



Tasmania

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

State and Local Government

Our State. Our lifestyle.

Department of Premier *and* Cabinet

May 2005

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER AND TREASURER

I am pleased to present to you the 2005-6 State Budget 'Our State. Our lifestyle', State and Local Government snapshot.

The 2005-06 Budget provides exciting opportunities for Tasmania.

The Budget is unashamedly about making Tasmania's unique lifestyle even better and the State Government is working vigorously to protect and enhance the quality of life for all Tasmanians.

State and Local Government play an important role in safeguarding the lifestyle values which set us apart and make Tasmania an increasingly attractive place to live in - particularly for young families and young people wanting to build their future here.

Tasmania leads the country in demonstrating what can be achieved through State and Local Government working together in a spirit of cooperation and trust.

Our Partnership Agreements Program continues to deliver positive outcomes for Tasmanian communities. Important local issues are tackled through Bilateral Partnership Agreements between the State Government and individual Councils, while regional agreements are resulting in unprecedented cooperation among Councils.

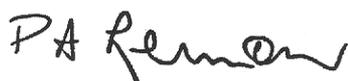
The Premier's Local Government Council is delivering improved planning between our two spheres of government, while progressing important statewide issues such as taxation arrangements, waste management and simplifying planning schemes. In the next year, we look forward to the completion and implementation of the new statewide Partnership Agreement for Young Tasmanians and the first Tri-partite Partnership Agreement on positive ageing.

This year's Budget sees record spending on health, education and roads.

The Budget includes an exciting initiative 'Main Street Makeover', where the State Government will provide financial assistance to selected Councils for the purpose of street scaping the main streets of towns on important strategic tourism routes.

This will add to the unique character and identity of selected towns, while making them a symbol of even greater pride and confidence for those communities.

The State Government looks forward to continuing to work closely with Local Government as together we continue to shape a brighter future for all Tasmanians.



Paul Lennon
Premier and Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It is widely recognised that this Government has made Tasmania a national leader in the way State Government interacts with and works collaboratively with Local Government.

In my role I have been keen to meet with people from Local Government. An initiative I have introduced is the undertaking of a regular program of visits to Councils. I am currently undertaking my second round of visits. I have found these very productive and a useful means of keeping up with the different local issues specific to each Council.

This Government continues to take our strong and positive relationship with Local Government very seriously, because we believe that the community deserves governments that can work well together, with the common goal of delivering the best possible outcomes for all Tasmanians.

We recognise that an important ingredient in the strong relationship we have built with Local Government is the mechanisms we have set in place to provide for open and honest communication between the two spheres of government. These include our leading Partnership Agreements Program and the statewide State-Local Government Consultation and Communication Partnership Agreement.

Our excellent working relationship with Local Government has assisted in the successful passage of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2005*. Representatives from Local Government were actively involved at all stages of the review. The level of consultation with, and cooperation by Local Government, has been a crucial ingredient in the success of this project.

Success through cooperation is across the board. The Key Performance Indicators program is now in its fifth year. The Local Government Board has been, and will continue to be, an advocate of leading practice in Local Government as it carries out its general reviews of Councils. Later this year, again in partnership with Local Government, we will review the scope, membership and operations of the Board.

The Government recognises that Local Government is an important contributor to the strong economic growth Tasmania is now experiencing. We remain committed to the strengthening of our cooperative and innovative approach to working together. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges that we will face together in 2005-06.



Jim Cox
Minister Assisting The Premier On Local Government

1 INTRODUCTION

The *Local Government Act 1993* provides the constitutional basis of Local Government in Tasmania. It establishes a system of Local Government by:

- setting up 29 Councils;
- defining the Council boundaries;
- determining the number of Councillors for each Council and the manner in which they are elected; and
- defining the powers and functions of the Council as a corporation and the Councillors as a governing body, their individual roles and the responsibilities of the general manager through the Council administration.

The State Labor Government has worked to develop a mature relationship with Local Government, through the innovative Partnership Agreement program and the establishment of the Premier's Local Government Council.

The Government has articulated its view that Local Government is a discrete system of government that has Councils made up of representatives, elected by their respective local communities, who have been chosen to manage community affairs. While the Government will in various ways assist and support Local Government in that task, it does not ordinarily interfere with the everyday running of Councils.

Although there is a considerable difference in their size and capacity, each Tasmanian Council has the same powers and range of responsibilities.

2 PARTNERSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

The State Government is committed to working in partnership with Local Government to find better ways of serving the Tasmanian community, through a cooperative approach. The Premier's Local Government Council and the Partnership Agreements Program are key components.

PREMIER'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) was established in 2000 as a forum to discuss issues of statewide significance between the two spheres of government. In December 2004, the PLGC endorsed a new Protocol Agreement for its operation.

The Council meets up to three times a year, with the Premier as Chair, and includes the Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government, the President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania and seven other elected Local Government representatives from various Tasmanian Councils. In 2004-05, it met in September and December 2004 and March 2005.

The PLGC is supported by an Officials' Committee, with representatives from State and Local Government. The Local Government Division provides the Premier's Local Government Council with executive support.

The PLGC has worked on a number of important issues involving close cooperation of all Councils in Tasmania. Some issues have led to statewide Partnership Agreements. The Council's current projects include:

- development of a statewide Partnership Agreement for Young Tasmanians;
- strategic infrastructure and its relationship to the economic development of the State; and
- promoting Tasmania as a single entity.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS PROGRAM

There are four types of Partnership Agreements:

- Bilateral – between the State Government and one Council
- Regional – between the State Government and a group of Councils
- Statewide – between the State Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), on behalf of all 29 Tasmanian Councils
- Tripartite – between the Australian Government, State Government and the LGAT.

The number, range and complexity of the Agreements now signed or in development provide a convincing demonstration of the level of commitment of both State and Local Government to working together on a more co-operative basis.

Bilateral Agreements have now been signed with 23 of the 29 Tasmanian Councils. Another five Councils have entered into negotiations for a first bilateral Agreement with the State Government. All three regional Council bodies - Southern Tasmanian Councils, Northern Tasmania Development (formerly region north!) and the Cradle Coast Authority - have signed Agreements with the State Government. In addition, four statewide Agreements have been negotiated through the Premier's Local Government Council and another one is close to finalisation. A tripartite Agreement on positive ageing between all three spheres of government is still being negotiated.

BILATERAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Bilateral Partnership Agreements offer an opportunity for Councils and State agencies to work together to address issues of concern to local communities. Most Councils have taken up that opportunity.

Bilateral Agreements have now been signed with: Break O'Day, Brighton (signed September 2004), Burnie City, Central Highlands, Circular Head (second Agreement signed September 2004), Derwent Valley, Devonport City (signed September 2004), Dorset, Flinders, George Town, Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Glenorchy City, Hobart City, Kingborough, King Island, Latrobe, Launceston City (second Agreement has been negotiated), Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, Tasman, Waratah-Wynyard (signed April 2005), West Coast and West Tamar Councils.

The success of the program is reflected in the willingness of those Councils who signed Agreements at the beginning of the program to have them renegotiated as part of a major review. As indicated above, Circular Head has signed its second Agreement and it is likely that Launceston City will do so shortly, after the successful completion of negotiations in April 2005. Negotiations are advancing for second Agreements with Flinders, Glenorchy City, Hobart City and Kingborough Councils.

Agreements are being negotiated with five other Councils for the first time: Clarence, Sorell, Kentish, Central Coast and Southern Midlands.

Over 2 300 specific initiatives are either underway or have been completed across all bilateral Agreements. An audit late in 2004 indicated that nearly 40 per cent of initiatives in Partnership Agreements have been completed, while a further 43 per cent are progressing in accordance with the Agreement. The parties have agreed to extend timeframes for approximately 12 per cent of initiatives. Only a very small percentage of initiatives are unlikely to proceed.

The initiatives in Partnership Agreements generally cover economic development, tourism, roads and transport, environment and land management, education, arts and culture, health and community safety. They also include information sharing and financial arrangements. A few of the specific initiatives in bilateral Partnership Agreements include:

- The Rivers Run Tourism Association has been established and has produced a touring map and guide for tourists in Central Highlands and Derwent Valley municipal areas.
- The Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre was opened in August 2004. The facility caters for a range of sports and includes function facilities. The State Government provided funding under the

original Partnership Agreement and allocated a further \$200 000 under the revised Agreement signed this year.

- The Meander Valley Council and State Government received funding for a Youth Health Development Officer, who is now running a number of programs in the areas of outdoor skills, history, mentoring and bike maintenance, to build the confidence and skills of young people.
- After securing \$20 000 from the Weeds of National Significance program, the West Coast Council and State Government undertook a gorse eradication program along Zeehan Road.
- The Latrobe Council and Parks and Wildlife Service coordinated the planting of 1 000 trees by local school children on National Tree Day this year.
- Air quality in Launceston City and surrounds continues to improve due to targeted programs to reduce smoke from wood heaters.
- The extension of the Glenorchy inter-city cycleway to Chigwell has connected the cities of Hobart and Glenorchy and is one of the most successful Glenorchy City Council recreation and commuter projects.
- The Jubilee Beach boat ramp has been upgraded to allow all year round launching for smaller boats in Glamorgan-Spring Bay.
- In Waratah-Wynyard, there will be greater collaboration and cooperation in identifying and marketing economic and industry development opportunities, review and update of the local tourism plan and planning improvements to Bass Highway.

All the initiatives in bilateral Agreements can be found at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgo/partnerships

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

All regional groupings of Councils in Tasmania have now signed a Partnership Agreement with the State Government. As the name implies, the regional Agreements focus on issues that cross Council boundaries, in the south, north and northwest of Tasmania. With the increasing priority being given to regional planning, at both the Commonwealth and State level, the regional Partnership Agreements can be expected to play an important role in delivering outcomes at the regional level.

The northern regional Agreement was signed in July 2001. Issues are currently being gathered from both Northern Tasmania Development (formerly region north!) and State agencies for the development of a second Agreement. A range of regional strategies were developed under the first Partnership Agreement, including a Regional Economic Development Plan, a Regional Economic Profile of the region and a Northern Regional Transport Plan.

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Cradle Coast Authority was signed on 10 October 2001. Issues for a new Agreement are being finalised, with a view to a second Agreement being signed before the end of 2005.

From the current Agreement, there have been key initiatives of benefit to the region, some of which have involved significant State Government funding, including:

- tourism-related development, including development of a sewerage system for Cradle Valley and upgrade of the system for Strahan;

- natural resource management;
- road upgrades, such as upgrading of the Bass Highway between Burnie and Smithton and of the Arthur River Road; and
- redevelopment of the former Burnie Hospital.

Proposed issues for the new Agreement include infrastructure planning, tourism, regional health services, graduate employment, stronger learning pathways and transport issues.

The southern Agreement was signed on 11 December 2003 and includes regional initiatives in relation to tourism, natural resource management, better sharing of information for health planning, economic and infrastructure strategy and an integrated transport plan.

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Four statewide Partnership Agreements have been signed. The Agreements on Waste Management and Simplifying Planning Schemes have been completed. The other two Agreements that are being implemented include:

- *Financial Reform* – The statewide Agreement on financial relations is aimed at removing hidden subsidies and improving decision making by implementing reciprocal taxation arrangements. In summary, the State Government has agreed to pay Council rates on most of its properties while Local Government has agreed to pay state taxes. The *State and Local Government Financial Reform Act 2003* consolidates the Agreement into law. The State Government now pays Council rates on Crown land, apart from certain types of reserves, roads, bridges and associated infrastructure and Hydro land. Councils now pay all State Government taxes, including payroll tax and land tax with exemptions for parks, reserves and conservation areas.
- Up to \$10 million in State Government levies on Local Government have also been abolished.
- These arrangements result in a net transfer of approximately \$4 million from State to Local Government on an annual basis.
- During 2004–05, progress has been made to ensure all Forestry land is placed on valuation rolls in a staged process.
- *Communication and Consultation* – The State-Local Government Consultation and Communication Partnership Agreement has been reviewed in 2004–05 and it has been agreed that the guidelines for interaction between the two spheres of government should be revised.

The LGAT has established a Legislative Committee that will provide a consolidated view from Local Government on draft legislation being prepared for Parliament. State agencies are also required to consult within specific timeframes on major policy initiatives that impact on Local Government. Equally, Local Government is now required to consult on decisions that will impact on the State Government.

The Agreement also covers consultation on the State Budget, access to State training programs for Local Government, amendments to the Cabinet process, consultation on the State's legislative forward program and involvement in intergovernmental relations.

As part of its work program, the PLGC is also overseeing the development of a statewide Agreement for young Tasmanians, focussing on youth-specific initiatives from Partnership Agreements linked to relevant

benchmarks from *Tasmania Together*, the State's 20 year social, environmental and economic plan. This Agreement is close to finalisation, with consultation underway with all Councils on the draft schedules.

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON POSITIVE AGEING IN TASMANIA

In Tasmania, as in all other states, the three spheres of government are dealing with the challenges surrounding planning for our ageing population. In Tasmania, all three spheres of government agreed in late 2003 to negotiate a Partnership Agreement on the issue.

Some of the outcomes being sought include:

- better planning and delivery of services for older people;
- improved access to and sharing of information for planning purposes;
- increased community awareness of ageing issues and the needs of older people in the community;
- an improved planning process that supports the development of nursing homes; and
- improved capacity of service providers to identify areas for development.

Substantial progress has been made and the Agreement continues to be negotiated.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

There will be ongoing review and improvement of the co-ordination, implementation and evaluation of the Partnership Agreements program in 2005-06. With approximately 30 bilateral, regional and statewide Agreements and potentially over 2 500 specific initiatives, both Local and State Government are already needing to ensure that time and resources are prioritised in order to achieve the identified outcomes.

A web-based monitoring database has been developed to simplify and improve reporting on commitments in each Agreement. Piloting of the new database has shown it to be easily accessed, user friendly, and enable timely and accurate reporting on progress. After further testing and adjustments, it is expected that the database will be fully functional by mid-2005.

Consideration will be given to other means of reducing the administrative load, while maintaining the strengths of the program in relation to regular reporting, evaluation and review.

3 WORKING TOGETHER FOR TASMANIAN COMMUNITIES

The State Government values Local Government as a strong and committed partner, working together to support local projects of benefit to communities across Tasmania.

Progressively in recent years, joint projects are integrated into the bilateral, regional and statewide Partnership Agreements. Partnership Agreements facilitate working relationships that enable:

- collaborative arrangements and funding of projects
- joint applications for funding from outside sources to supplement State and Local Government contributions, and
- sharing of information about sources of funding.

This chapter provides just some examples of State and Local Government working together and supporting local projects with their own funding and accessing additional funds. It also provides examples of effective Local Government access to State Government grants.

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND FUNDING

2005-06 BUDGET INITIATIVE

'Main Street Makeover' is one of the Government's exciting initiatives in the 2005-06 Budget. It promises to help Councils improve their main streets, to further develop them into places that local community members and tourists find more inviting and attractive.

The State Government has committed \$2 million to develop a unique and marketable image for the main streets of selected towns. Towns will be identified by their strategic value to the Tasmanian Tourism framework and the regional tourism clusters and touring routes.

These Councils will need to consult with their communities and businesses to develop a unique and marketable image for their main streets.

The State Government has previously provided financial assistance to the Huon (Geeveston and Huonville) and Glamorgan-Spring Bay (Swansea) Councils for streetscaping projects, which have played a big role in revitalising these towns for the benefit of locals and visitors to these municipal areas.

There are many examples in Partnership Agreements of joint projects that have received substantial State Government, as well as Local Government funding. Some projects have been made possible by State and Local Government working together to successfully access additional funding.

Some collaborative projects are mentioned in Chapter 2. The following are other examples that illustrate some of the variety of arrangements and funding options that have resulted from the effective working relationship and commitment of State and Local Government:

- The Cradle Tourism Development Plan was completed and is now being implemented. The study was funded jointly by the State Government (\$50 000) and the Cradle Coast Authority (\$55 000).
- The State Government, Meander Valley Council and Launceston City Council submitted a funding application to the Commonwealth to extend the salinity mapping project. The Commonwealth Environment Minister announced funding for the Greater Launceston Urban Salinity Scoping Project in February 2004.
- Through the Partnership Agreement with Break O'Day Council, the extension of the St Helens history room and relocation of the Online Access Centre to the new premises were completed. The Tasmanian Community Fund provided \$186 000 for the project and the State Library and Arts Tasmania provided additional funding for equipment, training and a professional curation management system.
- A joint State Government and Central Highlands Council funding application to the Commonwealth Government to enhance primary health care in the municipal area was successful. A Community Advisory Group has been established to oversee the project to improve health services delivery and three new health workers have been employed.
- The upgrading of sewerage facilities in Strahan was undertaken with substantial funding from the State Government, West Coast Council and funding from the Commonwealth Government Riverworks and Clean Quality Water Programs.
- Multi Purpose Services are a joint initiative of Commonwealth and State Governments. In 2004-05 the State Government contributed \$837 908 to the Tasman Multi Purpose Centre, which is one of three in Tasmania and the only one in Australia sponsored by a Local Government body.
- Under the Partnership Agreement with Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council, a new gymnasium will be built at the Triabunna District High School. Funding has been allocated by the Department of Education (\$200 000), the Council (\$75 000 over two years), the Triabunna District High School Parents and Friends (\$13 000) and business sponsorship (\$10 790).
- Numerous road projects have received substantial State and Local Government funding. For example, the upgrading of the Bass Highway between Burnie and Smithton, including the Black and Detention River bridges (State Government funding of \$5.75 million).
- The Community Learning Partnership Group in Burnie received \$544 000 from the Commonwealth Government's Sustainable Regions funding to provide support to young people in the development of individual pathway plans in relation to their education and job aspirations. The State Government is contributing a further \$819 000 towards this project.
- The State Government and Dorset Council are working together to develop the Trail of the Tin Dragon to celebrate the Chinese Community's proud mining heritage. The trail is being supported by a number of State Government Departments under the Partnership Agreement.

STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROGRAMS

A number of Councils have successfully accessed funding through a range of State Government Grants programs. Increasingly, the Partnership Agreements process has improved the information available to Local Government on such programs.

Information is set out below on some State Government Grants Programs, with examples provided of some of the Councils that have accessed these grants in recent years.

More comprehensive information on grants available to Local Government is available through the State Government website, www.tas.gov.au, using the search facility for 'grants'.

Local Government Seed Funding <i>Department of Education</i>		
Funding is available annually to fund Councils for the specific purpose of developing or reviewing a youth policy or developing a youth participatory structure.		
Break O'Day Council Youth Policy	Council developed a youth policy that clarified the means by which the Break O'Day Council could link with young people in the area, using a thorough consultative process that includes young people, schools, youth service providers, employers and the wider community.	\$7 600
Central Highlands Council Youth Advisory/Action Committee	Council developed a youth advisory/action committee for young people aged between 12-25 years within the Central Highlands municipal area.	\$9 100
Dorset Council Youth Policy	Council developed a youth policy for Dorset that best meets the needs of the young people to record best proactive models of youth participation already operating in Dorset. This funding also created a strategic policy that provides a framework for ongoing partnership commitment by the Council to FEWCHA, the Dorset Youth Advisory group, and to the youth of Dorset.	\$9 900
Flinders Island Council Youth Policy	Council developed and implemented a youth policy that focuses on issues relating to youth, integrates with Council's Strategic Plan and organisational capacity, while linking service providers and stakeholders with young people in the Council district.	\$8,100
West Tamar Council Consulting the West Tamar	Council reviewed, developed and finalised the Council's draft youth policy and strategy, through the employment of a young person to assist the Council's Community Development Officer to consult with young people and develop youth-friendly documents.	\$11 750
Contact Details: For further information please contact the Office of Youth Affairs on 03 6223 5511 or email ynot@ynot.org.au , http://www.youthaffairs.tas.gov.au/grants/default.htm		

Youth Advisory Services Grants Program <i>Department of Education</i>		
<p>The Youth Advisory Services Grants program is provided annually for non-government and Local Government organisations. The grant is for funding amounts of up to \$5 000 to support initiatives that provide relevant information to young people.</p>		
Glenorchy City Council Youth Participation web site management	The Glenorchy Youth Task Force, in consultation with other youth groups, created an informative and youth-friendly youth participation website and pamphlet.	\$3 539
George Town Council Youth Information Notice Board	This project saw the design, construction and erection of a notice board in the George Town community, created specifically for young people.	\$1 830
Launceston City Council Youth Advisory Group - DRAMARAMA	DRAMARAMA was conducted during one school day and targeted young people aged 12-18 years from secondary schools and colleges, tackling health education in a fun and interactive way. Schools were approached to work on projects that explored issues that affect young people, and to submit presentations in any format they chose. These were performed to an audience of schools, families and friends on the day.	\$3 250
Burnie City Council (BCC Youth Council) Ten things you need to know about Burnie	This project developed a 'zip' information card that details the top 10 things a young person new to the area might need to know about Burnie such as the location of the skate park, youth centre, cinema, transport, PCYC, and Centrelink etc.	\$2 819
Central Coast Council SYCC @ The Website	This initiative enables young people to have access to up-to-date information on youth activities and events in the Central Coast municipality. The site, developed by a young person, promotes youth activities, events, competitions, education, opportunities and other relevant youth information.	\$2 980
King Island Council Youth Health King Island	Health support was provided to the young people of this rural and remote area. A Youth Health Team Nurse visited King Island to conduct health information sessions to school students and young industry employees, as well as Kids Helpline training to student groups.	\$2 460
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact the Office of Youth Affairs on 03 6223 5511 or email ynot@ynot.org.au, http://www.youthaffairs.tas.gov.au/grants/default.htm</p>		

National Youth Week Local Government Grants Program

Department of Education

Each year funds are allocated to Councils around the State to run events and activities during National Youth Week (held in April each year).

The amount allocated to each council is based on the number of young people living in the municipality using the latest ABS Census data.

Councils with fewer than 2000 young people are allocated a minimum of \$1 500. Councils with more than 6000 young people are allocated a maximum of \$2 500.

Councils are invited to submit specific proposals for funding in December each year.

Contact Details: For further information please contact the Office of Youth Affairs on 03 6223 5511 or email ynot@ynot.org.au, <http://www.youthaffairs.tas.gov.au/grants/default.htm>

Adult and Community Education (ACE) Grants

Department of Education

The Adult and Community Education (ACE) grants program represents the Tasmanian Government's recognition of the vital role of the ACE sector in encouraging and supporting lifelong learning, and the benefits such learning brings to individuals and their families and communities.

The grants support the development, promotion and delivery of adult learning projects, programs and activities that contribute to the achievement of the goals of the government's ACE Policy.

Proposals can include a wide range of cost areas - such as research, resource development, trainer/teacher fees, materials, facility hire, and advertising and promotion.

Funds cannot be used for the purchase of capital equipment or upgrades or maintenance of facilities.

Category 1 grants of up to \$2 000 are for small-scale projects that are designed to enhance provision for an organisation's clients. Category 2 grants of up to \$5 000 are for strategic programs that develop or strengthen learning partnerships within the community; broaden participation in adult and community education and/or are transferable to other communities or contexts.

Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Education at <http://www.opcet.tas.gov.au/ace/grants/default.htm>

Assistance of Organisations Program

Small Museums and Collections Program

Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts

Arts Tasmania runs annual programs of assistance with grants, loans and guarantees against loss available to support arts based projects through the Assistance to Organisations Program and the Small Museums and Collections Program.

Activities funded in the Assistance to Organisations Program can be as diverse as exhibitions, plays, concerts, festivals, literary magazines, publications or community cultural development projects.

Clarence City Council	Education Resource Development at Rosny Historic Centre.	\$4 800
Cradle Coast Authority	Towards The Highway Project #2 as part of 10 Days on the Island.	\$15 000

Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts at <http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/grants/program/glprogram.htm>

Local Tourism Grants Program <i>Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts</i>		
<p>Tourism Tasmania's annual Local Tourism Grants program is designed to assist tourism development, particularly projects that have the potential to provide significant benefit to local communities by developing or improving products, events or services for visitors.</p> <p>The grants are administered in consultation with the three regional tourism authorities (TRA) - Cradle Coast Authority, Northern Tasmania Development, and Tasmania's Southern Regional Tourism Association. In this regard applicants are required to consult with their RTA to seek their advice and support, and to ensure alignment with regional tourism plans.</p> <p>The program is designed to provide funding of up to \$5 000 for local projects often excluded from larger grant schemes.</p> <p>Applications are usually invited late July each year and close mid September, with announcements in early December.</p>		
Sorell Council	Development of the Sorell Visitor Information Centre precinct.	\$5 000
Kentish Council	Town entrance beautification.	\$2 750
Central Coast Council	Interpretive signage for Leven Canyon and Gunns Plains regions.	\$5 000
Dorset Council	Tourism-based signage for Bridport.	\$5 000
Meander Valley Council	Interpretive information boards for outdoor displays at Deloraine Folk Museum and Visitor Centre.	\$3 880
Northern Midlands Council	Development of the inaugural Tasmanian Trout Fishing Expo	\$4 600
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts at http://www.tourismtasmania.com.au/tasind/ind_related/grants/index.htm</p>		

Facilities Grant Program <i>Department of Economic Development</i>		
<p>Previously referred to as the Facilities and Open Space Development Program, the Facilities Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible organisations to develop quality facilities that meet the sport and recreation needs of the Tasmanian community. The provision of grant funding through this program recognises that Councils are often the primary providers of sport and recreation services and facilities in Tasmania.</p>		
Brighton Council	Regional link to Intercity Cycleway, East Derwent Highway - Stage 1	\$13 333
Clarence City Council	Expansion of Cambridge Memorial Oval	\$99 807
Glenorchy City Council	Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park	\$30 050
Huon Valley Council	Dover Foreshore Walking Trail	\$42 700
Kingborough Council	Dru Point multi-purpose recreation trail	\$14 050
Glenorchy City Council	Construction of indoor learn to swim/hydrotherapy pool	\$69 950
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Economic Development at http://www.development.tas.gov.au/sportec/grants/index.htm</p>		

Home and Community Care Program <i>Department of Health and Human Services</i>		
<p>The Home and Community Care Program provides funds to organisations providing support for people to continue to reside in their homes.</p>		
Central Highlands Council	Telelink	\$1 430
Clarence City Council	Options and volunteer coordination	\$161 282
George Town Council	Volunteer coordination and transport	\$39 495
Kingborough Council	Alzheimer's Day Centre	\$199 446
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Health and Human Services, Grants, Contracts and Purchasing Branch at grants.unit@dhhs.tas.gov.au</p>		
Family Support Program <i>Department of Health and Human Services</i>		
<p>The Family Support Program provides funds to community-based organisations to assist in meeting the costs in providing support for parents and family members where they are experiencing stress in their parenting roles.</p> <p>For example, in 2004-05 through this Program the West Coast Council received \$65 333 and the George Town Council received \$45 448.</p>		
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Health and Human Services, Grants, Contracts and Purchasing Branch at grants.unit@dhhs.tas.gov.au</p>		
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program <i>Department of Health and Human Services</i>		
<p>This is a support program providing funds to organisations that assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through a range of support and support accommodation services.</p> <p>For example, in 2004-05 through this Program the West Coast Council received \$84 994 for the purpose of case planning and transitional support.</p>		
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Health and Human Services, Grants, Contracts and Purchasing Branch at grants.unit@dhhs.tas.gov.au</p>		

Women's Development Small Grants Program <i>Department of Premier and Cabinet</i>		
<p>The Women's Development Small Grants Program is a vital part of the Women's Development Program. The annual Women's Development Small Grants program provides small non-recurrent grants to individuals and organisations to undertake projects that promote equality of opportunity for women and enhance their social well-being. Priority for funding is given to women with limited access to social and economic resources and to projects that are of benefit to a large number of women or to groups of women with special or particular needs.</p>		
<p>Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Premier and Cabinet, Women Tasmania at http://women.tas.gov.au/grants/index.html http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/multitas/grants/index.html</p>		

Multicultural Tasmania Sundry Grants Program

Department of Premier and Cabinet

The Multicultural Tasmania Sundry Grants Program provides financial assistance to the ethnic community and other groups to assist Tasmania's culturally diverse community to access government services and foster respect for, and understanding of cultural diversity in Tasmania.

Contact Details: For further information please contact Department of Premier and Cabinet, Multicultural Tasmania or visit <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/multitas/grants/index.html>

Regional Flood Mitigation Program

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

This is a joint program of the State and Commonwealth Governments. Applications for funding worthwhile projects are called for annually and assessed and approved by both the State and Commonwealth Ministers. Funding is based on a third share between each of the Commonwealth and State Governments and Local Council applicant.

For example, in 2003-04 through this grant program the Break O'Day Council received funding for its Regional Flood Mitigation Program.

Contact Details: For further information please contact Water Management, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Mike Temple-Smith on 03 6233 2576 or at mike.temple-smith@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

4 KPI PROJECT – MEASURING THE PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN TASMANIA

The Key Performance Indicator Project is an innovative development and is another example of the Government's cooperative partnership approach with Local Government in Tasmania.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are measures that focus on the achievement of outcomes most critical to the current and future success of the organisation.

Tasmania's 29 Councils vary in size, population and financial capacity. However, they all have the same statutory powers, and functions and similar objectives. Councils are increasingly working together in partnerships, regional and subregional arrangements. Physical resource-sharing is increasing. Information-sharing and information management are also areas in which Local Government has a further opportunity to advance and grow.

In recognition of this, the three spheres of Government in Tasmania have successfully worked together to establish an ongoing KPI Project for Local Government. This project has resulted in the development and implementation of the first framework for measuring and comparing Council performance in Tasmania and provides Councils with a range of indicators to measure their organisational performance. Data from each Council is collated and published in an annual KPI Report, enabling Councils not only to benchmark their operations but also to monitor trends over time.

This performance reporting is an important method of information sharing. Other opportunities exist, such as the Local Government Association of Tasmania's LOGONS (Local Government On-Line Services) project. LOGONS aims to bring e-commerce, performance information, and other electronic tools to Local Government. The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) operates an interactive website where all the KPI data is available to the public (available at: www.councilsatwork.tas.gov.au).

A Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Committee, consisting of Local and State Government representatives, provides guidance to the Local Government Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, which is responsible for the ongoing management of the Key Performance Indicator Project.

Forty-nine Council performance indicators have been selected for industry reporting purposes. The following key result areas have been identified for measuring the performance of Councils in Tasmania:

- governance
- management and finance
- regulatory

- infrastructure and utilities; and
- community services and development.

The KPI Report for 2003-2004 will be published shortly and, with five years of data available, some trends are now clear:

- The data indicates a consistent downward trend in the debt-service ratio on a statewide basis. Debt is usually incurred to fund infrastructure and other major capital works.
- In terms of the sources of total Council revenue the data shows an increase in the reliance of smaller Councils on grants as a source of Council revenue, reflecting the availability of grants. The City Councils are raising a greater proportion of their revenue from rates relative to the smaller Councils.
- Over the last five years, there has been a consistent reduction in the level of rates outstanding at the end of the financial year. The data displays a downward trend indicating that Councils are working hard to reduce the level of rates outstanding. It may also demonstrate the improved economic conditions in Tasmania.
- The data also shows that there has been a strong trend in the reduction of number of hours lost through injury, particularly for the smaller Councils.

The KPI Report for 2003-2004 will be launched at LGAT's Annual Conference, in June 2005, by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government, Jim Cox, MHA. The Local Government Division will distribute copies of this year's KPI report to all Councils. In addition, the KPI report will be available on the Local Government Division's website (<http://web.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgo/>).

5 REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) is the constitutional basis for Local Government in Tasmania. It provides the framework in which Tasmanian Councils operate.

However, since the Act's introduction in 1993, the needs of Local Government have changed considerably. The Government's policy in relation to Local Government is also very different, with its innovative Partnership Agreements program having led to the development of a much closer working relationship between the two spheres of Government.

The recent review of the Act has been successfully completed. Elected members and Council officers were closely involved in all stages of the review, which contributed to its success.

The review of the *Local Government Act 1993* was aimed at delivering a Local Government framework that:

- recognises that Local Government is responsible to its local community;
- is open, democratic, transparent and actively encourages Councils to seek and listen to the views and ideas of the members of their local communities;
- enables local communities to inform themselves about their Councils' decisions and actions and those of their Councils' joint and single authorities;
- enables local communities, as groups or as individuals, to challenge or question the reasonableness and validity of a decision or action of their Councils, elected representatives or a joint or single authority of the Councils;
- provides Councils with adequate powers to deliver services and perform functions to meet the needs of their local communities and to manage their own affairs;
- promotes greater cooperation within and between all levels of government; and
- has the flexibility to adjust to the changing needs of the community.

TASMANIA TOGETHER OBJECTIVES

The principles that guided this review were largely in tune with the principles upon which the 1993 Act was originally drafted, but more importantly are consistent with several of the *Tasmania Together* objectives that directly relate to Local Government:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Goal 12 | Provide Tasmanians with the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives. |
| Goal 13 | Have a system of government that is open, seeks and listens to people's views and ideas, and uses them in decision making at all levels. |

- Goal 14 Ensure there is greater cooperation at all levels of government and among political parties to improve the lives of Tasmanians.
- Goal 15 Have a system of government that is accountable to the people and plans for the future at all levels.¹

MAJOR FEATURES OF THE REVIEW

The amendments to the Act seek to refine and improve the effectiveness and transparency of Local Government operations whilst giving Councils the flexibility they need to respond to the changing needs and circumstances of today's communities.

The review has resulted in legislation with new provisions that will better suit the needs of our Councils in the 21st century.

Some of the major features of the Amendment Act and its Regulations are as follows:

- Each Council will be required to adopt a Code of Conduct for Councillors. This will include procedures for dealing with complaints of breaches of the Code. Regulations will list the matters that a Code must address, and each Council will then develop a Code of Conduct that is appropriate for its circumstances.
- Every Councillor's vote on motions before a Council meeting will be recorded in the minutes.
- Registers of pecuniary interests declared by Councillors will be open to the public. This change recognises that, as elected officials, Councillors are accountable to their communities.
- The electoral provisions have been updated to reflect relevant practices in the *Electoral Act 2004*.
- Each Council must now adopt a Customer Service Charter, which includes procedures for addressing complaints from ratepayers.
- The provisions related to the lodgement of a petition with a Council have been simplified.
- Remuneration of senior Council staff will be published in bands in Council Annual Reports.
- Each Council must adopt a code of tendering and contracting. The General Regulations will include new provisions to allow Councils to use modern tendering practices. A code of tendering and contracting will complement these new powers.
- Provisions relating to Council rates and charges have been updated to address administrative issues identified by Councils.
- The responsibilities of the Minister under the Act have been modified in three ways:
 - The Minister will no longer determine whether or not a Councillor should be dismissed in certain circumstances. This discretion is now placed in the hands of the Magistrates Court;
 - a right of appeal regarding the sale or disposal of public land by a Council will now be directed to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal;
 - The Minister will no longer confirm Council by-laws before they are made effective on publication in the Gazette. However, by-laws will continue to be submitted to the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

THE NEW ACT

The resulting Bill was introduced into the House of Assembly on 15 March 2005 and was passed by the Legislative Council on 16 April 2005.

The Local Government Amendment Act 2005 will commence by proclamation. It is intended that the Amendment Act will be proclaimed on 1 July 2005. All of the provisions of the Amendment Act commence on 1 July 2005, with the exception that Codes of Conduct need not be adopted until 1 July 2006.

The Local Government Division intends to provide regional workshops, which will assist Local Government in implementation of the provisions of the Amendment Act.

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

The Government's strategy of providing for effective and accountable Local Government is supported through its commitment to an independent Council review process.

This is achieved through its support for the Local Government Board. The Board is established under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is required to undertake a general review of each Council, on a regular basis.

Prior to 1998, the Board's emphasis in general reviews had been on matters such as boundaries, amalgamations, electoral districts, the method of electing the Mayor and the numbers of elected Councillors.

Since December 1998, the Board has broadened the scope of general reviews to include governance and operational matters and it has developed a set of guidelines for general reviews. The guidelines cover the following issues:

1. Constitutional and structural matters covered by section 9(1) of the Act.
2. Governance.
3. Regulatory functions.
4. Community Development, Communication and Consultation.
5. Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Members.
6. Equity, Access and Human Resource Management.
7. Asset Management.
8. Financial matters.
9. Local Government Development.
10. Other matters.

The Board identifies leading practice in Councils that are reviewed and encourages other Councils to emulate that leadership. It also makes specific recommendations to encourage leading practice across the full spectrum of matters reviewed.

Using these more expansive guidelines, the Board has undertaken general reviews of Central Coast, Flinders, Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Devonport City, Huon Valley, West Coast, Burnie City, Kentish, Kingborough, Hobart City, Northern Midlands, Launceston City, King Island, Clarence City, Brighton, Central Highlands, Dorset, and Glenorchy City Councils.

In the 2004-2005 reporting period, general reviews of Waratah-Wynyard, Southern Midlands and Meander Valley Councils were completed and the Board's reports were authorised for publication by the Minister.

The Board also completed a Specific Review into the number of councillors elected to the Kentish Council. The Minister accepted the Board's recommendation to reduce the number of councillors elected to that Council from ten (10) to nine (9).

For the remainder of the 2004-2005 period the Board commenced general reviews of Tasman and Derwent Valley Councils. These reports are currently being prepared and will be forwarded to the Minister shortly. The Board has also recently commenced a General Review of Break O'Day Council with public hearing sessions held in mid-May. General Reviews are undertaken as an open process, with submissions being invited by advertisement and public hearings being held by the Board.

The Board's reports are required to be published by the Minister and the Local Government Division provides the Board with the necessary secretarial support.

The Board provides the Minister with an Annual Report on its operations. These reports contain reference to examples of leading practice by councils that have been reviewed. The Board identifies these so that others might consider it for adoption. The Board has updated the list of these examples of leading practice and this is included in its most recent Annual Report.

Further information on the Board's activities, including the General Review guidelines, copies of General Review reports and details of Board membership, is available from the Division's website at: <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd>

The Board's Annual Report can also be found on this website.