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## From Commissariat to Treasury

The story of the Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance 1804 to 2004

by Heather Felton

*'Tightly constructed and easy to read...the book makes explicit the contributions of individuals and shows how the social and economic context affected decision-making.'*

Hon Dr David Crean

Available at all good bookshops rrp \$27.50

Published by the Department of Treasury and Finance

## HEADLINE NEWS

### Changes to the Gaming Commission

Mr Clyde Eastaugh has been appointed the new Chair of the Tasmanian Gaming Commission. *More on page 5*

### Community Support Levy

During 2003-04, grants totalling in excess of \$2 million were awarded to 337 charitable and sporting organisations through the CSL. *More on page 7*

### Drug Action Week

The Liquor and Gaming Branch organised or supported a number of events held during Drug Action Week to raise awareness about alcohol and other drug issues in Australia. *More on page 7*

### Financial Management Education and Training

The Financial Management Education and Training Program commenced in June 2004, with workshops conducted in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. *More on page 4*

### Harmonisation of GFS and GAAP

The achievement of harmonisation between Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Government Finance Statistics is the highest priority for Australian public sector reporting. *More on page 3*

### International Financial Reporting Standards Update

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has now released all pending versions of the Australian equivalents to the International Accounting Standards. *More on page 5*

### Managing Finance One

The Financial Systems Management Group has developed a 'Scope of Products and Services Proposal', following a survey of agencies. *More on page 4*

### Motor Vehicle Fleet Purchase and Use Guidelines

Motor Vehicle Fleet Purchase and Use Guidelines are available to assist agencies develop a 'motor vehicle fleet selection and use' policy that is consistent with their operational requirements. *More on page 6*

### National Electricity Market Entry

Tasmania's entry to the NEM involves implementing the necessary legislative, regulatory, market structure and technical arrangements required for participation in the NEM. *More on page 3*

### Repeal of Accommodation Licensing

In future, developments involving accommodation will require only local government and fire safety approval prior to commencing operations. *More on page 7*

### Review of Annual and Quarterly Tender and Contract Reporting

Treasury is making some minor alterations to the eTendering system to enable quarterly and annual reporting information to be extracted. *More on page 6*

### Review of Tasmania's Financial Management Legislation

The review of Tasmania's Financial Management Legislation is progressing, with discussions having been held with some key stakeholders. *More on page 5*

### Review of Treasurer's Instructions

The review of the Treasurer's Instructions is continuing. All revised TI's are available on Treasury's Web site. *More on page 5*

### Tasmania University Union embraces the Responsible Serving of Alcohol Program

Following consultation with the Liquor and Gaming Branch, the University Union has adopted strategies to implement the Responsible Serving of Alcohol Program. *More on page 7*

### Tasmanian Government Probity Adviser Directory

A new Tasmanian Government Probity Adviser Directory is now available, and new Probity Guidelines are being developed. *More on page 6*

### Tender and Contract Reporting

Tasmanian businesses are continuing to win a high proportion of contracts awarded by inner Budget agencies. *More on page 6*

### Towards a New Financial Consolidation System

User requirements for a new financial consolidation and reporting system have been completed and quotations have been sought to assist Treasury develop detailed design specifications. *More on page 3*

### Treasury Data Management

An update on Treasury's Data Management Project was provided to the Financial Management Forum in March 2004. *More on page 5*

## ***The 200th Anniversary of Treasury in Tasmania***

On 25 June 1804, an Englishman named Leonard Fosbrook arrived at Sullivan's Cove from Port Phillip to take up his duties as the settlement's chief finance and procurement officer. To mark this significant event – the 200th anniversary of the commencement of Treasury's services in Tasmania - we decided some time ago to develop and publish the story of the Department.

The genesis of this decision goes back some years to when a staff member, no doubt unimpressed as many of us were at the state of our Murray Street Forecourt, suggested we redevelop the garden. The heritage nature of the buildings demanded that any redevelopment had to be faithful to history. From the research required for the Federation Garden Project, came an interest in recording Treasury's history and in sharing the story of our Department with the Tasmanian community.

*From Commissariat to Treasury: the story of the Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance 1804 to 2004* was written by Heather Felton, Principal Communications Officer at Treasury, and is the Department's contribution to the Bicentenary of European Settlement of Tasmania.

On 25 June 2004, a date chosen for its special significance, Hon Dr David Crean launched *From Commissariat to Treasury* in the historic surroundings of the 1860 Supreme Court in the Franklin Square Public Buildings. Among the audience of 100 distinguished guests were no fewer than five of our former Ministers. I have had the privilege of working with all but one of them. Three have also served with distinction as Premiers of Tasmania, but it was as our Ministers that I acknowledged them on the day: Treasurers Doug Lowe, Michael Field, Ray Groom and David Crean, and Minister for Finance, Ron Cornish.

An edited version of Dr Crean's address has been included in this edition of *@treasury.tas* to provide a lasting record of an historic occasion – the launch of the first published history of the Department of Treasury and Finance, and the 200th anniversary of Treasury in Tasmania.

Don Challen  
Secretary

## ***Launching From Commissariat to Treasury***

*An edited version of Hon Dr David Crean's address given at the launch on 25 June 2004.*

Thank you, Don, for the opportunity to launch this wonderful book, *From Commissariat to Treasury*. As a former Treasurer of Tasmania it is a great honour to have been part of that history. The book is an outstanding example of how the craft and commitment of historian, editor, indexer, designer and printer can interact to produce

a high quality publication. Congratulations to all involved in producing such a beautifully designed and printed book. It will make a significant contribution to the Bicentenary, but its impact will last way beyond 2004.

The book is structured into five main sections, each representing a cornerstone period in the development of Tasmania's Treasury. The text is tightly constructed and easy to read. Many details are included that make explicit the contributions of individuals and also show how the social and economic context of the time affected decision-making.

The early period of Treasury's history – from 1804 to 1824 – was not without intrigue and problems, but laid the foundation for the evolution of progressive positive change. Leonard Fosbrook, who was in charge of the Commissariat of Stores and Provisions, was the colony's first financial manager and accountant. He completed the first financial report for Hobart Town in September 1804 and the first chapter in the story of Tasmania's Treasury had well and truly begun. Unfortunately greed got the better of Treasury's first defacto 'Secretary' and he was dismissed for 'gross and criminal neglect of duty and fraudulent conduct' in 1814.

The first defacto Treasurer of Tasmania came with the title Naval Officer and Treasurer of the Colonial Fund. In the early years the Treasurer didn't receive a salary but was paid five per cent of the revenue he collected. The Colonial Fund (a very, very, very primitive Consolidated Fund) was stored in the 'Treasurer's Chest' and kept in the Treasurer's bedroom. If these practices had remained until the present time, on my calculations I would have received about \$150 million for delivering my six Budgets. But I would have required a very large mansion to store the many Treasurers' Chests required to accommodate today's Consolidated Fund.

The first 20 years were tough and were punctuated by incompetence, inefficiency and embezzlement. The second period, from 1825 to responsible government, saw the colony learn from its mistakes. The first official Treasurer of Tasmania, Jocelyn Thomas, had been appointed, and audit requirements and financial management regulations were far more rigorous. The Treasurer's Chest survived for another five years but had been removed from the Treasurer's bedroom to a bolted box on the floor of the Treasurer's Office before being superseded by the use of the Van Diemen's Land and Derwent Banks by 1829. In short, this period was characterised by greater accountability and efficiency.

By the time responsible government arrived in 1856 the revenue base in Tasmania consisted mostly of customs duty. Aggregate revenue was insufficient to meet the public needs of the colony and, for the next 25 years, the new parliament debated broadening the tax base. Eventually, in 1880, taxes were levied directly on land and company dividends. The period towards Federation was characterised by a better structured and better resourced Department of Treasury, although it still had only 11 officers. A new statistical office giving economic and financial policy advice to government was established in 1882 and this office was vital in positioning Tasmania to handle the complexities of Federation.

Federation in 1901 exposed Tasmania's financial disability as a small state, as had been predicted many years before by the Government Statistician. Special disability grants were provided to the State virtually up until 1933 when the Commonwealth Grants Commission was established. At this time Treasury was not staffed to provide the government with detailed economic policy advice; this was overcome by establishing a State Finance Committee, which had links with the Tasmanian University Economics Department and with the Treasurer's Department. This arrangement continued until 1949. Some significant restructuring of Treasury had occurred in the 1940s when Ken Binns was appointed the first economist at Treasury but the major expansion began after 1952. By 1967 the Department had a total of 162 staff.

The modern sophisticated Department of Treasury and Finance of today, which employs over 300 staff, is more efficient and more acutely tuned to the financial and economic needs of Tasmania than at any time in the past. As a former Treasurer who attended six Treasurers' Conferences, I know first hand the high regard in which the Tasmanian Treasury is held throughout Australia. I also know that the Tasmanian Treasury is instrumental in driving many of the important state-based issues in Canberra. The ethic of competence, professionalism, and hard work has developed over a long period of time, and in no small way is due to the dedication to excellence of many of the key players in Treasury's historical development.

In my speech today I've talked only of the milestones and major periods in the development of Tasmania's Treasury. The history is rich in events and individuals who played their part in Treasury's development that I haven't mentioned, but you will be able to read about them. The history of Treasury is a wonderful story told so well by Heather Felton.

It has been a pleasure to be here today to launch this Bicentenary book and I do hope all of you obtain a copy.

Hon Dr David Crean

## **Tasmania's Entry to the National Electricity Market**

With the Basslink project progressing according to schedule, and the first cable laying campaign successfully completed, Tasmania will enter the National Electricity Market (NEM) on 29 May 2005, six months ahead of the commissioning of Basslink. NEM entry is an important aspect of energy reform as it provides a modern regulatory and governance framework for future electricity needs in Tasmania, while enabling competition and choice for electricity users. Tasmania's entry to the NEM involves implementing the necessary legislative, regulatory, market structure and technical arrangements required for participation in the NEM.

Priorities over the past six months have focused on:

- coordinating the progressive completion of some 121 preconditions that have been established for NEM entry;
- release of an Information Paper on the introduction of retail competition in the Tasmanian electricity supply industry and the commencement of consultation with stakeholders on implementation details;

- defining the electricity emergency management arrangements that will be in place in the NEM;
- participating in the review of the Tasmanian Electricity Code to ensure consistency with the National Electricity Code; and
- participating in national energy reform developments, particularly in relation to transmission issues.

The Energy Markets Branch is continuing to work with the State's three electricity businesses and NEM institutions to ensure that the transition to the NEM proceeds smoothly.

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## **Financial Management Improvement**

### **Harmonisation of GFS and GAAP**

The highest priority for Australian public sector reporting is the elimination of conflict between Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) applicable to the public sector, and Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The achievement of harmonisation between the GFS and GAAP reporting frameworks will remove any confusion arising from the publication of two sets of financial statements and improve the transparency and accountability of governments.

In December 2002, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) issued a 'strategic direction' requiring the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) to pursue the harmonisation of GFS and GAAP for public sector reporting. The deadline adopted by the AASB for the issue of a GFS/GAAP Harmonised Standard is now July 2005.

The Australian Government, State and Territory Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) consider that, for effective convergence to be achieved, it is essential that the Harmonised Standard requires general purpose financial reports for the General Government Sector (GGS). HoTs consider that reporting for the GGS is so fundamental that, if harmonisation is not achieved, the standard will fail to meet the needs of most users.

Increasing the comparability, useability and understandability of government general purpose reports is fundamental to overall governance and accountability within the public sector. Defining the GGS as a general purpose reporting entity will improve transparency, remove confusion as to which set of financial reports presents a more reliable portrayal of financial results and improve key financial reports by permitting them to be audited. As a corollary, if the key outcome statement is directly comparable with the budget statements, and is subject to audit, there is a strong incentive for governments to improve the quality of the information contained in the budget statements.

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e-mail [craig.jeffery@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:craig.jeffery@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### **Towards A New Financial Consolidation System**

Treasury is responsible for preparing whole-of-government financial statements on a Government Finance Statistics basis and in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Following recent changes to financial reporting requirements, an internal review identified a number of desirable improvements within Treasury's whole-of-government reporting systems and processes. The review recommended the implementation of a solution designed to improve the efficiency and management of the collection of financial information by Treasury that would also integrate more efficiently with existing information systems infrastructure.

User requirements for a new financial consolidation and reporting system have been completed. Quotations have been sought to assist Treasury develop detailed design specifications for the system. Upon completion of the design specifications, Treasury will release a tender for the implementation of a solution. It is anticipated that the tender will be released by October 2004.

Contact: Jenny Scott on 03 6233 3758 or  
e-mail [jenny.scott@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:jenny.scott@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### **Managing Finance One**

The inter-departmental Financial Systems Management Group was established in 2003 to develop a whole-of-government approach to the management of Finance One, the financial management information system used by the majority of agencies. Following a survey of agencies that identified financial system requirements and issues, the Group developed a 'Scope of Products and Services Proposal'.

The Proposal defines requirements for the development of a whole-of-government agreement for the strategic and coordinated use of Finance One across all agencies. The Proposal has recently been forwarded to Technology One (the developer and supplier of Finance One) for its consideration.

Contact: Jenny Scott on 03 6233 3758 or  
e-mail [jenny.scott@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:jenny.scott@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### **Financial Management Education and Training**

The Financial Management Education and Training Program commenced in June 2004 with seven training workshops conducted in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. Over one hundred State public servants from a range of agencies attended the workshops. Of those participants who evaluated the workshops, eighty per cent endorsed the workshop content and structure.

The Treasurer, Hon Paul Lennon MHA, strongly endorsed the Program and has recommended the participation of all managers and agency staff with financial management responsibilities. The Treasurer believes that improving knowledge and skills in financial management will not only help officers with their day-to-day work, but also contribute to achieving longer-term career goals.

Agencies have received a package of training material that includes an Agency Information Brochure explaining how the Program operates, workshop course material, a Trainer's Guide and presentation slides for each of the five workshops.

A panel of training delivery providers has been appointed to deliver the workshops. The Training Consortium is the training administration agent for the Program.

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e-mail [rachel.johnston@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:rachel.johnston@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Meet The Buyers**

The 2004 Meet The Buyers events will be held in Launceston on Wednesday 13 October at the Launceston International Hotel and in Hobart on Monday 18 October at the Grand Chancellor Hotel. The events will be opened by the Hon Jim Cox MHA, Minister for Finance and will run from 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm each day.

Meet the Buyers, sometimes called a reverse trade fair, is a major forum for suppliers and State and local government buyers to meet and establish open communication channels. At this unique event, buyers from Government agencies, local government and Government Business Enterprises set up booths so that local business people can come and find out how to do business with government.

The aim of Meet the Buyers is to forge closer links between government buyers and local suppliers, thus providing them with a better understanding of how government buys and to provide them with a better opportunity to win more government business. You should attend Meet the Buyers if you run a business, and either currently sell or contract to government, or would like to become a government contractor.

A feature of this year's events will be a number of information sessions. The following half hour free information sessions will be presented on a rotating basis at each venue:

- eTendering and eLodgement. This session will also include information on how to register for business with the Government; how to find business opportunities; and also a general overview of Government purchasing rules and processes;
- How to tender and quote. This session will look at the Do's and Don'ts of quoting and tendering for government business;
- An Introduction to BizTas. BizTas enables Tasmanian businesses to register their services in a single Internet location, and provides registered organisations with worldwide exposure via the Internet in six different languages; and
- The role of the Industry Capability Network Tasmania (ICNTAS). This information session will provide some handy tips on how to market your business to government, including why it is important to register with ICNTAS.

Entry to Meet the Buyers is free to all businesses, as are the information sessions. There is no need for businesses to register, just turn up on the day. If you would like more information about the events, visit the Meet the Buyers page at [www.purchasing.tas.gov.au](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au).

Contact: Sarah Hazell on 03 6233 4751 or  
e-mail [sarah.hazell@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:sarah.hazell@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Review of Tasmania's Financial Management Legislation**

Treasury is continuing its review of the State's financial management legislative framework. To date, discussions have been held with a number of key stakeholders, including the Auditor-General and the Office of the State Service Commissioner. The consultation process will involve other stakeholders, such as agencies and non-business State Authorities.

Contact: Debbie Sadler on 03 6233 3729 or  
e-mail [debbie.sadler@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:debbie.sadler@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Treasury Data Management**

Treasury formed a Data Management Working Group in October 2002 to identify ways to improve internal data management. Improving data quality and reducing duplication of data items and requests are among the high priority improvements that have been identified. A summary of the major recommendations was provided to agencies at the Financial Management Forum in March 2004.

The major elements of the Project that are currently underway include:

- the development of a communication strategy in relation to data requests;
- improvements to the information available on Treasury's Web site; and
- streamlining of requests for data from Government businesses.

Agency input will be sought as the Project is progressed.

Contact: Frances Hall on 03 6233 5956 or  
e-mail [frances.hall@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:frances.hall@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## **Financial Reporting**

### **International Financial Reporting Standards update**

Australia will be adopting International Accounting Standards for reporting periods on, and after, 1 January 2005. The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has now released all pending versions of the Australian equivalents to the International Accounting Standards, and these are available for download from the AASB's Web site at [www.aasb.com.au](http://www.aasb.com.au).

Treasury will be working with agencies and Government businesses to assist with the implementation of international accounting standards. During 2004-05, Treasury will revise the Treasurer's Instructions and other guidelines associated with the implementation. Information sessions will also be conducted to outline budgeting, reporting and other associated policy changes.

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e-mail [david.tadd@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:david.tadd@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### **Review of Treasurer's Instructions**

Treasury, in conjunction with agencies, is continuing the review of the Treasurer's Instructions (TIs) that commenced in 2002-03.

## **Changes to the Gaming Commission**

On 12 July 2004, Mr Clyde Eastaugh of Devonport was appointed Chairman of the three-member Tasmanian Gaming Commission. Mr Eastaugh has been a member of the Commission since September 1994 and its acting Chairman since October 2003.

The other members of the Commission are Professor Kate Warner of the University of Tasmania, who was appointed in June 2001, and Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, newly appointed to replace outgoing member, the Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance, Mr Don Challen. Mrs Thomas is a former CEO of The Public Trustee and more recently a self-employed consultant working on projects that include strategic planning assignments, operational reviews and change management.

Mr Challen stood down as Chairman of the Gaming Commission in 2003 following the announcement by the Government that the legislation would be amended to preclude public servants from holding the position of Chairman of the Commission.

Recently reviewed TIs include:

- 102 Interpretation;
- 1004 Loan Indebtedness;
- 1013 Government Loans and Guarantees;
- 1016 Finance Proposals; and
- 1017 Printing.

All revised TIs are available on the Treasury Web site.

Contact: Doug Clow on 03 6233 3696 or  
e-mail [doug.clow@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:doug.clow@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### **Urban water and wastewater cost recovery compliance review**

The Minister has released the report of the review of Tasmanian councils' compliance with urban water pricing guidelines. Conducted by the Government Prices Oversight Commission, the review assessed the extent to which councils were meeting their obligations for cost recovery under the National Competition Principles water industry reform.

The *Urban Water and Wastewater Pricing Guidelines* were revised in January 2003, and establish the upper and lower limits for cost recovery. The lower limit is the minimum level for business viability at which all operating costs are met. It includes a provision for asset refurbishment or replacement, but does not allow a return on capital other than interest costs incurred and dividends paid. The upper limit is the maximum allowable revenue that avoids monopoly rents (that is, excessive profits) and allows for an appropriate return on assets. Returns above this limit are considered monopoly rents.

The Terms of Reference for the review also required the Commission to consider other issues, such as asset valuation, cost of asset consumption, cross-subsidies, Community Service Obligations (CSOs), own-use transfers and the appropriateness of two-part pricing structures. The review found that:

- In relation to both water and wastewater revenue recovery, there was generally a high level of compliance with the guidelines by councils.

- Only a small number of councils are reporting CSOs or own-use, which leaves open the potential for cross-subsidies.
- The majority of councils that are using two-part tariffs are structuring them in a way that is consistent with the relevant guidelines in terms of free water allowance. However, the volumetric charges of most councils are set well above their volumetric costs.

The review report is available on the Commission's Web site [www.gpoc.tas.gov.au](http://www.gpoc.tas.gov.au).

Contact: Ray Chan on 03 6233 6204 or  
e-mail [ray.chan@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:ray.chan@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## Government Procurement Update

### Tender and Contract Reporting

During the 2003-2004 financial year, inner-Budget agencies awarded 308 contracts, with a combined value of \$225.6 million.

Tasmanian businesses won 213 of these contracts, or over 69 per cent of the contracts awarded. These contracts were valued at \$158.3 million, representing 70.2 per cent of the total value of contracts awarded during the financial year.

Tasmanian business participation continues to be high, with just over 92.5 per cent of the tenders closing in the 2003-2004 year receiving at least one bid from a Tasmanian business. Where Tasmanian firms have competed for a government tender, they have demonstrated their ability to be competitive by winning 95 per cent of those tenders.

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### Motor Vehicle Fleet Purchase and Use Guidelines

The Tasmanian Risk Management Fund (TRMF) Unit has developed *Motor Vehicle Fleet Purchase and Use Guidelines* to assist agencies develop a 'motor vehicle fleet selection and use' policy that is consistent with their operational requirements.

Fleet safety is a critical occupational health and safety issue for agencies. Agencies have a duty of care to provide a safe workplace, and this includes vehicles. Taking steps to minimise the risk of injury to employees from motor vehicle accidents will protect the health and well-being of employees and, in turn, see cost savings for the employer.

The Guidelines have been developed in consultation with agencies and are based on research of contemporary vehicle safety features and best practice driver behaviour. An electronic version can be accessed under Latest Publications on the TRMF page at [www.treasury.tas.gov.au](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au)

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To register, contact Chris Payn on 03 6233 2378 or email [chris.payn@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:chris.payn@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### Contract news

#### Petroleum Products – Contract P450

Tenders closed on 6 August 2004 for this strategic whole-of-government fuel contract used by Government agencies and optional users including non-Government and Government Business Enterprises, local government bodies, State-owned Companies, and other authorised organisations. Treasury has engaged a specialist fuel consultant, FUELtrac, to assist in the preparation of the Request for Tender, the evaluation of tenders, benchmarking and to provide an ongoing audit role. The new contract will be in place from 1 November 2004.

#### Cartage Interstate – Contract C106

Tenders for the renewal of this contract closed on 20 August 2004. The contract covers a range of airfreight services for the consignment of parcel and satchel freight throughout Australia.

#### Microsoft Agreement – Contract C141

This contract was recently extended to 30 September 2004, whilst negotiations for a new long term agreement are finalised by Treasury and Crown Law.

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e-mail [brian.mignot@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:brian.mignot@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### Tasmanian Government Probity Adviser Directory

Treasury is pleased to announce that a new Tasmanian Government Probity Adviser Directory is now available.

The existing arrangements for the Probity Adviser Panel expired in June 2004 and following consultation with agencies it was decided to renew the probity adviser arrangements. The renewal processes included a review of the existing policies and processes and involved the conduct of a 'Registration of Interest'. The new arrangements take account of the fact that public procurement processes are now subject to an increased level of public scrutiny.

The Directory consists of 19 pre-qualified Probity Advisers who have different areas of expertise and come from various locations in Australia. Among the Directory's new features are simplified procurement processes, an annual review mechanism and additional information about each registered probity adviser.

New draft Probity Guidelines - simplified and updated to reflect the new procurement processes - are being developed to complement the new Directory. Once the update has been completed, the guidelines will be circulated to agencies for comment.

Contact: Sarah Hazell on 03 6233 4751 or  
e-mail [sarah.hazell@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:sarah.hazell@treasury.tas.gov.au)

### Review of Annual and Quarterly Tender and Contract Reporting

Quarterly and annual reporting of tenders and contracts commenced in the September 1999 quarter as one of the Government's initiatives to assist Tasmanian businesses compete for government business.

With the introduction and wider use of eTendering, much of the information being collected manually for the quarterly reporting is now available through the eTendering system.

Treasury is making a number of minor alterations to the eTendering system to enable the required quarterly and much of the annual reporting information to be extracted from this system. This will mean that agencies will not be required to separately provide quarterly information.

Through the Procurement Reference Group, Treasury has sought a commitment from agencies that they will take advantage of this simplified approach by using eTendering.

The new process will be in place for the October-December 2004 quarter.

Contact: *Bridget Wiggins on 03 6233 3885 or e-mail [bridget.wiggins@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:bridget.wiggins@treasury.tas.gov.au)*

## **Liquor and Gaming**

### **Repeal of Accommodation Licensing.**

A Bill to repeal the accommodation licensing provisions of the *Liquor and Accommodation Act 1990* has passed through both Houses of Parliament. The Bill removes requirements for State Government licensing of tourist accommodation in Tasmania and brings Tasmania into line with other states where there is no requirement for accommodation premises to be licensed.

From 1 January 2005, any development involving a hotel, motel, guesthouse, bed and breakfast or any other form of accommodation will simply require local government and fire safety approval prior to commencing operation. This move recognises the great improvements achieved in the quality of accommodation on offer in Tasmania since the former licensing scheme was established. It also recognises the professionalism now evident in the industry, the desire of the industry to set and self regulate appropriate standards and the influence of modern technology, such as the Internet, in allowing clients to choose the level of accommodation appropriate to their needs.

Contact: *Bert Elson on 03 6233 3266 e-mail [bert.elson@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:bert.elson@treasury.tas.gov.au)*

### **Community Support Levy**

Under the *Gaming Control Act 1993*, four per cent of the gross profit from gaming machines in hotels and clubs is paid into a Community Support Levy (CSL) under the control of the Treasurer. Monies in the CSL are put back into the Tasmanian community in the form of services for people affected by gambling; research; community education; and grant programs for the benefit of charitable organisations and sport and recreation clubs.

The Tasmanian Gaming Commission (the Commission) oversees the administration of the CSL and makes recommendations to the Minister for Gaming and the Treasurer on the allocation of funds from the CSL to appropriate projects and services. The Commission is supported by the staff of the Liquor and Gaming Branch of the Revenue, Gaming and Licensing Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

During 2003-04, grants totalling in excess of \$2 million were awarded to 337 charitable and sporting organisations through the CSL.

Contact: *Sarah Fitzgerald on 03 6233 4100 or e-mail [sarah.fitzgerald@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@treasury.tas.gov.au)*

### **Tasmania University Union embraces the Responsible Serving of Alcohol Program**

During 2003, concerns were expressed by Liquor and Gaming Branch Inspectors, Police officers and nearby residents about unruly functions on the Hobart campus of the University of Tasmania. After discussions with officers of

the Liquor and Gaming Branch, the University Union embarked on a program to change the traditional practices at University bars and society functions.

Following a period of consultation, the Union has embraced the Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) Program. The Union aims to develop and support a safe and responsible environment for students and staff across the whole campus through the following strategies:

- All society office bearers and servers of alcohol to be accredited in RSA - over 100 staff and students have now been accredited.
- A review of Friday night happy hours and other liquor promotions - this has resulted in a more congenial and responsible crowd throughout the whole week.
- All society functions held on campus must have a function plan providing details of security, food to be provided, liquor pricing and the number of bar persons with RSA accreditation. This means that the societies take responsibility for their functions, with approval not given unless the appropriate function planning has been undertaken.

These initiatives have substantially reduced the number of behavioural problems associated with student functions, making the University of Tasmania events safer and more enjoyable for students and bar staff.

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### **Drug Action Week**

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) hosts Drug Action Week (DAW) each year. It is the premier event for raising awareness about alcohol and other drug issues in Australia. In 2004, it was held from 21-25 June.

Since 1999, the Liquor and Gaming Branch has been proactive in supporting and organising events during DAW to assist in promoting the principles of Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA). This year the theme was to increase awareness of the concept of 'Standard Drinks'.

Some of the more successful events organised and supported by the Liquor and Gaming Branch were:

#### **Get the Edge**

This event was held at the Climbing Edge, a recreational climbing facility, and involved students participating in a drug education forum which was followed by a climbing session focusing on 'natural highs'.

#### **Highways without Drugs**

The Liquor and Gaming Branch joined forces with Tasmania Police and other organisations to give out information bags during random breath test operations around the State. This was conducted in three locations with approximately 1 000 information bags distributed to the general public.

#### **Mocktails in the Mall**

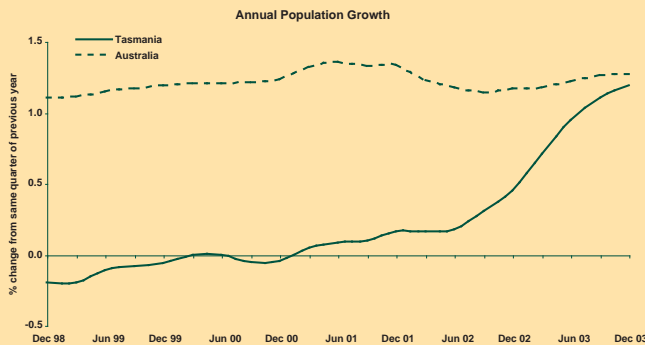
The Liquor and Gaming Branch organised this event in Hobart. It focused on healthier lifestyle choices by providing information about RSA and standard drinks, and supplying free mocktails to the general public. Approximately 260 mocktails were served on the day.

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## Economic News

### Tasmania's Population Growth

The late 1990s in Tasmania was marked by a period of falling population, due primarily to a sharp increase in interstate departures. During this period the national population continued to grow. Tasmania returned to population growth in late 2000, and since then the growth rate for Tasmania's population has continued to strengthen so that it is now very close to the national average. This is demonstrated in the chart below.



Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

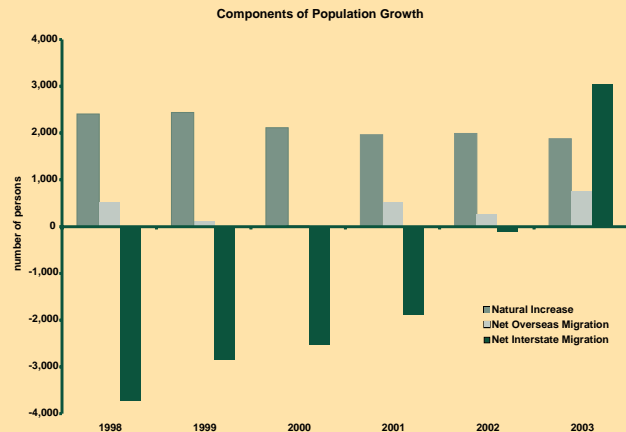
Tasmania's estimated resident population grew by 1 556 persons in the December quarter 2003 (the most recent data available) to 479 958 persons, the highest level on record. Tasmania's estimated population in the December quarter 2003 was 5 653 persons or 1.19 per cent above the December quarter 2002 estimate, the largest annual increase since March 1991. In year average terms, Tasmania's estimated population for the four quarters to December 2003 was 477 843 persons, some 4 668 persons (or 0.99 per cent) higher than for the corresponding period to December 2002.

For the year ended 31 December 2003, Australia's population grew by 1.27 per cent. All states and territories had positive growth rates, the highest being for Queensland (2.29 per cent) and the lowest being for the Australian Capital Territory (0.13 per cent). Tasmania's population growth rate for the year ended 31 December 2003 was the fourth highest of all Australian states and territories, behind Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria.

In the December quarter 2003, Tasmania recorded a net inflow of persons from interstate for the sixth consecutive quarter. This is the first time this has occurred since the eleven quarters of net inflow to September 1991. Through the year to December 2003, there was a net inflow of 3 035 persons from interstate. This turnaround is a result of a stabilisation over the past two years in the number of persons departing the State and a significant increase in arrivals over the same period. An increase in net overseas migration has also contributed to the growth over the past year. The turnaround in net interstate migration is evident in the following chart, which shows the three components of population growth between 1998 and 2003.

A research paper prepared by Treasury, *Tasmania's Population 2003: An information paper on recent trends and State Government policies* was released on 22 October 2003. Amongst other conclusions, the paper found that interstate departures are likely to be driven by Tasmania's

relative employment opportunities compared with the rest of the nation, while housing affordability appears to be an important factor in the decision of many people to migrate to Tasmania. The paper is available from the 'Publications' section of the Treasury Web site at [www.treasury.tas.gov.au](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au)



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## New on the Web

At [www.treasury.tas.gov.au](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au)

- Go to Treasury's Home Page > What's New to find out more about *From Commissariat to Treasury*.
- All revised TIs are available on the Treasury Web site. Go to *Budget & Finance* > *Guidelines* > *Treasurer's Instructions*.
- To access a copy of the *Motor Vehicle Fleet Purchase and Use Guidelines* go to *Tasmanian Risk Management Fund* > *Latest Publications*.
- Go to Treasury's Home Page > *Publications* > 'T' to access *Tasmania's Population 2003: An information paper on recent trends and State Government policies*.
- Go to either *What's New* or *Budget & Finance* to access the recently published guideline: *Developing Strategic Asset Management Plans*.

At [www.gpoc.tas.gov.au](http://www.gpoc.tas.gov.au)

Go to the *Government Prices Oversight Commission's Home Page* > *What's New* to access the report of the *Urban Water and Wastewater Cost Recovery Compliance Review*.

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