

Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority

Quarterly Report to Members

September 2014



Each Joint Authority is required under Section 36 B of the Local Government Act, 1993 to provide to its members a quarterly report that includes a statement of its general performance and a statement of its financial performance.

This report covers the three-month period ending 30th September 2014. This report with all previous quarterly reports is published on the Authority's website: www.stca.tas.gov.au

The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) commenced on 1st July 2006.

Photo credit: Brenton West

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QUARTERLY REPORT TO MEMBER COUNCILS MARCH 2014

REPORT SUMMARY

The Authority held an Ordinary Meeting on 11th August 2014 in Sorell.

1. Mary Massina, Planning Reform Taskforce

The Board had a presentation from Mary Massina from the Planning Reform Taskforce

2. Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA)

The Board endorsed a process to move forward regarding a regional waste organisation

3. Taswater Data Sharing Proposal

The Board endorsed to development of a data sharing proposal with Taswater

4. STCA Portfolio Positions

The Board endorsed three portfolio positions, on business migration, medicinal cannabis and defence manufacturing precinct

5. Australian Retailers Association Presentation

The Board received a presentation from the Australian Retailers Association

6. AGM Arrangements

Arrangements for the STCA AGM were endorsed by the Board

7. Destination Southern Tasmania Board Position

The Board resolved to appoint the DST Board nominee following the local government elections

8. Governance and Audit Committee

The Board endorsed recommendations from the Governance and Audit Committee

9. 2013/14 Financial Statements

The Board endorsed the 2013/14 financial statements

10. Economic Development Committee

A report from the Economic Development Committee was received

11. Infrastructure Committee

A report from the Infrastructure Committee was received

12. Sorell Meeting Media

The Board conducted a media event prior to the board meeting at Sorell.

13. Employees

14. Finances

THE REPORT

1. Mary Massina, Planning Reform Taskforce

Mary Massina, Executive Commissioner of the Planning Reform Taskforce attended the August Board meeting. Ms Massina spoke about her appointment to the role and the current work being undertaken by the Taskforce, she highlighted that they meet monthly and local government has a number of representatives on the Taskforce. Some of the first work of the Taskforce was providing advice to the Minister on the way forward the current set of interim planning schemes being developed around the state. The Taskforce also recommended legislative changes to help facilitate a quicker process for the declaration of the schemes. Ms Massina said there would be further opportunities in the coming months for local government to engage with the Taskforce and provide feedback on the development of the single statewide planning scheme. Ms Massina said at this stage they were hoping to have 80 per cent commonality across the state with 20 per cent being made up of local content. The Board also raised other issues outside the single statewide planning scheme regarding the future of regional land use strategies, making it easier to make modifications to planning schemes and whether the government was looking at some type of Ministerial call in powers. The Board thanks Ms Massina for attending the meeting and said they looked forward to continuing to engage with the Planning Reform Taskforce.

2. Southern Waste Strategy Update

The Board received an update on the issue of the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA). This issue was examined by the Governance and Audit Committee and recommendations to the accompanying report were provided to the Board.

Following the passage of a motion at the June STCA Board meeting, inviting the CEO's of SWSA and the STCA to work together on a joint options paper on a regional waste group.

The Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, Alderman Chipman and the CEO met with SWSA's Chairman, Councilor Alex Green and CEO David Sales. The STCA stressed the importance of trying to work together on this issue to ensure that there was a strong regional waste body in southern Tasmania beyond 1/7/2015.

Following the meeting between Ald. Chipman, Brenton West, Cr. Green and David Sales a process was agreed as potential way forward.

1. The CEO's of STCA and SWSA, Brenton and David, work collaboratively to prepare a joint paper exploring the options for the roles and functions of a regional waste group (SWSA) being undertaken by the STCA (Noting that David

is likely to be asked by the SWSA Board to explore other options for a regional waste group structure, this process may or may not include Brenton)

2. This paper then be subject to presentation to the STCA and SWSA Board's for endorsement

3. Subject to agreement from both Board's this paper is then put to member councils for determination

However, following this meeting, SWSA held a Board meeting and responded formally to the STCA.

The Governance Committee held a lengthy discussion on this issue at its recent meeting on 5 August and provided a number of recommendations as a way forward. These were endorsed by the STCA Board.

- 1. That the STCA Board note the correspondence from Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA)**
- 2. That the STCA CEO prepare a paper on a regional waste body being contained in the STCA from 1/7/2015, including draft terms of reference, objects, functions, tasks and governance arrangements**
- 3. Note that the Lord Mayor would personally support and advocate for Hobart City Council to contribute to regional waste activities through subscriptions if the roles and functions of a regional waste group were conducted by the STCA**

3. TasWater Data Sharing Proposal

The Board endorsed looking at a proposal to develop a voluntary data sharing arrangement with Taswater

The STCA CEO had been approached by the Department Manager, Asset Information Management at Taswater to discuss the idea of a voluntary data sharing arrangement with southern councils.

This data sharing arrangement would be facilitated through the STCA with a voluntary Memorandum of Understanding for the southern region. Taswater is also pursuing similar agreements with the other two regions, the North and North West.

TasWater suggested as a starting point, that they could share the following data sets with Councils:

- Water (and re-use)
 - o Water pressure mains
 - o Service mains (property connections)
 - o Valves (including hydrants)
 - o Structures (water storages, treatment plants, pump stations)

- Sewer
 - o Sewer gravity mains
 - o Sewer pressure mains
 - o Maintenance holes
 - o Service mains (property connections)
 - o Structures (treatment plants, pump stations)

In return TasWater would be interested in receiving from Councils:

- Stormwater
 - o Gravity mains
 - o Maintenance holes

It was not proposed that any arrangement replace existing service level agreement or impact upon any statutory obligations. Any potential data sharing opportunity would be designed to foster a stronger working relationship through the sharing of data between local government and Taswater.

The Board endorsed in principle the idea of a voluntary data sharing arrangement with Taswater and charged the CEO with developing a full report on the issue, including how it could work and a potential draft MoU and present this report at the next STCA Board meeting.

4. STCA Portfolio Positions

The Board examined a report presenting three portfolio positions for endorsement. In February 2014 the STCA Board endorsed a portfolio proposition that enabled Board members to bring projects or policy areas of interest to the Board for endorsement at a regional level.

That person can then act as a spokesperson for the issue in the public domain.

Portfolio positions on industrial hemp/medicinal marijuana, defence manufacturing precinct and business migration were presented and endorsed by the board.

Portfolio position: Business Migration Program

Background:

In recent years the Tasmanian economy has experienced a significant downturn. This has resulted in increased unemployment and a deterioration of the State's finances.

To help promote economic growth and increase jobs the Federal Government have a business migration program called the Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent visa).

The permanent business innovation and investment visa is designed to attract business people to assist in the economic development of Australia. Under the

visa, migrants are allowed to stay in Australia on a permanent basis for the purpose of owning a new or existing business or investing in Australia.

The program requires participants to invest \$5 million in a local business.

Since the inception of the program, it is understood that only a handful of users have accessed this scheme and migrated to Tasmania.

The Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Mayor Evans has proposed that given the current state of the Tasmanian economy that the STCA could work with the State and Federal Government's to see if the investment threshold could be lowered to \$1 million.

This lowered threshold would only apply to Tasmania and would help to encourage more migrants to move to Tasmania to invest in local businesses.

Position and Actions:

- The STCA supports the Business Innovation and Investment program
- The STCA supports a lowering of the threshold to \$1 million for investment into Tasmania to access the scheme
- Works with the State and Federal Government's to try and modify the scheme to generate greater economic investment into Tasmania
- Appoints the Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Mayor Evans to act as the spokesperson on the issue

Portfolio position: Defence Manufacturing Precinct

Background:

The Tasmania Maritime Network (TMN) is a group of companies and organisations involved in the construction of innovative maritime products and services. The majority of these companies are based at the Prince of Wales Bay Marine precinct, although other businesses that are based across southern Tasmania form part of the TMN.

Some of the more well know members of the Tasmanian maritime network include Incat, Liferaft Systems Tasmania, Moonraker, CBG Systems and Taylor Brothers.

In the lead up to the 2013 Federal Election the Tasmanian Maritime Network was pushing to have the Prince of Wales Bay Maritime precinct recognised as a Defence Precinct.

Over the coming decades there will be billions of dollars worth of maritime defence procurement opportunities as the Federal Government continues to

renew and expand Australia's maritime fleet. This could include opportunities in defence, customs and border protection procurement.

The TMN includes a number of companies that are already supplying specific products to the world defence procurement market.

If the Prince of Wales Bay Maritime precinct was to be recognised as a Defence Precinct it would open up far greater opportunities for Tasmanian businesses to win defence contracts.

Any defence contracts would deliver a massive boost to the Tasmanian economy through increased jobs and economic activity right across the region.

Position and Actions:

- The STCA support the efforts by the Tasmanian Maritime Network (TMN) to have the Prince of Wales Bay Maritime precinct recognised as a Defence Precinct
- The STCA write to the TMN offering support for the Tasmanian defence manufacturing precinct
- Appoint Mayor Stuart Slade as spokesperson on the issue

Portfolio position: Medicinal Cannabis/Industrial

Background:

With the downturn in the Tasmanian economy, in particular the forest industry, there is a growing push to allow cannabis to be grown for medicinal purposes and industrial hemp for fibre and food products.

A number of individual councils including the Huon Valley, Derwent Valley and the Dorset Council have provided in principle support for trials of growing cannabis for use in pharmaceutical products for medicinal purposes.

There have also been calls for a reduction in regulation to allow an expansion of the industrial hemp industry in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian State Government have announced plans to make the industrial hemp industry a priority industry in Tasmania.

This includes the establishment of a working group to look at reducing regulation.

An expansion of the industry would allow for greater use of industrial hemp in fibre products and food products. This would deliver jobs and economic growth, particularly in rural communities struggling with the downturn in the forestry industry.

There is currently a Parliamentary Inquiry looking into the issue of medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp.

Position and Actions:

- The STCA supports a trial of growing medicinal cannabis in Tasmania
- The Board supports the industrial hemp industry
- Endorses the plan by the State Government to make industrial hemp a priority industry in Tasmania
- Appoints the Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Mayor Evans to act as the STCA spokesperson on the issue

5. Australian Retailers Association - Presentation

The Board received a brief presentation from Ashley Payne, Employment Development Manager from the Australian Retailers Association (ARA). The Australian Retailers Association had received funding from the Federal Government to deliver targeted retail training. Mr Payne highlight that there were a range of retail diploma courses available that can be undertaken. The ARA asked councils to help promote the training courses in the local community.

Tasmanian Retailer Support Project – 2014

Responding to the workforce need for core skills in the Retail Sector

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) has been granted funding to deliver targeted retail training by the Department of Education Skills Tasmania in May (2014).

The submission by the Retail Institute, a division of the ARA, strongly focussed on the professional development and potential growth opportunities for retailers through targeted retail education.

The application responded to the Tasmanian Skills Strategy 2008 – 15 and its core cycle of themes and actions by:

- offering **targeted retail skills** education to prepare the future workforce to meet the demands of a continuously changing sector,
- **optimise business performance** with practical tools and techniques to implement into the everyday operations of their business, and
- **accelerating business opportunities** with an improvement to core retail skills concerns and issues

About funding and target audiences

Funding received provided the ARA Retail Institute the opportunity to deliver training programs with our core products being:

SIR50112::Diploma of Retail Management (DRM)	Providing support to senior management in larger retail or wholesale outlets. This program will benefit individuals looking to advance their professional development in retail.
SIR40121:: Certificate IV in Retail Management (C4)	Supporting retailers generally employed in the industry. This program will benefit individuals looking to move from managing within small retail outlet to larger retail or whole sale outlets.
SIR30212:: Certificate III in Retail Operations (C3)	Providing support for retail employee with a desire to commence their professional development increase their capabilities. This program is ideal for individual currently employed in a retail supervisory role.
SIR20212:: Certificate III in Retail Operations (C2)	Increasing opportunities for job seekers with a retail job goal but no transferable experience. This program will benefit individuals seeking a potential retail career.
RAPID Retailing Program (RP)	The challenge for many small to medium retailers today is time. This program offers course units form the Diploma of Retail Management for retailers that will benefit from core retail skill training that provides them with strategies for business growth.

Tasmanian Retailer Support Project – 2014

Responding to the workforce need for core skills in the Retail Sector



About delivery and timeframes

The Tasmanian Retail Support Project will be delivered in various phases from July thru November 2014.

- This integrated 'Delivery Model' below estimates the demand for programs by 'Region'
- Business Development will commence in July 2014
- Recruitment and program commencements will be coordinated progressively throughout August thru November 2014.

	2014					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Initiate Project	Business Development	Recruiting Commencement	Steady State (Monitor and Evaluate Progress)			
Hobart		DRM (1 Workshop)				

Launceston		DRM (5 Workplace)			
Western *Burnie	C4 (5 Workplace) & C3 (5 Workplace)				
Central North West *Devonport	C4 (5 Workplace) & C3 (5 Workplace)				
Northern *Launceston	C4 (5 Workplace) & C3 (5 Workplace)				
Central and Southern *Hobart, Kingborough, Brighton, Glenorchy, Clarence	C4 (15 Workplace) & C3 (15 Workplace)				
Southern		C3 (3 Retail Employment Pathways Programs)			
Northern		C3 (3 Retail Employment Pathways Programs)			
Southern		RP- Skill Set Program			
Northern		RP- Skill Set Program			
Central North West		RP- Skill Set Program			

Stakeholders

The ARA Retail Institute is seeking to engage with stakeholders that value the economic dimension and public investment of retail skills and training to assist businesses meet the challenges of investing dynamic sector. Stakeholders will contribute to the outcomes by delivering positive messages about the retail training and the key objectives of retail education as seen in the ARA Retail Institute's response to the Tasmanian Skills Strategy 2008-15.

Stakeholders including: National Chains; Business Economic Centres; Chambers of Commerce; Local Government and Councils; Trader and Business Groups; Shopping Centres and State Government.

People and resources

The ARA Retail Institute training and education programs are facilitated by industry retail experts and supported by a project management team to assure the quality of the products and services delivered achieve the best outcomes for its clients and value benefit for stakeholders supporting ARA Retail Institute projects.

*For more information please contact: Ashley Payne Project Manager Tasmanian Region –
E: ashley.payne@retail.org.au ; Mb: 0411 478 071, or Ph: 03 8660 3342.
Visit the www.retailinstitute.org.au>For Government>State Projects*

6. AGM Arrangements

The Board received a report on proposed arrangements for the Authority's AGM.

This item was discussed at the Governance and Audit Committee meeting and endorsed by the Committee.

As part of the CEO's engagement process some councils have raised the issue of engaging with the Authority to a greater level.

To help facilitate this the Governance and Audit Committee have proposed that all Alderman/Councillors be invited to the Authority's AGM. This would allow them to hear the report from the Authority on its activities for the year.

This could be a good networking tool and important engagement exercise, in particular this year it could serve as a wrap-up of the past three years in local government.

It is proposed to have the Minister for Local Government, Peter Gutwein MP along as a guest speaker. As well as inviting the President and CEO of LGAT.

The AGM could be held in the Lord Mayor's Courtroom at the Hobart City Council and a social function could take place at the conclusion of the formal proceedings.

The AGM could also act as another media opportunity for the Authority as part of the profile building exercise. An open AGM to receive the annual report from the Authority for the financial year is common practice amongst member organisations and similarly amongst councils.

It is also worth noting that there doesn't appear to be anything in the Authority's constitution to prevent this from occurring.

The Governance and Audit Committee proposed Friday 24 October as a suggested date for the AGM.

These arrangements and date were endorsed by the Board.

7. Destination Southern Tasmania Board Position

The considered the issue of providing their board member nominee to Destination Southern Tasmania (DST)

Currently, the STCA provides two members to the Destination Southern Tasmania (DST) Board, these are comprised of an elected level representative and an officer level representative from across the region.

Presently, Mayor Slade serves as the elected level representative on the DST Board and the STCA CEO serves as the officer level appointment.

Councilor Alex Green is also on the DST Board through his capacity and involvement in his Local Tourism Association.

The Chairman of DST, Mr Vin Barron has written to the STCA to advise that Mayor Stuar Slade's term as a Director of DST will expire at the end of August, however he is eligible to serve another term.

Due to the timing of the upcoming local government elections scheduled for October, it would appear to make sense to extend Mayor Slade's current term for an extra month until the local government elections.

The new STCA Board could then deal with this item and provide a nomination to the DST Board at the Authority's first meeting after the elections in early November.

DST have indicated that they are more than happy with this approach.

The Board resolved to extend Mayor Slade's term as the STCA nominee to the DST Board until after the local government elections and that the Authority will determine its nominee at its next meeting in early November.

8. Governance and Audit Committee

The Board considered a report from the Governance and Audit Committee. Given the significance of much of the work undertaken by the Governance and Audit Committee many of the items were examined individually by the Board as separate agenda items.

The Committee examined a report and correspondence from SWSA regarding the issue of a regional waste body. The Committee had recommended to the Board that it seemed the most appropriate way to move forward by undertaking the development of a waste governance paper and proposed terms of reference for consideration by the STCA Board. It was also noted that the Lord Mayor of Hobart was personally supportive of Hobart rejoining the regional waste group if the roles and functions were performed by the STCA.

The Committee also discussed proposed AGM arrangements as part of ongoing efforts to improve engagement between councils and the STCA. The Committee felt that the AGM would present an excellent opportunity for all Councilors and Alderman from across southern Tasmania to be invited to along to hear about the activities of the STCA. It was also noted that there was nothing in the Authority's rules precluding this from occurring.

The 2013/14 financial statements were examined by the Committee and approved. The Committee discussed these at considerable length and were satisfied that the financial contributions from member councils was sufficient to operate the Authority. It was noted at the June Board meeting the STCA Board had endorsed the 2014/15 budget for the operation of the Authority from council subscriptions to make a small surplus. It was noted that the deficit incurred by the Authority was attributable to the expenditure of grant funding that was received in a different period. The Committee also noted that the balance sheet of the Authority remained strong and that the STCA was more than able to meet its debts as and when they fell due.

9. 2013/14 Financial Statements

The Board endorsed the 2013/14 Financial Statements of the Authority.

As per the *Local Government Act 1993* the Authority has prepared its financial statements for consideration by the STCA Board.

These financial statements were examined and endorsed by the Governance and Audit Committee at its August meeting.

After approval that the financial statements accurately represent the Authority's activities for the year, they need to be submitted to the Tasmanian Audit Office by 14 August 2014, to allow for an onsite audit to be conducted by the Auditor General.

The financial statements for the 2013/14 financial year showed that the Authority remained in a strong financial position. This financial statements showed a deficit for the 2013/14 financial year of \$132,959. This was attributed to a number of grant monies that were received in previous financial periods and then expended in 2013/14, these included around \$50,000 for the capture of LiDAR imagery around the coastlines of southern Tasmania, \$32,000 for an online planning program to track online development applications and funding for the completion of the regional planning project. It was noted that this is an issue often faced by the Authority and other organisations that receive grant funding in a particular period and then expend it in the next financial period.

The STCA continues to remain in a strong financial position, with the Authority maintaining \$222,790 cash on hand, including \$105,927 allocated for specific grant activities and around \$115,000 of cash reserves (accumulated surpluses).

It should also be noted that at the June 2014 Board meeting, the STCA Board endorsed the 2014/15 Budget for the operations of the activity from the council subscriptions, which predicted a small surplus.

Importantly, the Authority well and truly remains solvent easily being able to meet its debts when they fall due.

Following this process, the financial statements were audited by the Auditor General and it was found that there were no issues. They were also endorsed at the STCA AGM.

10. Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee met and discussed the regional economic development prospectus that was currently being completed by the Authority. It was highlight that in the coming years with the Free Trade Agreements that had been recently signed by the Federal Government there would be a number of investors looking for projects in southern Tasmania.

The Committee also spoke about the impending visit of the President of China as part of the G20 Summit and how this was an incredible opportunity for Tasmania to showcase its produce and investment opportunities.

It was also felt that the region needed to be ready to capitalise on these opportunities.

The Committee also started to discuss key issues and activities that could be included as part of the new five year strategic plan 2015 - 19 that was being developed by the Authority. It was agreed that economic development should be a key component of the plan given the importance of the issue to local councils across the region.

11. Infrastructure Committee

The Infrastructure Committee met and the main part of the meeting was consumed with a briefing from Fiona McCleod from the new Department of State Growth.

Ms McCleod touched on the infrastructure announcements made by the State Government in the recent budget, in particular those across southern Tasmania.

In particular those projects where that State Government was co-contributing its 20 per cent funding to already announced federally funded projects such as the Brooker Highway at Elwick Road/Goodwood Roundabout, Tasman Highway on/off ramps and Summerleas Road/Huon Highway intersection.

There were also a number of smaller road projects entirely funded by the State Government such as further improvements for the Rokeby main road, sealing for the Highland Lakes road and more passing lanes for the Huon Highway.

Ms McCleod also spoke about the new government's focus on roads and buses as well as ensuring we continue to update the Southern Integrated Transport Plan.

12. Sorell Meeting – Population Media

The Board held its August meeting in Sorell. Before the meeting the Board took the opportunity to meet as a group on the causeway connecting Midway Point to Sorell. The focus of the media event was the increasing population of southern Tasmania and that the government had provided a headline figure but no more specific modeling on the growth expected in each local municipality. This makes it very difficult for local councils to plan appropriately with infrastructure, health and education services for the local community. The media event was highly successful with coverage on all three television news stations as well as a good article in the Mercury newspaper the next day.



Mayors at the Midway Point causeway highlighting the issue of population growth and the need for appropriate modelling so councils can provide appropriate infrastructure to support local communities.

13. Employees

Mr Brenton West, took up the role of full time Chief Executive Officer of the Authority on 1 July 2013. The Authority has previously employed other staff as government grant funding is obtained. It is intended that this process will continue.

14. Finance

A summary of financial performance for the fourth quarter of the 2013/14 financial year follows:

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCILS AUTHORITY **Financial Report as at 30th September 2014**

	Actual at 30/9/14	Budget Year to Date	Budget 2014/15
	\$	\$	\$
Revenue plus opening balances			
STCA Consolidated Account	283,428	70,857	283,428
Regional GIS Project	24,664	6,166	24,664
Regional Planning	2,363	590.75	2,363
Water and Sewerage Owners Representatives	1,231	307.75	1,231
Climate Change adaptation project	36,145	9,036.25	36,145
Climate Change communication project	43,490	10,872.5	43,490
Regional Visioning	2,505	626.25	2,505
Local Government Structures Project	5,587	1,396.75	5,587
Tourism	10,460	2,615	10,460
Industrial Land use Study	4,972	1,243	4,972
SMART form	2,909	727.25	2,909
TOTAL REVENUE	417,756	104,439	417,756
Expenditure			
STCA Consolidated Account	(25,125)	(46,737.5)	(186,950)
Regional GIS Project	(0)	(0)	(0)
Regional Planning	(505)	(500)	(2,000)
Water and Sewerage Owners Representatives	0	0	0
Climate Change adaptation project	(1,211)	(9,025)	(36,100)
Climate Change communication project	(0)	(10,800)	(43,200)
Regional Visioning	0	0	0
Local Government Structures Project	0	0	0
Tourism	0	(0)	(0)
Industrial Land use Study	(3,126)	(1,000)	(4,000)
SMART form	0	(0)	(0)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(29,967)	(68,062.5)	(272,250)
Closing Balances			
STCA Consolidated Account	258,304	24,119.5	96,478
Regional GIS Project	24,664	6,166	24,664
Regional Planning	1,859	90.75	363
Water and Sewerage Owners Representatives	1,231	307.75	1,231
Climate Change adaptation project	34,953	11.25	45
Climate Change communication project	43,490	72.5	290
Regional Visioning	2,505	626.25	2,505
Local Government Structures Project	5,587	1,396	5,587
Tourism	10,460	2,615	10,460
Industrial Land use Study	1,846	243	972
SMART form	2,909	727.25	2,909
	387,789	36,376	145,504

It is to be noted that there are eleven separate accounts.

1. STCA consolidated account.

The operating account of the Authority currently the account has a balance of \$258,304.

2. Regional GIS Project.

NRM South made a financial contribution towards achievement of the Regional GIS initiative up to 30th June 2009.

In addition, member Councils agreed to contribute \$7,000 each in 2008/09 and \$10,000 each in 2009/10. There was a carryover of \$224,790 at the commencement of the year, which included a contribution of \$67,500 made in 2010/11 by Southern Water to cover 50% of the cost of aerial photography. The first round of aerial photography was completed during 2010/11 in spite of unfavourable flying conditions.

The aerial photography has now been paid for which has reduced the balance in the account to \$77,614. The Board set aside \$50,000 from this account for further LiDAR mapping of southern Tasmania. This has been completed and paid for leaving a balance of \$24,664

3. Regional Planning.

The Regional Planning Project is continuing, the State Government provided \$30,000 of funding for 2013/14. Currently the balance is \$1,859.

4. Water and Sewerage Owners Representatives.

An allocation of \$1,231 was brought forward for the 2014/15

5. Climate Change Adaptation Project.

This project is ongoing with the STCA receiving funding from the state government to complete a regional adaption plan and individual adaption plans for all northern councils.

6. Climate Change Communication Project.

Contributions of \$35,000 in total (Clarence, \$10,000, Hobart \$20,000 and Kingborough \$5,000) have been carried over to undertake the project now that the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been completed. This project is progressing with extra funding from the State Government and will be completed this year.

7. Regional visioning.

This project is funded by a contribution by Hobart City Council of \$5,000 carried over from 2009/10 and an allocation from the STCA Consolidated Account. This work has been undertaken and completed.

8. Local Government Structures Project.

Approval for a project under the Local Government Reform fund was given in December 2010. The total Australian Government grant of \$150,000, has been received and an independent evaluation study has been completed.

9. Tourism.

A total of \$10,460 has been brought forward for this financial year.

10. Industrial Land Use Study.

The Industrial Land Use study is an adjunct to the Regional Strategic Land Use Plan and has been jointly funded by a number of member councils and the Department of economic Development. The project has been finalised and endorsed by the Board with some residual funding brought forward.

11. SMART Forms

The STCA Board has endorsed a variation to the grant deed for this project to allow for the funds to be used to further develop the online planning system. Those funds have been used to pay for a contribution for this software.

The STCA Governance and Audit Committee is currently examining whether some of these completed project funds could be rolled into an STCA project account. This work is ongoing.