

Annual Plan 2009/10

Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority



The Annual Plan

The charter provided by the 12 Member Councils to the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) is to advance the collective best interests of the Southern Tasmanian region, its community and its economy.

The Member Councils are Brighton, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman.

STC Board Composition, Role and Approach

The Board of the STCA comprises the Mayors of the 12 Councils and is chaired by the Lord Mayor of Hobart. Council General Managers also attend Board meetings. The Board is assisted by two part time Chief Executive Officers

The STCA operates as a regional organisation of councils. It's role is to create cooperative working partnerships and facilitate joint action to address regional development issues and progress sustainable economic, environmental and social outcomes for Southern Tasmania, its local communities and the State. In addition it will actively lobby State and Federal Governments on issues that promote the combined interests of its member Councils that make up the Southern Region, increase the profile of the organisation and use that profile to promote the interests of Southern Tasmania. It will also position itself to be responsive to emerging issues that arise from time to time.



STCA Annual Plan Priorities

The members of STCA have indicated that there are a number of core areas that are priorities in respect to Regional development. These areas fall broadly into seven strategic themes:

- Improved Physical Infrastructure
- Enhanced Economic Development
- Improved Environmental Performance
- Enhanced Social well-being
- Improved Inter-regional Cooperation
- Improved Local Government sustainability
- Good Organisational Governance

Each of these Strategic themes is broken down into the outcomes desired by the STCA, the Strategies that will be undertaken to make progress towards the outcomes, and the actions that will be taken in the current year to advance those strategies.

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Physical Infrastructure (PI)	(PI.1) Increased funding for Infrastructure in the Southern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (PI.1.1) Undertake research into the capacity of Councils in the region to fund the capital and recurrent costs of infrastructure in an environment where the Community, Industry and other levels of Government are making demands for additional and improved quality of infrastructure and identify current gaps in infrastructure provision ◆ (PI.1.2) Identify and pursue opportunities to attract additional infrastructure funding to the Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
	(PI.2) Agree funding priorities for major infrastructure priorities in the Southern region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (PI.2.1) Actively participate in, and implement, the Southern Regional Integrated Transport plan (Partnership Agreement (S1.1.3)) ◆ (PI.2.2) Identify and prioritise infrastructure projects for the Southern Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (PI.2.a) Provide feedback on the draft Southern Regional Integrated Transport plan • (PI.2.b) Negotiate with State Government an “Action Plan” that is based on the Southern Regional Transport Strategy • (PI.2.c) Develop and promote a list of priority projects for infrastructure in Southern Tasmania.
	(PI.3) Access to broadband throughout each municipality in the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (PI.3.2) Actively investigate opportunity for Local Government to support the roll out of High-speed Broadband in Southern Tasmania and achieve increased penetration of broadband throughout the whole Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (PI.3.a) Develop an options paper that looks at supporting the rollout of Broadband in Southern Tasmania. Consider the economic and social opportunities offered by the broadband rollout in the State by no later than March 2010; • (PI.3.b) Work with the State Government to locate and attract innovative service providers that will utilise the Broadband network.

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Physical Infrastructure (PI)	(PI.4) Provision of potable and waste water services to all major population centres in the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (PI.4.1) Support the members of the STCA in their role as owners of Southern Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (PI.4.a) Ensure that the Annual and Quarterly Reporting requirements of the Shareholders Letter of Expectations are complied with through putting in place effective reporting and communication arrangements between the Corporation and the Owners through the Owners' Representatives. • (PI.4.b) Provide administrative and management support to the Owners Representatives.
	(PI.5) Establishment of a regionally agreed Infrastructure Investment Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (PI.5.1) Continue to facilitate the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project generally, and the development of an Infrastructure Investment Strategy, in particular to guide investment decisions and encourage a pattern of infrastructure provision that is relevant to the future needs, capabilities and potentials of the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (PI.5.a) Completion of Final Draft Regional Land Use Framework which will include a draft Infrastructure Investment Strategy

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Economic Development (ED)	(ED.1) Increased integration of Inter-Council, Regional and State Government economic development planning for the Southern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (ED.1.2) Coordinate and consolidate relevant information to be used for the promotion of the Southern Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
	(ED.2) Achieve the identified and agreed tourism objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved and enhanced Visitor Information Centre ◆ Local (Municipal) level tourism product development ◆ Promotion of the Southern Region and southern zone marketing regions within the region ◆ Increased understanding of the impact of visitors and tourists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (ED.2.1) In partnership with Tourism Tasmania develop, implement and manage a Service Level Agreement with Totally South ◆ (ED.2.2) Facilitate opportunities for the Councils to work with Hobart City Council to improve and enhance services provided by the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre, Hobart.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (ED.2.a) Review and make recommendations regarding the relationship between Member Councils and Totally South given the introduction of Zone Marketing and the change in ownership of the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre, Hobart. Consider the future of Totally South by no later than 28 February 2010; • (ED.2.b) Explore ways in which the STCA can assist all member Councils to work cooperatively with TTIC management.

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Economic Development (ED)	(ED.3) Improved processes for ensuring appropriate Local Government and Community input and consultation into Projects of State Significance in the South and proposed Projects of Regional Significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (ED.3.1) Identify opportunities to provide Regional input on the impact of major projects on Council infrastructure, the environment and the well being of Local Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
	(ED.4) Achieve the benefits to the economy that can be derived from the establishment of a regional land use planning framework and sustainable metropolitan forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (ED.4.1) Continue to facilitate the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project with the objective of establishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) an agreed Regional Land Use Framework, (b) an accompanying Infrastructure Investment Strategy and, ultimately (c) contemporary and consistent planning schemes across all planning authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (ED.4.a) Completion of Final Draft Regional Land Use Framework. • (ED.4.b) Public consultation on Final Draft Regional Land Use Framework • (ED.4.c) Participation in the review of Planning Directive No. 1 through the Regional Planning Project as first phase in developing contemporary and consistent planning schemes.

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Environment (E)	(E.1) Improved management of weeds and pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (E.1.1) Continue to implement the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy through the NRM funding process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E.1.a) Seek funding and progress partnerships to maintain regionally strategic Weed of National Significance programs for Boneseed, Bridal creeper, Chilean needle grass, Seeding willows, Serrated tussock and Gorse • (E.1.b) Continue to maintain and support Southern Tasmanian Sea spurge program • (E.1.c) Investigate developing additional regionally strategic priority weed programs for St John's wort, Paterson's curse, Amsinckia, Feathertop and African feather grass • (E.1.d) Continue to support and have input into weed management strategies and committees across the region • (E.1.e) Improve access to weed mapping data across the region in partnership with DPIPWE • (E.1.f) Support the Weed Alert Network in Southern Tasmania • (E.1.g) Expand stakeholder engagement in weed management across southern Tasmania • (E.1.h) Support and increase community skills, knowledge, capacity and engagement in best practice integrated weed management • (E.1.i) Ensure relevant NRM South programs and activities target key weed priorities • (E.1.j) Improve knowledge on achievements of the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy • (E.1.k) Continue to support the Tasmanian Weed Society

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Environment (E)	(E.2) Improve the integration of environmental considerations into Council Planning and decision making	♦ (E.2.1) Implement the STCA approved NRM GIS project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E.2.a) Implement the common data structure in member Councils • (E.2.b) Implement the Development Application Report Generator in member Councils • (E.2.c) Discuss the development of a regional Service Level Agreement with the State Government • (E.2.d) Develop a project plan to deliver land information over the internet on a chargeable basis to the public
	(E.3) Maximise opportunities for funding, at the local level, of projects in agreed catchment and other environmental management plans	♦ (E.3.1) Facilitate opportunities to increase the awareness of funding opportunities for the implementation of agreed environmental management plans at a Council level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E.3.a) Maintain effective working relationships with NRM South's Board and management.
	(E.4) NRM decisions are not inconsistent with the needs of STCA member Councils	♦ (E.4.1) Promote the needs of member Councils to NRM South and other key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E.4.a) Maintain effective working relationships with NRM South's Board and management.
	(E.5) Improve awareness among Councils and the Community of the impacts of Climate change and develop and implement strategies that can be adopted to mitigate those impacts	♦ (E.5.1) Establish a regional 'Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative' that includes the development and implementation of sustainable behaviour change and adaptation projects for Urban, Peri-Urban, Rural and Natural Area Priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E.5.a) Constitute a Climate Change and Sustainability working group from member Councils. Establish a structural framework for the delivery of regional climate change initiatives by 31 March 2010. • (E.5.b) Develop an action plan, agreed by all member Councils, to assist in mitigation of the effects of Climate Change.

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Social (S)	(S.1) Improved understanding of regional demographics and the spread of human services available in the Southern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (S.1.1) Develop a Regional demographic and social profile and identify existing and possible future shortfalls in human service provision for the region ◆ (S.1.2) Through the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project, develop a comprehensive State of the Region Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (S.1.a) Completion and sign off by Southern Councils of the State of the Region report through the Regional Planning Project.
	(S.2) Appropriate mix and location of services across the Southern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (S.2.1) Lobby for appropriate spread of services for the region as appropriate ◆ (S.2.2) Incorporate consideration of services within the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (S.2.a) Develop an understanding of any deficiencies in service delivery that may exist in Southern Tasmania.

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Social (S)	(S.3) Improved effectiveness of Public Transport in the Southern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (S.3.1) Ensure that public transport concerns identified by STCA members are incorporated into the Southern Regional Integrated Transport Strategy ◆ (S.3.2) Lobby for services that more closely reflect the needs of the Southern Region ◆ (S.3.3) Fully engage with the State Government's 'Urban Public Transport Study' and integrate outcomes within the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (S.3.a) Develop a submission on the Southern Regional Transport Strategy that incorporates the members concerns on public transport.
	(S.4) Improved transitions for young people in the Southern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (S4.1) Ensure, where possible, ongoing support for the activities initiated through the Southern Youth Transitions Taskforce and explore alternative means by which transitional issues may be addressed given that funding for the Taskforce has been withdrawn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (S.4.a) Appropriately wind up the activities of the Southern Youth Transitions Taskforce

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Intra-Regional Cooperation (IC)	(IC.1) Increased opportunities for cost saving and improved service delivery by Inter-regional cooperation and resource sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (IC.1.1) Identify and pursue opportunities for cooperation and resource sharing projects, including joint tendering and cooperative service delivery. ◆ (IC.1.2) Lobby for funding for identified projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IC.1.a) Identify and follow up opportunities in co-operative purchasing that will lead to savings for members Councils • (IC.1.b) Consider the establishment of a common services corporation for the southern region by no later than 30 June 2010; • (IC.1.c) Consider the future of the Southern Waste Strategy Authority and the introduction of an appropriate waste management levy by no later than 31 March 2010;
	(IC.2) Improved access to professional and technical skills needed by local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (IC.2.1) Identify opportunities to improve skills access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
	(IC.3) Appropriate recognition of the needs and interests of the Southern Regional Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (IC.3.1) Monitor Regional implications of policy proposals and decisions by other levels of Government and recommend action where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Intra-Regional Cooperation (IC)	(IC.4) Improved sharing of knowledge and experience of recreational issues	♦ (IC.4.1) Establish a forum to discuss areas of common interest, as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
	(IC.5) Establishment of a Regional Land Use Planning Framework, and Infrastructure Investment Strategy and contemporary planning schemes with a commonality of structure and a consistency of expression.	♦ (IC.5.1) Continue to coordinate and facilitate the Southern Tasmanian Regional Planning Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Local Government Sustainability (LGS)	(LGS.1) A viable and vibrant Local Government Sector that is efficient and retains an appropriate level of local Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (LGS.1.1) Remain aware of the State Government's intentions towards Local Government and the services that Local Government delivers ◆ (LGS.1.2) As required, lobby, on behalf of the member Councils, to protect the interests of Local Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (LGS.1.a) Develop and promote a list of priority areas and issues for promotion to all political parties prior to the next State Election. Develop a set of strategies to implement the STCA's key State election issues by 30 November 2009. • (LGS.1.b) Identify threats to Local Government and seek the support of member Councils for action to mitigate those threats

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Governance (G)	(G.1) Creation of the STCA as a properly constituted Regional body that can enter into funding arrangements with other spheres of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (G.1.1) Continue to work with member Councils to maintain an appropriate structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
	(G.2) A well managed viable organisation that adds value to both individual Councils and the Region as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (G.2.1) Annually review performance and funding as part of the development of the annual plans ◆ (G.2.2) Implement recommendations of the 2008 Local Government Board Review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
	(G.3) An organisation with a clear direction and purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (G3.1) Develop a vision and mission statement for the 5 year duration of the Plan consistent with the aspirations of the member councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (G3.1.a) Work with member Councils to develop a long term vision for the STCA. • (G3.1.b) Develop and initiate a process to create a community based vision for the southern region by 28 February 2010;

Strategic theme	Outcome desired by STCA	Strategies to make progress towards the outcome	Actions to be undertaken in the 2009/10 year
Governance (G)	(G.4) Create an organisation that is relevant to and listened to by other tiers of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (G4.1) Develop a marketing strategy that includes a review of the current corporate image of the STCA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (G.4.a) Develop a marketing strategy and action plan for the STCA.
	(G.5) Ensure that the organisation remains relevant to its member Councils and is appropriately structured to meet their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ (G5.1) As appropriate, provide structural options to the STCA Board to enhance the ability of the organisation to meet the different and diverse needs of all of its members whether they are located in rural, urban or metropolitan areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (G.5.a) Develop a model of operation that supports the interest of both metropolitan and rural members. Consider the establishment of the metropolitan and rural councils groupings under the auspice of the STCA by no later than 30 March 2010. • (G.5.b) If required, develop an annual plan for the inner urban and metropolitan and rural and outer urban standing committees.