



Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority

Quarterly Report to Members

September 2017



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

This report covers the three month period ending 30 September 2017. This report with all previous quarterly reports is published on the Authorities website: www.stca.tas.gov.au

The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority commenced on 1 July 2006

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Quarterly Report to Member Councils September 2017

REPORT SUMMARY

The Authority held an Ordinary Board Meeting on 25 September 2017. The meeting was hosted by Commissioner Adriana Taylor and was held at the Huon Valley Council Chambers.

Matters considered at the meeting included:

- 1. Huon Valley Council update**
- 2. Regional Climate Change Initiative Update**
- 3. Service Agreement Renewal**
- 4. Member updates on Planning Reform and South Eastern Regional Development Association**
- 5. Waste Strategy South Update**
- 6. Governance and Audit Committee Update**
- 7. STCA Financial Report to 31 August 2017**
- 8. Projects of Regional Significance correspondence**

1. HUON VALLEY COUNCIL UPDATE

Commissioner Taylor provided an update on activities in the Huon Valley since being appointed to that position by the Minister.

The Huon Valley municipal area has a population of around 16,700 people. The Council has a staff of over 150 and is a diverse organisation which is responsible for many of the traditional services most people expect from a council but it also runs medical centres, retirement villages and child care facilities. The Council employs doctors, nurses and administration staff and manages independent living units in Dover, Geeveston and Cygnet.

A number of projects have been progressed in the area since the Commissioner's arrival, including:

- Purchase of a building in the centre of Huonville which will house the Visitor Information Centre;
- The development of a land strategy;
- Development of Heritage Park, Geeveston into a regional attraction to include a Sky Bridge (a small scale replica of the Tahune Air Walk), play equipment, toilets, and BBQ area;
- New kayak launching facilities on the Huon River;
- New jetty opposite the Esplanade at Huonville;
- The letting of two major tenders, to start the first stage of the drainage upgrade for Huonville by installing new stormwater pipes under Shield Street to increase capacity of the system and to reconstruct sections of Esperance Coast Road which are affected by major landslips.



2. REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE UPDATE

A number of initiatives are being pursued as part of the Regional Climate Change Initiative, including the Southern Tasmanian Coastal Monitoring project which is an inventory of coastal data, information and resources to assist councils and key stakeholders understanding of coastal processes and adaptation planning.

Southern councils in collaboration with Sustainable Living Tasmania (SLT) are delivering the Home Energy Bulk Buy program over the following stages: heat pumps/insulation/LED lighting; hot water – solar/heat pump; and rooftop solar/batteries. The project was launched on 5 September 2017.

The development of a regional profile of community carbon emissions for use in the development of a carbon strategy and suitable mitigation actions has commenced as has a project to develop climate and resilience communication resources for use by southern councils across their communities.



3. SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

The Board approved a new Service Agreement between the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) and the Hobart City Council (HCC). Under the new agreement, which is to run for three years, the HCC will assist the STCA by providing financial and human resources support.

4. PLANNING REFORM AND SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES

A Planning Reform update was provided to the STCA Board that noted that:

- Local Planning Provisions need to be consistent with the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS) which in turn needs to be consistent with State Planning Provisions;
- The Planning Policy Unit has noted a number of minor changes are needed to the STRLUS to bring it into alignment with the State Planning Policies. The Technical Reference Group will work with the Planning Policy Unit to effect these changes;
- The State Planning Provisions (SPPs) released are in respect of Biodiversity, water quality, cultural values, bushfire management and aboriginal heritage;
- Some project work has been commissioned by the Technical Reference Group.

The South Eastern Regional Development Association (SERDA) has completed a Regional Workforce Plan in conjunction with the South Central Councils Group. Both organisations were provided with funding from the Department of State Growth through Skills Tasmania with each of the SERDA Councils also contributing funding. KPMG were appointed to prepare both Regional Workforce Plans with the SERDA document now being circulated and considered by the State Government as to how best to implement the recommended actions that will support and facilitate further social and economic activity in the growing south-east.

5. WASTE STRATEGY SOUTH UPDATE

Waste Strategy South received a presentation from Mr Darryl Nichols, Founder and Partner of the Garage Sale Trail program. The presentation included an overview of the 2017/18 program and activities as well as the outcomes of the 2016 Garage Sale Trail. This year's event will be held on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October.

Mat Greskie, Chief Executive Officer of Dulverton Waste Management and Amanda Wilson, Communications Officer, Etela Project Management and Communication provided a presentation on the Statewide Waste Communication Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU will see Waste Strategy South, Cradle Coast Waste Management and Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group participate in statewide communication initiatives and programs.

An Action Plan, to cover the years 2017 – 2019, has been approved which will help guide the activities of Waste Strategy South.

6. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Items discussed at the Governance and Audit Committee, included the STCA financials, STCA Service Agreement, a Regional Climate Change update, Waste Strategy South Minutes and Action Plan.

7. STCA FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2017

The STCA received the financial report to 31 August 2017.

8. PROJECTS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The STCA Board discussed the Treasurer's correspondence in relation to changes to the current Projects of Regional Significance process. It was agreed that the STCA would provide a submission as part of the consultation process. The submission focused on the following main points:

- Eligibility criteria for the declaration of major projects is open to wide interpretation based on the opinion of the Minister;
- The eligibility criteria uses the terms 'significant', 'significance', or 'potentially significant' in relation to four of the six criteria. The draft Bill does not contain a definition of 'significant' leaving these criteria open to interpretation;
- The proposed process seems overly complex and prolonged with no real conceivable benefit to the proponent than the normal development application process;
- Existing structures within both State and Local Government can address the issues of concern raised within the discussion paper which are used as the basis for the Bill.