



Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy

Background Report No.4: Social Infrastructure and
Interactions

February 2011



This document is detailed supporting information for the Regional Land Use Strategy for Southern Tasmania.

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1. Introduction

One of the most important contributors to a communities well being is the services and facilities available to the community, and the design of the built environment and open space areas that we live in. Communities have a right to live in an environment that is designed with safety and accessibility in mind and which provides access to a range of services, open spaces and recreational opportunities.

Having access to adequate health and educational facilities and sporting and cultural activities contributes to a person's sense of inclusion within their community and goes part way to empowering their community.

Design considerations not only provide for more attractive spaces and places, but also encourage a diverse range of people to feel comfortable and safe in the public realm. This encourages active, vibrant and healthy communities as individuals engage in their communities in a variety of ways, which in turn improves quality of life for the community at every level.

There are a number of considerations when considering Social Infrastructure and planning and designing for quality of life, these include

- Access to Health and Community Facilities
- Access for People with Disabilities
- Access to Educational Facilities
- Recreational Facilities and Open Space
- Cultural Facilities and Events
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Healthy Places and Spaces

2. Access to Health and Community Facilities

2.1 Background

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is responsible for managing the provision of public health facilities within the State. In 2007 the Department released *Tasmania's Health Plan*, a blueprint for the maintenance and future development of health facilities across the state. This Plan identifies deficiencies in the system, as well as areas where greater efficiencies can be provided. It acknowledges changing demographics across the region and emerging growth areas where future facilities will be required. It further acknowledges the changing nature of chronic illness and disease in our community, and the importance of education, preventative health care and broader healthy living initiatives in improving the health of Tasmanian communities.

Every five years a State of Public Health Report is released with the most recent being in 2008. This gives a good snapshot of the broader health of the community which in turn can provide information on what facilities a community requires.

2.2 The Health of Tasmanians

There are a number of key indicators considered in understanding the health of Tasmanians as a whole. These include birth rates, death rates, life expectancy figures, infant mortality rates, and the age distribution profile of our population.

Life expectancy in Tasmania is the best it has ever been with a newborn baby expecting to live to 77.4 years if a male, or 82.3 years if a female. Whilst these figures indicate a long life, there is a noticeable gap in life expectancy between Tasmania and Australia in general which has persisted over a long period of time (Department of Health and Human Services, 2008).

Infant mortality rates within Tasmania are at 3.9 deaths per 1000 live births. This is the second lowest of all jurisdictions across Australia.

There has been an overall reduction in deaths related to ischaemic heart disease and strokes in recent years with the number of deaths from all cancers now exceeding those of ischaemic heart disease and stroke. However there is a notable increase in the number of deaths due to Diabetes which is reflective of the increasing obesity rates within the community. This is one of the major public health challenges in the community.

Another significant health issue is mental health and well being with one eighth of the total Australian health burden in 2003 being caused by mental health issues. These numbers are only exceeded by cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Tasmania's population is one of the oldest across Australia with Hobart now the oldest Capital City within Australia. This has significant flow on impacts in terms of provision of health services for the community with a likely increase in demand for hospital services.

Whilst there is considerable focus at a political level on acute health care such as hospitals and specialist services, there needs to be more recognition of the benefits of preventative health care through education, early screening, detection and intervention of health conditions, and acute and chronic clinical care that prevents the progression of disease, reduces complications and enables rehabilitation.

Tasmania's high levels of disadvantaged peoples as compared to Australia as a whole have further health implications. Tasmania has a lower median weekly gross individual, household and family incomes, has the second lowest school retention rate (behind the Northern Territory) and has traditionally had the highest unemployment rate in Australia. All of these factors contribute significantly to our overall health status.

Tasmania has the highest rate of current smokers with 25.4% in 2004/05 of the population reporting they currently smoke (Department of Health and Human Services, 2008). Smoking prevalence declines with rising household incomes. Further concerning data shows that young women of lower socio-economic status often smoke during pregnancy leading to a range of health implications for the child.

Inappropriate alcohol consumption is also a difficult societal issue requiring consideration.

One of the most significant challenges to our community is the increasing numbers of obese and overweight people. The health implications include type 2 diabetes with associated complications such as renal failure, vascular disease and visual impairment. Considerable data indicates that once excess weight is gained, it is very difficult to move, and the effectiveness of diet and lifestyle programs is limited with individuals often gaining weight over time after it was initially lost. In addition stigmatisation of overweight people has further social impacts leading to body image issues. This is despite the statistics that indicate that an overweight but active person may be healthier than a slender inactive person.

Data indicates that initiatives to improve incidental physical activity are likely to be more successful in improving the overall health of Tasmanians across the whole socio-economic spectrum. As has been previously mentioned, better education about preventative health care is one of the most efficient ways to reduce the burden on the health system through reducing the impact of these lifestyle diseases.

This is also a crucial point for planning in Tasmania as modifications to the built environment and accessibility to social structures are critical in implementing such initiatives. As has been touched on in the Quality of Life through Environmental Design background report, there exist many opportunities to provide for walkability as well as appropriate open space and recreation areas within communities and it is crucial that these changes are implemented.

2.2.1 Primary Health Services

The Primary Health System focuses on prevention and community-based care, including home-based services and community programs educating on healthy living, drug and alcohol programs, increased access to community nursing and day respite services. There are various different services (see Figure 1) provided under the Primary Health System which include:

- Community Health Centres – There are 23 community based health centres in Tasmania, with 11 of these centres located within Southern Tasmania..
- Rural Inpatient facilities – there are 158 rural health inpatient beds provided through 20 inpatient facilities in the State. Three of these centres that are run by DHHS are in the South of the State. Some of these inpatient beds are funded by DHHS but are provided at residential aged care sites operated by non-government agencies such as Huon Eldercare, Tasman Multi Purpose Centre and Esperance Multi Purpose Centre.
- Palliative Care Services – These services are provided by specialist palliative care clinicians working within a consultancy framework. There is one specialist community team based in Hobart with outreach to rural areas.

- Youth Health Services – these are offered to people aged between 12 and 24 and are provided by a team in each region.

There are a range of other health services such as Aged Care Assessment Teams, Community Equipment Scheme, Community Options Service, Community Rehabilitation Service, Community Therapy Service, Continence Service and Health Promotion Activities.

In addition there are General Practitioners (GP's) working across the State. The numbers of GP's are considered adequate however there is considerable disparity in where they work with 22 of the state's 29 LGA's having less than the average required GP's. In the South there were 310 GP's registered to work in 2007 which represents 57% of the overall number of GP's in the State.

In addition to the DHHS running programs and providing services, the Department also provides funding to a number of non-government organisations to provide services such as community nursing, allied health, centre day care, domestic assistance, personal care and community transport.

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing funds residential and community aged care facilities across the state which is critical in an ageing population. It also funds a Rural Primary Health Program in more than a dozen rural Tasmanian communities, with 6 of these being located within the region.

As part of the Health Plan a number of changes are proposed to provide more efficient services and to more accurately respond to the changing nature of health care in the State. These include a changed primary health approach with a focus on health and wellbeing, not just illness and community based care particularly in the area of prevention of and early intervention in, chronic disease. There is proposed to improve relationships with general practice and a changed and expanded role for rural health centres.

2.2.2 Acute Health Services

There are a number of major acute hospitals in Southern Tasmania, both public and private. The Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) is the only public hospital in the region and is the principal tertiary referral hospital for Tasmania and a major teaching and research hospital linked to the University of Tasmania.

The RHH provides a range of services to its local community including surgery, critical care, aged care, rehabilitation, mental health, obstetrics and paediatrics, cardiothoracic surgery, and neonatal and paediatric intensive care.

There are a number of private hospitals within the region run by two providers. Calvary Health Care Tasmania operates three campuses at Lenah Valley and St John's South Hobart as acute care facilities, and an outpatient rehabilitation service in New Town.

Healthscope operates two hospital campuses – the Hobart Private Hospital directly adjacent to the RHH and St Helen's Private Hospital. The Hobart Private provides a range of medical and surgical services with St Helens Hospital providing more day services and a dedicated psychiatric inpatient unit.

There is a further acute private hospital called the Hobart Clinic in Rokeby which provides assessment and treatment for a wide range of psychiatric and mental health disorders.

The Tasmanian Ambulance Service operates across Tasmania with a network of 47 stations. It has over 450 volunteer officers who work alongside paramedics in 14 locations as well as 23 stations staffed wholly by volunteers (Department of Health and Human Services, 2008).

The state government, in response to the changing nature of health issues in our community, is moving to a system of Integrated Care Centres. This will streamline the process through reducing gaps and conversely duplication as well as being more financially efficient. The state government proposes three new Integrated Care Centres in the South, one adjacent to the RHH, a second on the Eastern Shore and a third in the Kingston area. The benefit of these centres is not only in the efficient use of space and resources, but also in the ability to boost the capacity for social inclusion within an area. Such centres make it easy for people who may be marginalised to get access to services in an efficient and non-confrontational way.

2.2.3 Planning Implications

As indicated through the data above, the demography and type of health issues in Tasmania is changing. Our aging population puts different pressures on our health system as compared to a younger population. Our inactive lifestyles and poor diets and lifestyle choices have introduced a raft of preventable diseases that has been likened to an epidemic. Accordingly the provision of health services, the type and their location requires careful consideration. Through the Health Plan an action plan has been proposed to provide a range of facilities more appropriately designed for the changing population.

Whilst many of these initiatives require limited input from a planning perspective other than to ensure provision is made in Planning Schemes to allow community uses such as health facilities, the broader social make up of our community should be considered in strategic planning decisions.

The current settlement pattern of many of our communities sees cheaper and more affordable housing on the fringes or urban areas. This is often where more socially dependent younger families live, where housing is affordable. The disadvantage of this settlement pattern is that these are the communities who would often benefit the most from easy access to public health care, however are often disadvantaged due to a lack of facilities within their area and an inability to access public transport to obtain adequate health care.

Part of the analysis of settlement patterns through the regional planning work has identified Activity Centres in various localities. There exists an opportunity to co-locate Health Facilities such as Integrated Care Centres with other services such as Service Tasmania, in these Activity Centres. This would go part way to reducing the dislocation of these socially disadvantaged communities from the health and community services that are needed.

One of the easiest ways of improving public health is through encouraging healthy lifestyles therefore reducing the incidences of many preventable diseases. Planning plays an important part in designing the built environment through ensuring public spaces are attractive, accessible to all and safe for use by all members of the community. Encouraging incidental activity, such as walking to the shop or to a public park, is an effective way of ensuring good health. Planning can encourage this through allowing local shops to be located within residential areas and ensuring there is a good public open space network easily accessible to the community. This is particularly important when there is a move towards higher density living which has the alternative impact of reducing private open space for individuals.

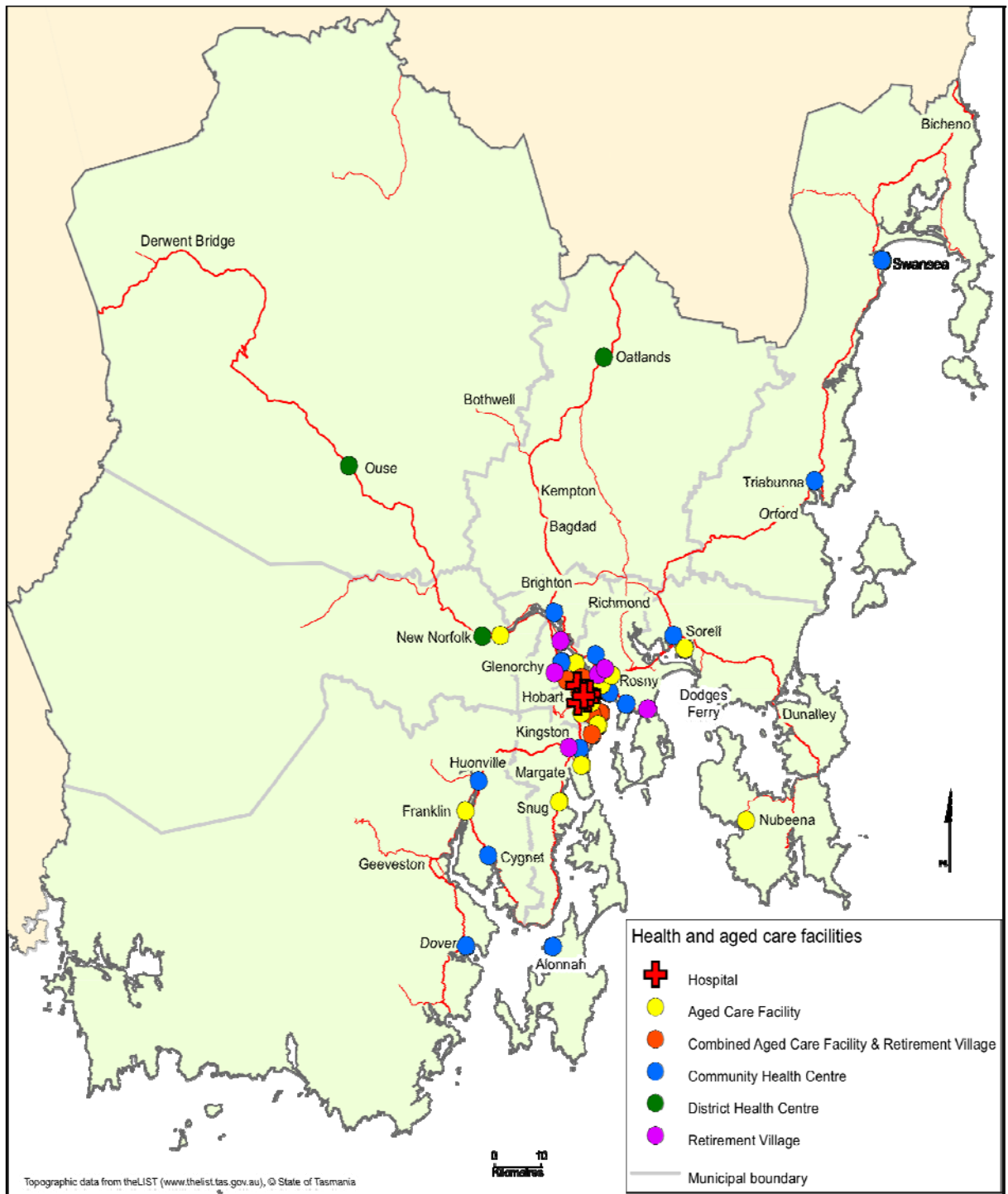


Figure1: Health and Community Services facilities within Southern Tasmania

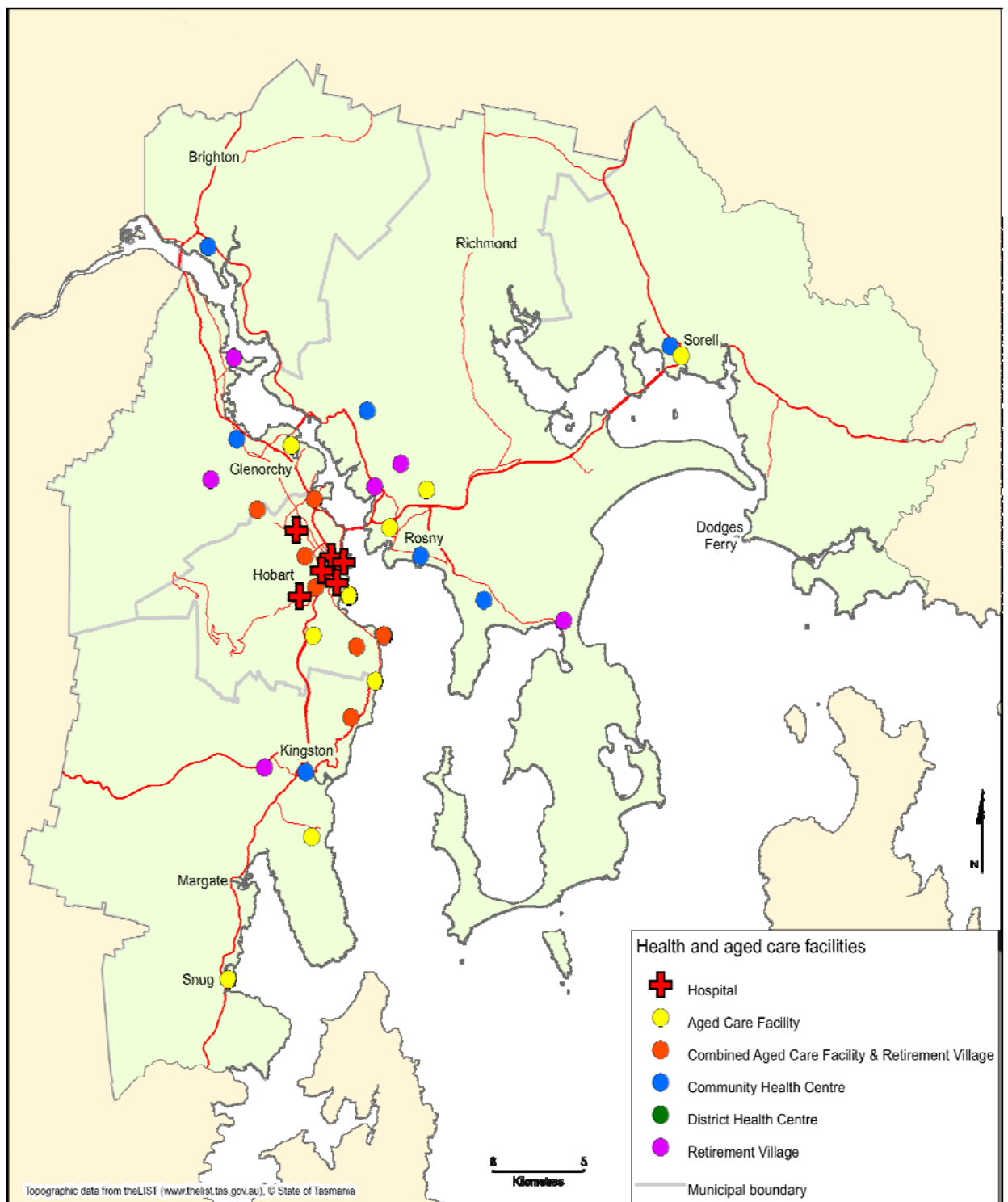


Figure 2: Health and Community Services facilities within Greater Hobart

3. Access for People with Disabilities

3.1 Introduction

People with a disability are among those most at risk of social exclusion. In 2006, there were 24,000 Tasmanians reported that they required daily assistance with self-care, mobility or communication because of a long-term health condition, disability or old age (Adams 2009: 15-16). This statistic only relates to those with profound levels of disability. The overall level of disability in the community is significantly higher, affecting 23.5% of Tasmanians. In addition to this, 22% of the population have a long term condition (lasting more than 6 months) affecting some area of function.

Tasmania has the oldest population of all Australian states and territories, and its population is ageing more rapidly than Australia as a whole. As the likelihood of disability and the severity of disability, both increase with age, it is anticipated that levels of disability will increase in the community in future.

There are two aspects of the built environment that are critical to the access and mobility of ALL persons. These are:

- To be able to pursue a path of travel in an uninterrupted way; and
- To be able to take advantage of what is generally offered to the society.

A truly accessible built environment is one in which any person of the society can freely, and with dignity, express their independence, and one in which any impediment is removed. The built environment should adequately reflect the diversity and needs of the community (Marrickville City Council undated: 2-3)

3.2 Legislative, Policy & Governance Context

Under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)*, it is unlawful to discriminate against a person on the grounds of that person's disability or a disability of their associates, in access to premises (including means of access), except where rendering the premises accessible would impose "unjustifiable hardship". A footpath is regarded as "premises" for the purposes of the Act.

In addition, under the Act, a person who causes, instructs, aids or permits another person to do an act that is unlawful is also taken to have acted unlawfully.

The Disability Discrimination Act is based on three principles: These are Equity, Independence and Dignity.

Equity	To allow people with disabilities to move around the built environment and access and use facilities, as would a person without a disability.
Independence	To move about the built environment and use facilities without having to rely on assistance from others.
Dignity	To move about the environment in an independent manner that is dignified, without fear of being embarrassed or laughed at. ¹

¹ Mountain, Murray (Access Consultant) Letter to Glenorchy City Council re: access referral, 15 September 2003

Parallel, though less detailed, provisions apply under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tasmania)* - which focuses upon a broader range of potential discrimination.

The *Disability Discrimination Act* is a reactive, complaints-based piece of legislation. While it does not provide a mechanism for regulating development, it imposes a duty not to discriminate.

The Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal's judgement in a matter relating to equitable access to the Maritime Museum² found that the requirement to satisfy the *Disability Discrimination Act* was independent of planning law and scheme requirements, and that: *A planning authority, in granting a permit, ought to ensure that there is latitude to comply with the DDA and may exercise a discretion to approve or refuse an application, or to apply conditions, if satisfied that approval would necessarily involve a breach.*

The planning system may take proactive steps to avoid direct or indirect discrimination in relation to access for people with disabilities by virtue of the broad scope offered by the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* under Section 20(1)(c): *a planning scheme for an area ... may make any provision which relates to the use, development, protection or conservation of any land in the area.*

If such a position is adopted, it is necessary to identify what provision the planning system may make to facilitate access.

The Building Code of Australia (D3.2) provides that access for people with disabilities **MUST** be provided as follows:

- (a) from the allotment boundary at the main points of entry; and
- (b) from any accessible car park space provided for people with disabilities on the allotment; and
- (c) from any adjacent and associated accessible building on the allotment [to which access for people with disabilities is required by the BCA];
- (d) through the principal public entrance.

Provisions in relation to those matters should not be duplicated by planning controls.

The general accessibility of the public domain - public spaces and the pedestrian environment is one such matter. Some matters relevant to public spaces and the pedestrian environment may be subject to other controls. For example:

- Minor modifications to infrastructure which are exempt under many schemes and subject to internal access checks through the civil works design processes of infrastructure providers;
- Footpath trading activities (for example, by-laws which ensure access is taken into account in the regulation of footpath trading activities such as kerbside dining, display of goods or placement of "A" board signs).

However, such processes or regulation are not uniformly applied across councils. Examples of public spaces and the pedestrian environment include footpaths, park facilities and schools (e.g. equitable access to play facilities).

Other matters may extend to private land. For example, ensuring equitable pedestrian circulation opportunities in residential developments specifically designed with a higher than normal likelihood of residents with disabilities such as in retirement village or group home complexes.

² AN Davis and Hobart City Council and J Gordon obo Maritime Museum (Tas RMPAT J134/2000)

3.3 Planning Implications

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission has indicated the need for an accessible footpath as follows:

A footpath should, as far as possible, allow for a continuous accessible path of travel so that people with a range of disabilities are able to use it without encountering barriers.....

In addition the Commission is of the view that the continuous accessible path of travel should extend from the property line with no obstructions or projections in order to provide the best possible guidance line for all users including people with a vision impairment.

The Commission encourages Local Governments with responsibility for footpaths to develop policies that reflect this best practice.

Consideration needs to be given to a consistent approach to the provision or maintenance of a clear accessible path of travel for use or development in public areas which are not subject to building controls relating to access.

There is merit in a consistent approach to planning for access - perhaps by way of a standard schedule which identifies the relevant classes of development to which a standard or standards would apply. Furthermore, as with crime prevention through environmental design, policies should be developed that take account of accessibility for all developments undertaken by a Local authority to ensure public spaces are adequately designed.

4. Education Facilities

4.1 Background

Planning for education facilities is a complex process that at the pre-tertiary level is managed by the Department of Education. In recent years there has been limited strategic planning in terms of future demographic change, with the majority of planning tending to be on a relatively short term basis. School numbers can change for a variety of reasons such as a stigma associated with the school, the teachers and principal on staff, changing demographics, or closing of other schools. Whilst there is some ability to do projections based on existing student numbers (i.e. 24 kids in the kinder class – so as years go by there will be 24 kids in grade 1, 2, and so on) it is difficult to undertake projections based on new subdivisions or the potential for changing demographics in an area. This is further exacerbated by the other external influences on student numbers.

The Department of Education has already identified some gaps in provision of services and education facilities. These include a city high school where conversely there are too many primary schools in the same area. This may provide an opportunity to refurbish an existing under utilised primary school to be used as a high school, or alternatively a new site may need to be found.

Another identified gap is in the Brighton area in terms of secondary education. Brighton Primary currently has approximately 650 students so is one of the largest primary schools in the state. This trend is likely to continue due to the quality of the school and its location in a suburb that is continuing to grow. The new Bridgewater High School is unlikely to fill this void as trends see many parents of Brighton Primary students sending their kids to Rosetta High, Cosgrove High or private schools like St Virgils in Austins Ferry instead of Bridgewater. This may require further consideration in the years to come.

There is a move towards integration of facilities, particularly in regional area. Examples include Community Hub's in places like Queenstown, George Town and Huonville. Often the facilities are located on Council land, and they include services such as learning information centres, Centrelink, State Library, Service Tas, Access Centre, Magistrates Court, Community Health facilities and so on. Whilst this approach is still in its infancy, it appears to be working well and is proving to be a good approach. Generally this approach doesn't happen as much in metropolitan areas, although some combining of facilities is occurring with Child and Family Centres being located on School grounds which is well supported. Such an approach provides a logical one stop shop for people to take older children to school and also do check-ups for younger children.

There has been some strategic planning in this area where demographics, socio-economic status, access to private transport (or reliance on public transport), family make up, indigenous status, and existing infrastructure is considered. Analysis of this data provides a clear picture on what services are still required and which areas require community hubs or similar. Again whilst this approach is relatively new, it has been well received in the community.

4.1.1 Education Facilities in the Southern Tasmania

There is considerable variation in the number of facilities provided by the Education Department in each municipal area across the region. This has come about through a number of means. In some instances facilities are in existence due to the historical development patterns of an area, and in other instances

through clear forward planning. In some cases an educational facility and associated infrastructure (such as teachers accommodation, and libraries) are required due to the isolation of a community (such as Alonnah on Bruny Island or Oatlands in the Southern Midlands Municipal area) and the need to provide adequate facilities to attract staff to an area. Below is a table indicating the type and number of facilities in each municipal area.

Table 1: Public Education Facilities in Southern Tasmania

Municipal area	College or Polytechnic	High School	Primary School	Adult Education	Other (library, skills centre, teachers residence, land)
Brighton	0	1	4	0	0
Clarence	1	4	16	1	0
Derwent Valley	0	2	7	0	4
Glam. Spring Bay	0	1	3	0	6
Glenorchy	1	3	12	1	5
Hobart	2	2 (both single sex)	13	2	2
Huon Valley	0	3	4	1	6
Kingborough	0	4	7	1	7
Sorell	0	1	3	0	2
Southern Midlands	0	2	3	0	15
Tasman	0	1	1	0	3

As is shown through this table, in general the regional Councils have the largest number of additional facilities, as an example, for Oatlands, 6 of those facilities are teachers accommodation. In comparison in Hobart the two additional facilities represent an administrative centre and a Library.

Further analysis shows considerable disparity in the amount of secondary education available, and where. In Clarence there are four public high schools and one public college. There are also a number of private schooling facilities in this area. In comparison Hobart has one girls public high school, and one boys public high school and two colleges. There is no co-educational public high school in the municipal area although there are numerous private secondary schools within the municipal area. Clarence and Hobart municipal areas have similar numbers of population, followed by Glenorchy

municipal area at approximately 5,000 people less. Despite this Glenorchy is very well represented in terms of facilities available, both with regard to schools but also support facilities.

This analysis further supports the argument that additional secondary State schools may be required in certain areas to accommodate growing populations, particularly in localities that are likely to see some additional housing development opportunities in the future through the opportunities for increasing densities.

The analysis also highlights the inadequacies of Colleges in regional areas. For school students in areas outside of Greater Hobart, once their high school education has finished it then becomes a requirement to travel to a College or Polytechnic for further education (which in some instances may involve over an hour each way of travel time) or alternatively undertake an apprenticeship within their community or go to work within their community. If these options are not suitable the student may then be at risk of “slipping through the cracks” within their community and not undertaking any further education or training. Young people within the municipal areas of Southern Midlands, Derwent Valley Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Tasman and Huon Valley are most at risk in this regard.

With regard to Adult Education facilities and opportunities, these are primarily focussed on the metropolitan area of Greater Hobart. Whilst this may be reflective of the historical situation with regard to locations where most of the population is, it should now be reconsidered in light of the changing demographics of the region. With our ageing population and the sea-change and tree-change phenomenon there is likely to be greater need for adult education facilities in some of these regional localities such as Glamorgan Spring Bay, Tasman and the Huon Valley. Some of the work within the Regional Profile should provide data and some direction to the Department of Education in this regard.

4.1.2 Post Secondary Education and Tertiary Education

Southern Tasmania boasts a number of education facilities for further education beyond grade 12. Some of these options are accommodated within the Polytechnic institutions, such as Drysdale Hospitality Institute. Polytechnic's also accommodate training for Tourism, Health and Well-being training, Childcare and Community Services and training for various trades such as Building and Construction, Electrical trades and drafting work. The Polytechnic's in many instances work in tandem with work placements for either private organisations, or within government organisations (such as Local Councils).

Within the region there are 8 Polytechnic Institutions, some focussing in specific areas, others being quite broad. Some are located on what are College Campuses (such as Hobart, Elizabeth and Claremont College) which allows a level of integration with those students that continue to undertake grades 11 and 12 studies.

In addition, the region is the home of a number of University Institutions. The Conservatorium of Music, Tasmanian School of Fine Art, School of Medicine, Menzies Research Institute as well as the main Tasmania University Campus at Sandy Bay are located within the region. The CSIRO is also located within Hobart which attracts a range of scientists and specialists to the region.

These world class tertiary institutions play a significant role within the community. They attract many students, from intra-state, interstate and internationally which in turn has spin off benefits to the broader economy. They also attract educators and researchers to the region.

This plays a significant part in the culture of the region. The region and Hobart in particular has a culture of excellence in learning. This is a characteristic that can set the region apart as a place to visit or live. This characteristic should be encouraged and is reflected in the key directions for the region.

4.1.3 Planning Implications

The lack of strategic planning in both the State's planning system but also within the Department of Education in the past has lead to a lack of facilities in certain areas, and too many facilities in others. The work that is being done through the Regional Planning Projects will provide valuable data that may help the Department of Education plan for new Schools in certain areas. This work has identified future growth areas, as well as appropriate areas for infill development. It also considers the changing demographics of the region and how this can be best accommodated in terms of providing for appropriate facilities. However as previously discussed the variables that influence a schools viability are complex and in many respects, unable to be planned for.

The planning system can also play a part in zoning school sites Community Use, reflecting their importance in the broader community and providing them with a base level of protection from inappropriate development. It also reflects the use of those sites within regional areas where often they play a more significant role than just an education facility.

The significance of post secondary education must be recognised, and in particular the world-class tertiary institutions within the region. This culture within the region has the opportunity to set the region apart from other areas within the state and should form a key direction within the strategic planning for this area.

5. Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities

Tasmania's open space and recreational facilities can be considered in a number of ways. In this instance we have considered Open Space and what it means to the broader community, multi-purpose recreational facilities, (where open space is set aside for other purposes such as Parks and Wildlife Land, Hydro Tasmania lakes or Forestry Tasmania forest areas) and recreational facilities as the third category. This section will consider these places and spaces and their importance to us as a community and how these spaces can be better managed through the State's planning system.

5.1 Open Spaces

Open spaces contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by the Tasmanian community. Well-planned, designed and implemented open space planning policies aid in the delivery of a range of broader personal, social, economic and environmental objectives for the community.

We often think of open space as the local neighbourhood parks or reserves and conservation areas, however open space has a much broader context and as defined in the Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework 2010 (Inspiring Place Pty Ltd & HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd), open space is:

Land and water settings maintained and managed for a range of environmental and social purposes, and that is used and valued by the community, including:

- *conservation of ecological processes (including ecosystem services such as clean water) native flora, wildlife habitat, and cultural heritage values, and for aesthetic values;*
- *sport, recreation and leisure functions – both passive and active, competitive and non-competitive but excluding indoor facilities (other than open space user support facilities), which will encourage participation;*
- *spaces to enhance the visual qualities and social character of urban and rural landscapes;*
- *linear linkages, including trails, pathways, riparian reserves and beaches; and parks, playgrounds and other public spaces where the community can exercise, play, learn, and relax.*

Importantly open space, while predominantly publically owned and maintained, can also be comprised of private land such as golf courses, private reserves and trails, hydro storage dams (for recreational fishing) as well as agricultural land (which often contributes to broader regional landscape values). Furthermore not all open space needs to be zoned as 'open space' under the planning scheme. Indeed the zoning-based system under planning schemes can create difficulties for the broader multi-purpose function of open spaces to be clearly articulated to the community.

Maintaining a well planned, designed and implemented open space network is much more than the traditional model of sport and recreation facility planning. A regional system of built and natural environments offers not only opportunities for physical activity (and therefore assisting in reducing healthcare costs through lowering diseases) but also offers:

- Opportunities for a diverse range of physical activities, including organised sports and informal recreation - usually free of charge;

- Contributing to the 'livability' of towns and cities, including linear linkages for alternative transport (e.g. off-road cycling and walking routes), providing safe spaces to gather and socialise, and enhancing scenic quality;
- 'Green spaces' for relaxation, contemplation, and play opportunities for people to connect with, and learn about their local environment, contributing to psychological as well as physical well-being;
- Conservation of natural and cultural values, such as native flora, wildlife habitat, cultural heritage and aesthetic values;
- Contributing to the viability of local economies through encouraging capital investment;
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles and providing opportunities for physical activity, potentially reducing healthcare costs through lowering diseases associated with inactivity and stress (e.g. obesity, diabetes, heart conditions and depression);
- Opportunities to engage with natural areas to undertake recreational activities (e.g. riparian reserves along waterways allow access for walking and fishing);
- Maintenance of utilitarian values, such as water storage, flood mitigation, and other environmental services (e.g. clean air and water); and
- The emerging function of contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g. through carbon storage, buffers to sea level rise, and by encouraging non-motorised transport etc).

To date there has been no systematic approach to open space planning across the region or, indeed, across the state.

In the absence of such an approach, open space planning at a state, regional and local level will continue to be piece-meal, lack consistency, not focus on priorities or respond to emerging needs and fail to deliver the many benefits associated with good open space planning.

Trends that will influence the need for, type and amount of open space required in the future include:

- Increased economic development and affluence;
- Increased community debt associated with financial borrowing regulations;
- Population growth;
- Changing work hours and employment structures;
- Changing family structures;
- Changing home and living styles;
- Ageing population;
- More of a multi-cultural society;
- Growing community-based cultural interests;
- Growing levels of education;
- New, different, more accessible and affordable technology; and
- Greater policy focus on equity and access.

The State Government, through Sport and Recreation Tasmania and the three Regional Planning Projects commission the development of the Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework 2010 (Inspiring Place Pty Ltd & HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd) to fill the need for a consistent state-wide, and region-wide approach. The regional policies and actions, below, are largely derived from this work.

The main issues and challenges associated with open space planning in Tasmania, as identified in the Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework include:

- Lack of an agreed definition and policy on open space, to guide the planning and implementation of open space provision at a state, regional and local level;
- The limitations of the planning system in being able to deliver sustainable open space outcomes on the ground, given the range of factors involved in open space provision, management and maintenance, that are outside of the statutory planning framework;
- Inconsistencies in the provision of open space across the state, including the methodologies used to determine need and the 'tools' associated with open space planning (e.g. classification and hierarchy systems, zoning, developer contributions, development standards, and application of needs analysis);
- Inadequacies in open space provision, in part stemming from the use of inappropriate application or quantitative 'rules' such as the provision under the Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993, which states that developers must transfer 5% of subdivided land to council for open space purposes;
- The statutory process for Councils to follow in the disposal of open space land are complex and time consuming;
- Limited integration of open space planning considerations with broader land use planning objectives at the state, regional and local levels, further contributing to the inconsistencies, and gaps in provision evident at a local level;
- Limited resources available to undertake open space planning at all levels of government;
- Difficulties associated with the management of a diverse open space system, including differing management regimes, provision of facilities, maintenance schedules etc;
- Past subdivision and planning has delivered isolated pockets of open space rather than focus on the creation of open space systems, easily accessible to the community, connected by trail and public transport networks where possible;
- Limited capacity to create integrated, flexible and multi-use venues, which consolidate resource requirements and avoid duplication of services and amenities, and therefore reduce overall operating and maintenance costs;
- The limited or ad hoc response to changes in demographic, sport, recreation, and other societal trends when considering open space needs (the system should not be 'fixed'); and
- The slow recognition of the need to apply contemporary planning practice and societal concerns (e.g. climate change) to open space planning in Tasmania, moving away from the more traditional model of sport and recreation facility provision to a state-wide system of built and natural environments, aimed at improving the quality of life for Tasmanians on a range of levels.

The preparation of a state-wide open space policy and planning framework will provide a range of benefits. These include:

- The provision of a consistent definition, suite of objectives and policies to guide open space planning and management at a state, regional and local level;
- The provision of direct assistance with the creation of an open space system that better reflects the needs and aspirations of the Tasmanian community, and that has the capacity to be adapted to meet changing needs;
- Guidance within the development of effective open space planning tools, including a consistent open space classification and hierarchy system, developer contribution policy, demand analysis policy, and requirements for the preparation of open space plans; and
- Greater recognition of open space as a legitimate land use across all levels of governance.

5.2 Multipurpose Recreational Opportunities

In addition to facilities run specifically for recreational purposes, there are a range of other facilities state-wide whose primary purpose is not for recreation. Notwithstanding this, these facilities often provide significant and well used recreational opportunities. These facilities are listed below:

5.2.1 Hydro Tasmania Lakes

Hydro Tasmania is responsible for the management of 38 water bodies in the State (of which 25 are in the southern region) and manages a considerable land area (being the largest private land manager in Tasmania). While their primary purpose is water storage for the generation of electricity, they also are committed to protecting environmental, cultural and multiple-use values on their sites. In the management of these areas, there are three headings to summaries the water bodies they manage. These include:

- Remote Wilderness Lakes – Hydro provides public infrastructure and manages key locations at these sites. Future development is to be restricted to key locations that are currently developed for recreational use and no significant increase in use over the current levels is envisaged.
- Recreational Activity Lakes – Hydro supports the consolidation of built settlements at pre-existing locations and future developments at current settlements. Water quality management is still a key objective. Use of Hydro Tasmania land is to be restricted to community access along foreshore reserves while access to the water is to be for the benefit of the community. Private boat ramps, pontoons, jetties and like structures are to be prohibited.
- Multiple-Use Lakes – These lakes often include private ownership on the land around the water bodies as well as land being owned by Hydro Tasmania. For developments on Hydro Tasmania land there needs to be a demonstrated community benefit and in accordance with various Hydro Protocols.

Whilst not their main purpose, all of these water bodies provide some level of recreational opportunities, and across Tasmania are well utilised for such purposes. Table 3 below outlines the categorisation of Hydro Lakes within the region.

Table 2: Categorisation of Hydro Lakes in Southern Tasmania

Remote Wilderness Lakes	Recreational Activity Lakes	Multiple use Lakes
Lake Gordon	Bronte Lagoon	Lake Meadowbank
Lake Pedder	Arthur's Lake	Wayatinah Lagoon
Lake St Clair	Brady's Lake	
Lake King William	Great Lake	
Lake Augusta	Dee Lagoon	
Laughing Jake Lagoon	Shannon Lagoon	
Lake Catagunya	Little Pine Lagoon	
Lake Repulse		
Lake Cluny		
Lagoon of Island		
Lake Binny		
Woods Lake		
Lake Edgar		
Tungatinah Lagoon		
Pine Tier Lagoon		
Lake Echo		

5.2.2 Forestry Tasmania

As has been discussed within the Productive Resources Background report, Forestry Tasmania manages large tracts of State Forest within the region for timber production. State Forests are however frequently used for other purposes such as bushwalking and camping, mountain biking and general sight seeing and therefore managed for their multiple uses.

In Southern Tasmania there are activities such as the Tahune Airwalk near Geeveston and the proposed Maydena Hub, as well as well utilised camping facilities in locations such as Bruny Island and Fortescue Bay. There are numerous bushwalks and look outs in the Huon, Tasman, Sorell, Kingborough, Derwent Valley and Central Highlands municipal areas which are all well utilised and form a broader network of tourist and recreational activities.

5.2.3 Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania and the World Heritage Area.

A significant percentage of Tasmania is reserved as either a National Park or World Heritage Area. National Parks present in Southern Tasmania are:-

- Douglas Apsley – (Glamorgan Spring Bay)
- Freycinet – (Glamorgan Spring Bay)
- Maria Island - (Glamorgan Spring Bay)
- Tasman – (Tasman)
- South Bruny (Kingborough)
- Hartz Mountains (Huon Valley)
- Mount Field (Central Highlands)

In addition the region also boasts two Wilderness World Heritage Areas, The South West World Heritage Area and Macquarie Island World Heritage Area.

All of these Parks and WHA's are principally reserved for conservation purposes. Many have threatened plant and animal species and encompass a diversity of unspoiled habitats and ecosystems. In the instance of World Heritage Areas, the areas are recognised as being part of the natural and cultural heritage of the world community (to be listed as a World Heritage Area have to satisfy a number of criteria).

In addition to the significance these areas hold for their biodiversity and environmental values, they also play an integral role in the provision of recreation space for the broader community. These areas provide camping and day use sites, many bushwalks of varying degrees of difficulty, bike rides and boat launching opportunities as well as interpretation facilities and in some instances accommodation. Often many of these recreational opportunities

The region also boasts a number of Marine Nature Reserves (at Tinderbox, Maria Island, Ninepin Point and Port Davey) and 14 recently enacted Marine Conservation Areas. Again the purpose of these areas is to provide for conservation and protection of specific species, however they still provide a well utilised recreational opportunity for scuba divers and snorkelers and where allowed, for fishing as well.

5.3 Existing Sporting Facilities

Each municipal area within Southern Tasmania has a range of facilities catering to the needs of their community. These facilities range from small regional sports grounds and parks, to major recreational facilities, which service the broader region and State. The Statewide significant facilities are listed below within Table 2:

Table 3: Regionally Significant Sporting Facilities

Facility	Municipal area	Purpose
Bellerive Cricket Ground	Clarence	Local football, and local, national and International Cricket
Hobart Aquatic Centre	Hobart	Swimming, diving, and associated gym.
Domain Tennis Centre	Hobart	Hobart International Tennis Tournament and many regional and local tournaments.
Domain Athletics Centre	Hobart	International Athletics Competitions as well as local competitions.
Hobart Show Grounds	Glenorchy	National animal shows and the Hobart Show.
Elwick Racecourse	Glenorchy	Statewide significant horse racing meets
Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park	Glenorchy	Mountain bike park utilized for National Mountain Biking races and championships.
Kingborough Sports Centre	Kingborough	Statewide gymnastics competitions amongst other sporting facilities.
Netball Centre	Hobart	This facility is significant at a statewide level for hosting netball games and competitions.
Hockey Centre	Hobart	International, National and local hockey games and includes three artificial turfs.

In addition there are a number of other nationally significant events which utilize the region's location and open space. These include:

- Sydney to Hobart and Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Races (Watermans Dock, Hobart City Council)
- Three Peaks Race (Coles Bay, Watermans Dock and Mount Wellington, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Hobart City Council)
- International Triathlon Series (Held at Princes Wharf Number 1, Hobart City Council)
- Various Rowing events (Huron River, Huron Valley Council)
- Point to Pinnacle (Casino to Summit of Mount Wellington, Hobart City Council)
- Multi-sport races utilising local environs in the Kingborough, Huron and Glamorgan Spring Bay municipal areas.

As is typical of most of Australia, sport plays a significant part in the make-up of the community. Sporting clubs not only provide recreational opportunities and opportunities to improve health and well-being, but also important socializing opportunities. In more remote areas the role the local sporting clubs play is crucial in providing a centre for community interaction. Much of the community will be involved in the club, whether they play, volunteer in the local kiosk, act as managers or coaches, or simply go along to support their team. Whilst this paper only lists the significant events and facilities, it is worth remembering that all municipal areas have some local facilities such as a football oval or tennis courts, which play an integral role in the health and well being of that community.

5.4 Planning Implications

The most significant implications for planning are about ensuring that spaces are made available for open space and sporting facilities within each regional area. These facilities once in place, then must be recognised through appropriate zoning that not only reflects their use, but also the significance that facility has to the broader community.

Conversely broader regional planning should ensure that the unnecessary duplication of sporting facilities in particular is controlled and managed. In the past there has been a culture of each municipal area, particularly those within the broader Greater Hobart area, having its own regionally significant facilities such as football ovals (Bellerive Oval and North Hobart Oval), swimming pools (Hobart Aquatic Centre, and Clarence Pool) and cricket grounds (Bellerive Oval and the TCA on the Domain). This is unnecessary as there is considerable movement across municipal boundaries to utilise these larger facilities. The costs of running such facilities would be better spent in other areas of Recreation and Open space management.

Further consideration of the planning implications of planning for open space can be found within Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework 2010 and have been outlined in this document. Fundamentally one of the biggest challenges for the adequate provision of open space at a regional level has been the inadequate mechanisms in the planning system and the lack of resourcing to undertake comprehensive strategic open space planning. In some instances the planning system is an adequate tool to protect open space and to allow appropriate development in open space areas. But there still needs to be significantly more work done in this area and whilst the framework provides a 'how to' assess open space places, there needs to be more consideration on an overall regional basis. An audit of good quality open space must occur, an assessment of the networks and linkages in

existence and where there are gaps. Without this work occurring, it unclear about the state of open space and recreation areas within the region and the broader network they exist within.

Multi-purpose recreational facilities and open spaces also highlight the importance of the zones and the allowable uses within planning schemes. While zone intents may be closely linked to the primary purpose of the area (for example environmental conservation for protected and conserved national parks and WHA), poor consideration of allowable uses relating to recreational and other opportunities can result in unnecessary planning approval processes or conversely land use conflicts. The categorisation of Hydro managed water bodies provides a sound basis for the specific use and development provisions under relevant planning schemes.

6. Cultural Facilities and Events

Southern Tasmania hosts a wide range of events in a number of facilities. These events range from Craft Fairs and Sustainable Housing Expo's, through to major music festivals and Food festivals. Events Tasmania plays a significant coordination role in helping get these events up and running. In some instances funding is provided, in others assistance with advertising and marketing. There is a government policy to be encouraging events in more regional areas, however to be successful and obtain Events Tasmania support, the following criteria must be met:

- The event must receive local community support.
- There must be an appropriate fit with the destination; the event must have some authenticity about it.
- There must be some differentiation of the event that helps it to stand out.
- There must be stakeholder support and media support.
- The likelihood of longevity of the event.

The benefits to the community of significant events are not only economic. It enables that community to take part in a cultural event and experience that level of entertainment that they may not otherwise be a part of, as well as empowering the community through their involvement.

In recent years the variety of events has expanded considerably. This has been part of a concerted push by Events Tasmania to provide greater diversity in the type of events, but also to ensure greater diversity in the markets to which the events are aimed at and the size of events on offer.

Economically the benefits of the variety of events held in Tasmania can not be understated. Events like the Festival of the Voices started off as a small scale local music event, however now attracts choirs and singers from interstate and overseas. Targa Tasmania, having run for over 10 years, has lead to considerable numbers of car enthusiasts touring Tasmania's roads both independently and in organised clubs. It has also resulted in a spin off event, Targa Wrest Point which is based in the region.

Some of the more significant events and more significant facilities in the region are listed within Table 4below.

Table 4: Significant Cultural Events and Facilities

Event	Municipal area	Significance
Hobart Summer Festival (including the Taste of Tasmania)	Hobart (Sullivans Cove)	The Taste in particular is a festival of state wide and national significance as it coincides with the end of the Yacht races during the Christmas and New Year period.
Mona Foma	Hobart (Sullivans Cove)	An eclectic music and arts festival held during the summer months.
Falls Festival	Sorell	A popular music festival held over New Years Eve which attracts both National and International attention.
Wooden Boat Festival	Hobart (Sullivans Cove)	A bi-annual festival celebrating wooden boats of all ages and types.
Targa Wreast Point	State-wide	A car racing rally that now fills the void since Targa Tasmania is primarily based up the North and North West.
Lumina	State-wide	A festival celebrating and promoting a wide range of events in Tasmania over the winter months. Includes Festival of the Voices, Savour Tasmania
City Hall	Hobart	A venue that hosts a range of events from trade fairs through to Rock concerts.
The Concert Hall	Hobart	The home of the internationally renowned Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, which is used for music performances as well as conferences.
Theatre Royal	Hobart	The oldest Theatre in Australia is still in working order and regularly hosts local, national and international productions, as well as being a tourist attraction in it's own right.
Derwent Entertainment Centre	Glenorchy	This facility hosts conferences, trade fairs, music performances and sporting events.
Casino	Hobart	This facility hosts conferences, trade fairs, music performances and corporate events.

In addition in most municipal areas local events such as Carols by Candlelight, Fairs and Fetes, Eisteddfods, local music festivals, local Rural shows, and other competitions are held. These events will generally utilise community halls, schools, local show grounds, or other facilities such as the local RSL hall or the Local Council Chambers.

6.1 Planning Implications

Many of these events are held annually or bi-annually and have minimal planning implications with regard to obtaining permits.

The role they play in community building cannot however be understated, and it is important Local Government ensure community facilities like halls, show grounds and other facilities are provided a level of protection through the planning scheme. It is envisaged that a community use or particular use zoning will allow for this.

In addition, broader regional planning should ensure facilities for cultural events of this scale are provided for at the regional level and unnecessarily duplication of facilities is avoided. Co-location of cultural facilities can also assist in achieving desired outcomes for activity centres and agglomeration economies with other major uses and facilities. A key example is the Hobart waterfront and its integration with the broader Hobart CBD area as reflected in the discussion on Activity Centres.

7. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

7.1 Introduction

Statistically, Tasmania has the lowest rate of crime in Australia. Households and individuals in Tasmania are victims of a diverse range of crimes. Those more serious crimes that affect the largest number of people are household break-in, car theft and assault. In 2002, 7.7% of households in Tasmania were victims of a break-in or attempted break-in (ABS). Crime is a social problem in society that affects thousands of people's lives each year. Serious crimes against persons and properties generate considerable fear within the community. The resulting fear of crime can restrict people's freedom of movement and prevent them from fully participating in the community. Crime safety and crime reduction is now recognised as a key outcome in the planning of our built environments. The design and effective use of our environment can lead to a reduction in both fear and incidents of crime.

7.2 Designing out Crime

Feeling safe and being safe are important design and management issues. Safety and mediation issues especially in public housing areas, provide opportunities for government and local communities to work together to make places safer. The design and effective use of our building environment can lead to a reduction in both fear and incidence of crime and a consequent improvement in the quality of life.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) has been acknowledged and adopted nationally and internationally as a required aspect of urban design and planning due its capacity to reduce crime. CPTED promotes high quality and visually pleasing solutions as first responses that aim to enhance the legitimate use of space. The National Crime Prevention Council (2003) has released a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guidebook whereby four principles have been identified which can support safer communities:

- Natural surveillance
- Natural access control
- Territorial reinforcement
- Maintenance and management

The four CPTED principles can be translated into various planning and design strategies that would enhance security and include the following:

- Lighting
- Natural surveillance and site lines
- Minimise concealed and isolated routes
- Avoid entrapment
- Promote land use mix
- Use of activity generators
- Create a sense of ownership through maintenance and management

- Signage

The decision of which strategy or combination of strategies to apply will depend on the site condition, the functional requirements and the desired programming of the space, as well as the design intent.

The application of CPTED to design and approval processes delivers a community environment designed to reduce the opportunities for the commission of crime and to reduce the fear of crime occurring. This in turn, creates a more attractive place to live and can only further prosper economic development.

7.3 Planning Implications

Planning schemes and the development approval process can influence the design of development in a positive manner by requiring the application of crime prevention through Environmental Design principles to any design or approval process.

In terms of relevant statutory provisions, Part 2 of the Schedule 1 Objectives of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* relating to the planning process established by the Act, requires the planning process: “(f) to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Tasmanians and visitors to Tasmania; “. There are two main management methods that local governments can use to implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design- statutory and voluntary initiatives. Much can be achieved through voluntary initiatives as they can be implemented immediately and are particularly applicable when seeking improvements to existing buildings. Voluntary initiatives should be complemented with statutory initiatives which incorporate objectives, policies, rules and assessment criteria into a planning scheme. These standards would relate to use and development already requiring a permit.

In terms of voluntary measures, a design guide is a useful way for a local council to illustrate how CPTED may be applied in the local context, and can assist in ensuring development applications address elements of a Planning Scheme (QLD Police, Incorporating CPTED into Planning Schemes). Design guides do not need to be statutory documents as by remaining non-statutory, the design guide can be periodically updated in the light of experience without having to go through any statutory process. Local councils can choose whether to produce a separate CPTED design guide or incorporate CPTED within a wider urban design guide. Incorporating CPTED within a wider urban design guide has the advantage of promoting an integrated approach to the planning and assessment of the environment.

Both Hobart and Launceston City Councils have incorporated CPTED principles into their planning schemes. Within NSW, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* requires CPTED principles to be taken into account in planning and development applications.

Significant change can be made on public owned land without local councils having to submit a development application. Examples can typically include street works, new and refurbished street malls, civic centres, public conveniences, car parking buildings, inner city parks, community facilities, landscaping and the like. These requirements should form a Council policy for all works on public land.

8. Healthy Places and Spaces

8.1 Introduction

Tasmanians have access to some of the best passive recreational opportunities and natural environments within Australia. However, as a community we often underestimate the importance of creating opportunities within our urban environment to improve our physical and mental well-being. Population health underpins the social and economic well-being of a community. Tasmania currently ranks poorly against the national average on many health measures. Tasmania evidences the greatest rates of cardio-vascular disease and preventable risk factors such as obesity and smoking. It is expected that these trends will only increase into the future. Physical inactivity doubles the likelihood of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity and also extends as far as increasing the risk of breast and bowel cancers.

Tasmania has a unique environment that influences the planning and design of environments for active living. Tasmania has a widely dispersed and small settlement population and Tasmania's hilly terrain and climate are major influences on active living. The built environment can hinder or facilitate individual physical activity levels.

8.2 Healthy By Design

The Heart Foundation (Tasmania) has developed customised *Healthy by Design: A guide to planning and designing environments for active living in Tasmania*. The research based guidelines aim to assist planners, urban designers and associated professionals by bringing focus to the aspects of the built environment that encourage people to walk and cycle as part of their daily life (Heart Foundation, 2009). The implications for a region that can accomplish this are significant not only for the environment, but also in terms of being an important means of preventing a range of chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease. Well-planned and designed communities that increase the ability of people to walk or cycle to shops, schools, parks and services and public transport contribute to the creation of physically active and socially vibrant communities. In addition, engaging in physical activity has been shown to alleviate depression and anxiety and increase social interaction and integration. Tasmania has the second highest rate of cardiovascular disease in Australia whereby in 2004 an estimated 86,000 Tasmanians were living with the disease. This figure is expected to increase by 2051 to 134,000 people expected to attain the disease.

The more that planners address these issues, the closer we get towards regulatory changes that formally recognise the importance of placing a high priority on health issues in our planning decisions. The importance of creating an urban environment that encourages cycling, walking, social interaction and other physical activity in a visually stimulating and attractive manner cannot be underestimated. It will act to improve the well being of our community and help to foster a prosperous economic future for Tasmania.

The State Government is currently undertaking several key projects that will influence transport and land use planning outcomes, including the Tasmanian Urban Passenger Transport Study & the Tasmanian Passenger Transport Framework.

The Tasmanian Passenger Transport Framework provides the direction to shape our future for sustainably moving people and creating liveable and well connected urban communities. In developing

the framework, the Government is focused on improving outcomes in the following key areas that complement Healthy by Design strategies:

8.2.1 Walking and Cycling Routes

The provision of an accessible integrated network of off road walking and cycling routes and footpaths for safe, convenient and pleasant travel to local destinations and points of interest is vital in generating physical activity in communities and in the provision of more sustainable communities. Walking and cycling routes need to provide variety, connecting with alternate transport options, provide continuity between streets and link to major retail and commercial centres. In order to attract interest, walking and cycling route design needs to be stimulating and attractive, safe and constructed to a good standard. Accessibility to all members of the community is also important in seating and amenity and footpath design. Examples of well designed and utilised areas include the Intercity cycleway the Clarence Foreshore Trail, Tangara Trail and the Dover Foreshore Trail.

8.2.2 Street Design

Street design is also important to provide safe and convenient travel for pedestrians to cross roads and cyclists to travel along roads and maximise opportunities to engage in planned and incidental physical activity. In order to make streets pedestrian friendly, vehicle calming measures such as reductions in speed limits, support on road cyclists and the creation of attractive and welcoming streets will support greater pedestrian utilisation of streets. Using public transport can reduce social isolation and foster community spirit. To encourage increased public transport use, services need to be accessible, frequent, reliable, inexpensive and safe. To encourage the use of public transport through the establishment and promotion of clear and direct walking and cycling routes to public transport stops, community hubs, transport modal interchanges and the provision of facilities for public transport users.

8.2.3 Supporting Infrastructure

In terms of design, supporting infrastructure in the public domain can encourage use and social interaction by making it attractive, convenient, functional, comfortable and safe. 'Supporting Infrastructure' as addressed in this section, includes the following street furniture and amenities: seating, signage, lighting, shade and planting, fences and walls, bicycle parking, dog walking fittings and drinking fountains.

Local government has the capacity to take a multi-faceted approach in fostering environments that support active living, and state government has a significant role to play in ensuring land use allocation maximises opportunities for active living. Through strategic planning, the development of land use plans needs to incorporate strategies and policies that ensure that active living opportunities are maximised. The development and implementation of relevant instruments such as region strategies, structure plans, local area plans and precinct plans that help to guide the location, form and pattern of development and infrastructure within a defined spatial area. These instruments are important tools for planning and regulating development in new urban areas and existing urban areas and towns. Within these plans, active communities can be achieved through delineation of the location and extent of residential boundaries, open space networks, key physical and social infrastructure such as transport and public transport routes and services such as schools, health care and employment centres.

8.3 Planning Implications

Land use planning plays a significant role in constraining or encouraging physical activity in communities. Communities where consideration for people's health is part of the planning process, create a more sustainable community by contributing to outcomes such as reducing car emissions, having more active and healthier people, and creating safer and more socially connected communities (Planning Institute of Australia 2009).

Land use planning decisions of the past have resulted in high motor vehicle dependency, segregated land use, disconnected streets, low residential density and limited public transport services. These neighbourhood characteristics are also characteristic of low levels of walking (Heart Foundation 2009). Ultimately, planners need to achieve higher residential densities with mixed-use zoning, interconnected streets and access to public transport. Implementation of such strategies will foster livelier neighbourhoods and provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling.

The reservation of land designated for public open spaces is also pivotal in achieving physically active communities. Public open spaces provide a range of recreational and through way opportunities for residents and visitors, in addition to contributing to the liveability and appeal of a municipal area or subdivision (Heart Foundation 2009). The acquisition of public open space or cash in lieu by Planning Authorities through subdivision approvals needs to follow a consistent open space strategy for the wider vicinity while ensuring there is a focus on walkable community within urban areas where there is the opportunity to walk no further than 500 metres to a local park and there is access to facilities for physical activity.

In Tasmania, with our lower levels of urban growth and limited government resources (at both the State and local level), the concept of 'retrofitting' existing area to promote enhanced opportunities for physical activity is just as important (as recognised in the Healthy by Design Guidelines). Retrofitting generally applies to components of the built environment such as brown-field sites, existing parks, neighbourhood streets, road and infrastructure networks and city precincts.

One notable initial target should be to improve the region's alternative transport options, particularly within the metropolitan area of Greater Hobart. Transport modes could be expanded to include improvements to bus transport, cycling and pedestrian routes and most of which can involve retrofitting as opposed to the provision of new infrastructure. A good example of retrofitting in this context has been the intercity cycleway between Hobart and Glenorchy.

Beyond this, protection and strategic planning of active living resources and facilities on a regional basis through the open spaces policy framework is also important as is ensuring that we have popular and well maintained recreational facilities planned at the regional scale, to minimise unnecessary duplication of facilities that would be detrimental to their ongoing economic viability.

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The Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project
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