



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Southern Tasmanian Councils reaffirm support for key regional issues**

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The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) reaffirmed its strong support for a regional approach to the issues of climate change, economic development and workforce planning and employment at its meeting today.

“The STCA plays a key role in advocating for cooperative working relationships and joint action to progress sustainable regional economic, environmental and social outcomes for Southern Tasmania. It is vitally important that we play a lead role in helping to address the key issues affecting our communities,” Chairperson of the STAC, Mayor Bec Enders said.

“The STCA has partnered with UTAS and the Tasmanian Government to apply for an Australian Research Council grant which will assist us in identifying the barriers and enablers to local government climate action. The project builds on an earlier STCA project that developed a regional climate strategy and climate change adaptation plans to increase the capacity of councils to manage climate risks and hazards. ARC Linkage Grants are very competitive, however, if the application is successful the project will undertake innovative research with a practical, outcomes-focus, that will help to position Tasmania as a global leader in climate change adaptation.”

“Job creation in regions is critical with more opportunities needed to support jobs in local regions as well as structured courses that are relevant, cost effective and able to deliver the required training and compliment the skill level required in current and future job markets. Regional trade training centres have proven to be the most effective means of engaging local communities to deliver the required targeted training matched to local employment needs and opportunities.”

The Board also resolved to nominate council officers to scope and explore the development of a regional economic development strategy in partnership with Regional Development Australia Tasmania.

“The STCA will continue to take a leadership role to support a regional approach to issues affecting southern communities,” said Mayor Enders.

#### **For interview:**

Mayor, Councillor Bec Enders, STCA Chairperson – 0498 213 515