233 2431 or e-mail: [jodi.booth@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:jodi.booth@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### **Correction**

In the December 2001 issue of @treasury.tas, it was reported that the *Hairdressers' Registration Act 1975* was to be included in Acts and Regulations due to be repealed by the Legislation Repeal Bill 2001. This was an error and the Act has not been repealed.

### **Tasmania to receive its full share of NCP payments**

On 13 December 2001, the Commonwealth Treasurer (Hon Peter Costello MHR) wrote to the Premier indicating his approval of recommendations from the National Competition Council that Tasmania receive its full share of the 2001-02 component of the third tranche of National Competition Policy (NCP) payments, estimated at \$17.4 million.

The \$17.4 million component will be updated for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and population estimates, and any adjustments will be processed through the NCP payments in 2002-03. Tasmania has received all its competition payments to date.

Contact: Peter Bennett on 03 6233 3485 or e-mail [peter.bennett@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:peter.bennett@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Budget and Financial Systems**

### **Integrated Budget Management and Financial Reporting System**

The Integrated Budget Management and Financial Reporting System (BMFRS) provides a strategic system for agencies and Treasury to support the development of the State Budget, manage the cash resources of Government and report on the financial activities of the inner Budget sector. The implementation of the new system has involved enhancements to the Budget Management System (BMS) and the Public Account Reporting System (PARS), together with three major developments. These are:

- integration of the core BMS and PARS databases, which was completed on 15 October 2001;
- development of a server-based data collection system to be used by agencies, which was completed on 15 October 2001; and
- development of a Public Account Cash Management System (PACMS) module, which was implemented on 21 December 2001.

### **Cash Management 2001-02**

The PACMS module is a new system for the ongoing management of the Government's cash resources, on a short-term and long-term basis. Agencies will provide cashflow forecasts relating to the Budget year and revise these on a quarterly basis. This information will be used to determine the appropriate borrowing/investment strategies for the year. Previously, this information was collected with the use of a spreadsheet survey. PACMS provides a more flexible and efficient method for preparing an Agency's cashflow forecasts.

PACMS was rolled out to agencies in January 2002 and Treasury will be working with Agencies to assist in the preparation of the initial set of cashflow forecasts for the six months, January 2002 to June 2002.

### Further developments

Further developments to the integrated BMFRS are planned for 2002. These include:

- user enhancements to the Integrated BMFRS;
- enhancements to manage accrual actual data, accrual budgetary data and develop accrual reporting and reports for Budget Papers Nos 1 and 2;
- further development of a Web Based Help System; and
- development of an archiving strategy for the Integrated BMFRS database.

Inter-agency Reference Groups have been established and will meet on a regular basis to review the three modules – BMS, PARS and PACMS - and identify potential improvements in both functionality and user friendliness.

Contact: Tony Wells on 03 6233 5098 or  
e-mail: [tony.wells@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:tony.wells@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Government Procurement Update

### Meet the Buyers

Following the success of *Meet the Buyers* in 2001, plans are underway for the 2002 *Meet the Buyers*. These events will again be a collaborative effort between Treasury and the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Following feedback from participants, a number of changes are proposed to the 2002 *Meet the Buyers*. These include:

- starting the events earlier in the day in order to make them more accessible to small businesses before normal business hours;
- including a display of information on government support programs for local businesses available through the Department of State Development and other government bodies; and
- earlier notice of workshops/seminars.

The 2002 *Meet the Buyers* events will be held on 18 June 2002 in Hobart and 21 June 2002 in Launceston.

Treasury will be in contact with agencies, government business enterprises and councils in April, to formally request their participation and provide more details.

Contact: Kim Hudson on 03 6233 3684 or  
e-mail [kim.hudson@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:kim.hudson@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### Procurement Training Forum

Following the release, in December 2001, of the Treasury discussion paper, *Better Procurement in Government*, a forum was held in February 2002 to discuss strategies for improving the knowledge and skills of government buyers and contract managers.

Participants helped identify their training and information needs, and were given an overview of the Victorian Government's Procurement and Contracting Centre for Education and Research (PACCER) training courses that will soon be available in Tasmania.

A report on the outcomes of the forum will be prepared and circulated to participants and agencies shortly.

To access the discussion paper, *Better Procurement in Government*, go to: [www.treasury.tas.gov.au](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au) > Procurement and Contracting > Policy and Discussion Papers

Contact: Brian Holding on 03 6233 2509 or  
e-mail [brian.holding@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:brian.holding@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### Disclosure of Contract Information

The Treasurer has recently decided to require the disclosure of additional contract information for all contracts with a value in excess of \$50 000. This information is to be published on the Government Tenders Web site.

There are several benefits from disclosing contract award information on the Internet. These include:

- dissemination of information to the widest possible audience;
- reducing the incidence of unsuccessful tenderers seeking information from agencies on the details of particular contracts awarded; and
- demonstrating the Government's commitment to openness and accountability.

The following contract award information (for all contracts over \$50 000) will be published on the purchasing Web site at [www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders):

- contract number/tender number and title;
- a description of the contract;
- the date the contract was awarded;
- period of the contract;
- number of submissions received;
- successful supplier's name and location;
- total contract price for the period of the contract (excluding GST);
- commencement date; and
- agency contact officer name and contact details.

Initially, agencies will be required to provide Treasury with the information on contracts awarded so that it can be published on the *purchasing.tas* site. A proforma is available on the Web site. Treasury is currently investigating ways for agencies to input this data directly.

The requirement to display contract information on a public notice board for at least seven days, remains. Details are in Section 2.12 of the *Handbook for Government Procurement* at [www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders).

Contact: Kim Hudson on 03 6233 3684 or  
e-mail [kim.hudson@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:kim.hudson@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### Tender Review Committees

The Treasurer has approved the establishment by agencies of Tender Review Committees to review the purchase/lease of all goods and services over \$50 000. These Committees will have a role similar to those required under the *Public Works Tender Board Guidelines* for building and construction tenders.

An agency's Tender Review Committee (TRC) is to consist of at least three members:

- a Chairperson, to be nominated by the Head of Agency;
- at least two members experienced in government tender processes and not part of the tender evaluation team; and
- a Secretary to the Committee.

The TRC's primary role is to review the tender and evaluation processes for each tender over \$50 000, prior to awarding the contract, to ensure that fair and equitable tender processes have been followed, and that the principles outlined in the *Handbook for Government Procurement* have been adhered to.

To enable the TRC to undertake its review of a tender, the Committee will require the following information:

- a summary of the tender and evaluation process;
- a copy of the final tender evaluation report, signed by the tender evaluation panel;
- critical dates;
- any other relevant issues or information which may be required by the TRC, such as a probity advisor's report; and
- certification by the officer responsible for managing the tender process, verifying conformity with relevant Government procurement policies.

A checklist for use by TRCs has been provided to agencies and is also available on the Tenders Web site at [www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au/tenders).

Contact: Kim Hudson on 6233 3684 or  
e-mail [kim.hudson@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:kim.hudson@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Tender and Contract Reporting

Tender and contract data for the September quarter 2001 shows that Tasmanian businesses successfully competed for 73 out of 93 contracts, and that these contracts were worth a total of \$19.2 million.

Contact: Brian Holding on 6233 2509 or  
e-mail [brian.holding@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:brian.holding@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Common Use Contracts News

### Advertising – Print Media Services for Vacancy Notices, Tenders and Public Notices (Contract A003)

In order to maximise the benefits that Government agencies obtain from advertising in the print media, the Government has adopted a consolidated approach to the advertising of vacancy notices, tenders and public notices in local newspapers.

The Department of Treasury and Finance will facilitate the introduction of this new approach by establishing a whole-of-government contract that will encompass the existing State Service Vacancy Advertising Contract, in addition to the placement of newspaper advertising for tenders and public notices by Government agencies.

The revised arrangements have been trialled since December 2001, resulting in a single Government advertisement being placed in local papers under the categories of *Tasmanian Job Opportunities*, *Opportunities for Business in Tasmania*, and *Information for all Tasmanians*.

The successful tenderer for the coordination of the placement of the Government's classified advertising for the next three years is TMP Worldwide. Details will be made available on the Government purchasing Web site at [www.purchasing.tas.gov.au](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au).

Inner-Budget agencies are reminded that they are required to advertise all tenders in at least one Saturday Tasmanian newspaper, unless otherwise approved by the Secretary of

the Department of Treasury and Finance. These advertisements must be placed through the advertising agency appointed to coordinate classified advertising.

Contact: Brian Mignot on 03 6233 3673 or  
e-mail [brian.mignot@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:brian.mignot@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Contractor Health and Safety

Treasury has recently developed draft *Guidelines for Contractor Health and Safety Management for Tasmanian Government Building Works and Maintenance Services*, for use by agencies, consultants and contractors.

Under the draft guidelines, the Government will require improved management procedures for occupational health and safety and rehabilitation (OHS&R) with the aim of:

- meeting its obligations under the legislation;
- reducing the number of accidents; and
- improving productivity within the industry.

The draft guidelines take an active approach to the issues involved in managing contractor health and safety. Contractors will be required to demonstrate their capacity to identify, plan for and manage their occupational health, safety and rehabilitation issues and responsibilities during all phases of project delivery.

The proposed new procedures are directed at making OHS&R management an integral part of each contractor's culture. It is expected that sound OHS&R management practices will become an automatic component of everyday work practice.

The draft OHS&R guidelines address this requirement by seeking to:

- use only those contractors with demonstrable OHS&R management capability; and
- achieve a discrete OHS&R focus which will optimise safety management for the workforce and the public on or adjacent to a site.

The draft guidelines were distributed to agencies and building industry organisations for comment in November 2001.

It is anticipated that the guidelines will be finalised in March 2002.

Contact: David Poulson on 03 6233 6220 or  
e-mail [david.poulson@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:david.poulson@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Government Property News

### Property Sales Web site

Treasury has recently established a Web site to provide information on the sale of non-strategic Government properties, such as residences, vacant land and industrial sites. The Web site contains a listing of properties for sale through Treasury, as well as by other State Government agencies.

The information provided on each property includes address, price range, title reference, land area, a brief description, and contact details for the real estate agent handling the sale or, where there has been no agent appointed, the relevant State Government Department.

The Web site is presented in a user friendly, easy access format at [www.treasury.tas.gov.au/propertysales](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/propertysales).

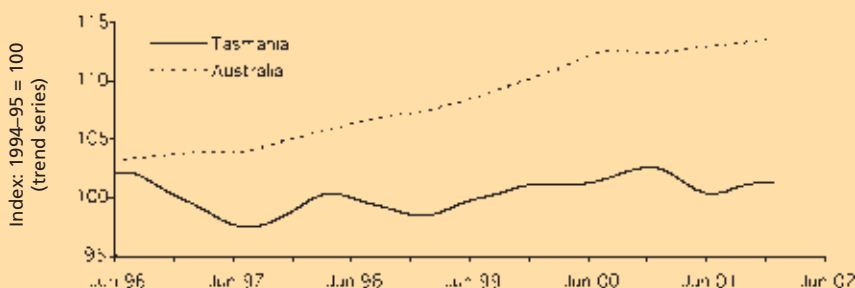
Contact: Andrew Welsh on 03 6233 6408 or  
e-mail [andrew.welsh@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:andrew.welsh@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Economic News of Interest

The Tasmanian economy has entered the New Year with some encouraging signs, having registered an improvement in the latter half of 2001. Over recent months, Tasmania's economic performance has been characterised by improvements in many economic variables, including a strong rise in the value of spending on goods and services, higher levels of both full-time and part-time employment, a reduction in the unemployment rate, strong growth in business investment, high levels of dwelling approvals and positive population growth in the March 2001 and June 2001 quarters. Business confidence has also shown a sustained improvement since September 2001.

### Employment

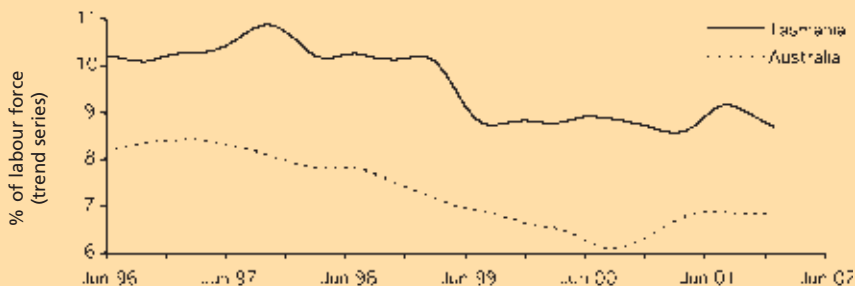
Total employment in Tasmania was unchanged at 199 800 persons (in trend terms) in January 2002, following five consecutive monthly improvements. The level of employment has risen by 1 900 persons (1.0 per cent) in the six months to January 2002.



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

### Unemployment

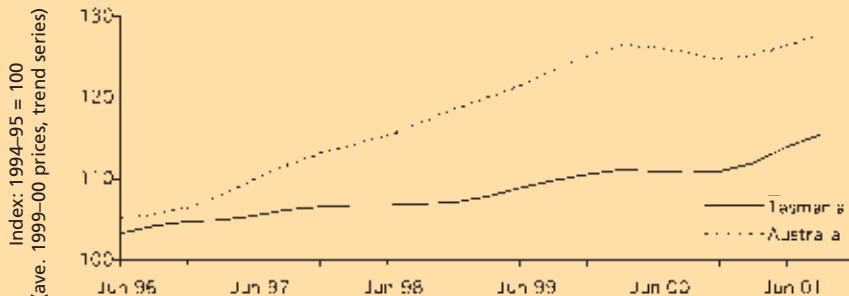
The Tasmanian unemployment rate in January 2002 (in trend terms) fell to 8.7 per cent. The current unemployment rate is only slightly above the 11-year low of 8.5 per cent that occurred in March 2001. However, Tasmania's participation rate, at 58.6 per cent in January 2002, remains well below the national participation rate of 63.8 per cent.



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

### State Final Demand

In the September quarter 2001, state final demand rose by 1.3 per cent (in real, trend terms), due to increases in consumer spending, dwelling investment and business investment. In the year to September 2001, real state final demand rose by 2.1 per cent.



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5206.0

### Private New Capital Expenditure

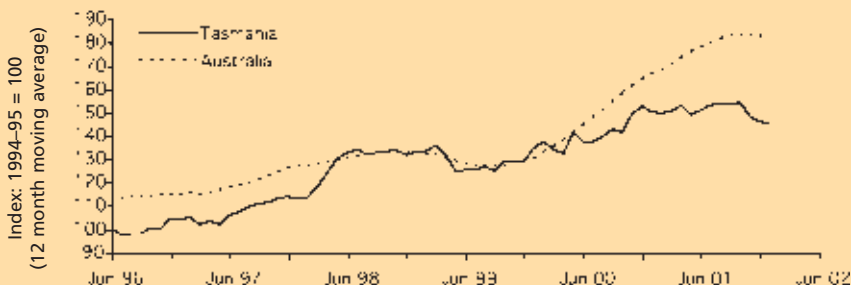
New private investment rose by 10.4 per cent in the September quarter 2001 (in real, trend terms). In the year to September 2001, private investment increased by 11.9 per cent from the previous year. The recent strength of capital spending will be reinforced by the construction of Basslink and the Duke Energy gas pipeline, together with flow-on investments from these projects.



Source: ABS Cat No. 5646.0

### Overseas Merchandise Exports

The value of Tasmania's overseas merchandise exports declined by 3.5 per cent in the year to January 2002 to \$2.34 billion (in nominal terms). This decline reflects the fact that the most recent catamaran sale occurred in November 2000 and is now excluded from the current 12 month total.

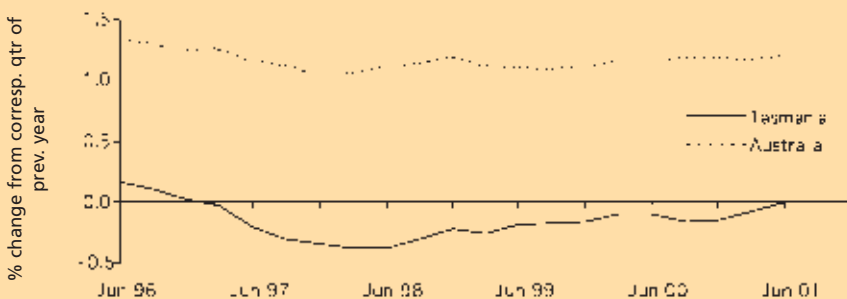


Source: ABS Cat. No. 5432.0.65.001

By destination, there has been growth in exports to the United States, Japan, Korea, China, Germany, Singapore and Hong Kong.

### Population

Tasmania's population was estimated at 470 272 persons as at 30 June 2001, a marginal increase (12 persons) relative to the previous quarter. This is the second consecutive rise in the State's population. The annual population decline of less than 0.01 per cent through the year to June 2001 was the smallest decline since the year to December 1997.



Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

The population decline was caused by a high level of out-migration from Tasmania to mainland Australia. In the year to June 2001, however, the level of net interstate out-migration eased to 2 559 persons, from 2 972 persons in the previous year. This is the lowest level in more than six years.

Contact Iain Meaney on 03 6233 6478 or  
e-mail [iain.meaney@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:iain.meaney@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## General Inquiries

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### Sandy Bay Offices

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## Treasury Contacts

### Secretary

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