

STRONG ECONOMY. STRONG COMMUNITIES.



Regional communities fact sheet

Building our regional communities

Regional communities are the backbone of Tasmania. Their strength is helping drive the Tasmanian economy to record levels.

The Labor Government has also worked hard to ensure that Tasmania's regional communities share in the benefits of a strong and growing economy.

Our rural communities are particularly well placed to take advantage of the benefits of smart, sustainable land and marine farming and become a world leader and innovator in sustainable farming practices.

Our mining communities are also greatly benefiting from the improved circumstances of recent years.

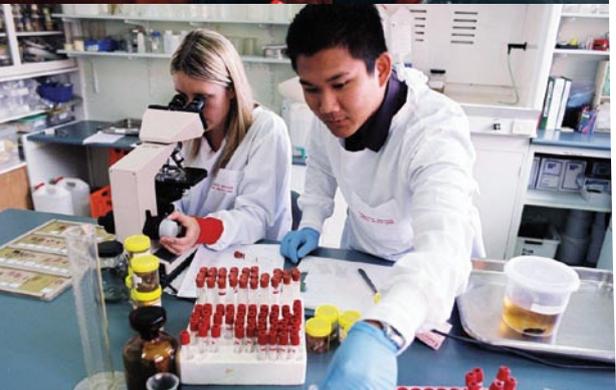
Many regional communities have also benefited considerably from the Government's successful tourism strategies.

The Labor Government is committed to continuing to support our regional communities and ensure their ongoing growth.

Delivering our commitments

The 2006-07 Budget delivers an exciting range of initiatives designed to continue the growth in Tasmania's vital regional communities.

Initiative	Benefit
\$6 million to upgrade the research capability at the Forthside and Elliot research and demonstration stations to state-of-the-art research and training centres	Identify ways in which our farmers can become even more nationally and internationally competitive (SMART Farming Package)
\$1 million to assist farmers and fishers increase their knowledge and their business and farming skills	Provide Tasmanian farmers and fishers with the increased ability to constantly improve economic and environmental performance (SMART Farming Package)
\$9 million to promote SMART farming practices	Development of new farming and fishing methods that bring economic and ecological benefits (SMART Farming Package)
\$4 million to build on our high class and effective quarantine barriers including an additional 9 full-time and 14 part-time quarantine officers	Help protect the future of our vital primary industries and our 'clean green' advantage
\$31 million for a Tourism Promotion Plan to position Tasmania prominently in the national market	Assist in driving tourism in Tasmania's regional areas
\$4.1 million to update data in the TIGER system and to update the 3D geological model of north-east and north-west Tasmania	Improve access to Tasmanian geological data to promote mineral exploration
\$960,000 to promote Tasmanian mineral opportunities	Stimulate mineral exploration in Tasmania
\$2 million additional funding for the Mainstreet Makeover initiative	Improve our regional towns as places to live, work, visit and do business
\$11.5 million to develop hospitals at George Town, Smithton and the West Coast District Hospital	Improve health services for regional communities
\$332 million in funding for Tasmania's roads	Improve transport routes to the cities and ports, safety and tourist access
\$1.4 million contribution to the Fisheries Research Development Corporation	Encourage further development in Tasmania's fisheries and aquaculture industries



Did you know?

- In the year to April 2006, **employment increased** in each of the three Tasmanian regions when compared to the year to April 2005. The southern region recorded an increase of 2.7 per cent (2,900 persons), the northern region recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent (700 persons) and the Mersey-Lyell (north-west) region recorded an increase of 7.4 per cent (3,400 persons).
- Tasmania has 640 vegetable growers who drive Tasmania's **\$360 million vegetable industry**.
- In 2003-04, Tasmania's agricultural and fisheries farmers exported **\$482 million of product** overseas including \$95 million of abalone, \$24 million of rock lobster, \$10 million of apples and \$18 million of onions.
- The food, agriculture and fisheries industries employ **18,300 people**.
- The value at the farm gate or beach of the food Tasmania produces is \$910 million and once processed and packaged, the **value is \$2.09 billion**.
- For the 2005 calendar year mineral exploration expenditure was **\$12.7 million**, up 55% from 2004. Tasmania's share of national expenditure increased from 0.9% to 1.11%.
- The Tasmanian minerals sector employs approximately **4,000 people**.
- The annual value of mining and minerals processing production is in the order of **\$1.5 billion**.
- Since 1998, the Labor Government has invested **almost half a billion dollars** on Tasmania's roads and bridges.

Looking to the future

The Tasmanian Labor Government is committed to continuing to support our regional communities.

The Government strongly believes that regional communities have a vital role to play in both our economic and social development.

The Government particularly recognises that an innovative, competitive and sustainable primary industry sector is vital to Tasmania's long-term economic development.

The Tasmanian Government looks forward to continuing to work with regional communities to secure their positive long-term future.

Further information

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2006-07 Budget Paper set includes:

Tasmanian Budget Speech
Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Overview
Budget Paper No. 2 – Operations of
Government Departments (Volumes 1 and 2)
The Tasmanian Government Financial System
Various brochures

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