

Ideas for LGA meeting at Orford - 27 March 2022

1 State of Tasmania

3 Regions Cradle Coast /North/South

- Cradle Coast - Burnie, Wynyard-Waratah, West Coast, Circular Head, Devonport, Latrobe, Kentish, Central Coast and King Island (9)
- Northern - Launceston, George Town, West Tamar, Break O'Day, Dorset, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and Flinders Island (8)
- Southern councils - Hobart, Glenorchy, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Clarence, Brighton, Sorell, Tasman, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Derwent Valley, Central Highlands and Southern Midlands (12)

These regional boundaries have been in the mind and social fabric for years and most of the state agencies have regions in the same area and also NRM regions etc

Could still have state planning with regional variations and regional aspects to TasWater GBE?

Currently 29 Local Government Areas

We could possibly go down to the 3 Regional Area Council as suggested by the TCCI, but a more realistic approach would be to perhaps go to 14 Councils?

For example:

- Burnie, Wynyard-Waratah, and Circular Head
- West Coast
- Devonport, Latrobe,
- Kentish and Central Coast
- Launceston, George Town and West Tamar
- Break O'Day and Dorset
- Meander Valley and Northern Midlands
- Hobart and Glenorchy
- Huon Valley and Kingborough
- Clarence and Sorell (urban areas eg Midway Point and Sorell, Lewisham and Dodges etc)
- Current Sorell rural areas, Tasman and Glamorgan Spring Bay
- Brighton and Southern Midlands
- Derwent Valley and Central Highlands
- Bass Strait Council - King, Flinders and Cape Barren Islands

The State and Federal Governments could also offer big new investment and infrastructure funds for Councils to amalgamate under this process.

However the recent West Tamar / George Town and Sorrell /Tasman attempted amalgamation process failing, this has shown that people want local representation.

We are always hearing how we can keep regions and areas bubbling along and retaining people in them so apart from the normal funds provided by Federal, State Government and Local Government into local area we need to look to new ideas.

So to stimulate local communities, perhaps could look at a new regional and community funding program?

- Each of the 29 Councils, receives \$2 million from State Government matched by \$2 million each from the Federal Government, so \$116 million.
- This is topped up every 3 years with \$ 1 million per Council area (\$0.5 million from State and \$0.5million from the Federal government) \$29 Million.
- Funds held and managed in a **Your Local Investment Fund**, to assist small and medium businesses and community groups to apply for projects **up to a range of levels:**
 - \$5000
 - \$10,000
 - \$20,000
 - \$50,000,
 - \$100,000,
 - \$250,000 and above
 - across a range of areas be it social, economic, environmental and cultural.
- Would need to match \$1 for every \$2 raised with business projects
- Would match \$ 1 for \$ 1 with community projects and/or in kind contribution.
- ***Local Councils could not apply but can provide assistance for projects, with administration, needing planning , DA's etc as they already receive funding in a range of other programs from Federal and State Government***
- Assessment of projects would be done through local panels consisting of 5 people 1 from local council, 1 from community, 1 from business, 1 from school year 10 or above and 1 from one of the 3 regional bodies.
- No set submission dates for projects, assessed as projects presented and perhaps assessed every 3 months.
- Evaluation, financial accountability and reporting of projects to be set up under normal processes.

Local Government after Covid

- To pay \$100 million for the 29 Councils, so 3 months of rates raised in Tasmania refunded to them for them to use to keep staff and projects etc for next 6 months . Refund each council what they raise over the quarter normally.
- Look to set up new Job Hub Projects, in all LGA's There are 6 currently (Sorell, Break O'Day, West Coast, George Town, Derwent Valley and Glenorchy)

- To set one in each LGA as a bridge building process too in the months to come so \$1 million per project for 2 year funding in each remaining 23 councils and work relevant Departments in Tasmania and TASCOS to set them up and funded through the appropriate Ministerial areas.
- Another \$18 Million for the 3 regional groupings of Councils, so \$6 million for each region for key regional projects approved by the Minister.
- LGAT to get \$1million over 3 years to work on projects etc
- Look at program for separate cycle-ways to be put in across Tasmania mainly in urban areas 1000 kms like Seville in Spain.

Develop a program for Local Special Project Officers at a town/local area level.

Designed specifically for outside the city areas and not attached to a single council area.

Eg Maydena, Waratah, Tullah, Dover, Orford, Cygnet, Bruny Island, etc.

Project officers to work 2/3 days a week on a range of local projects for their town/area, to seek funds for projects, coordinating submissions and coordinating town/area efforts on range of projects eg;

- Tourism;
- Community development;
- Business development linked to local Business Enterprise Centres;
- Youth projects, training and education;
- Restoration projects of halls and towns;
- Recreation and leisure; and
- Health and well-being projects.
- The officers would have a home-based office and computer and /or work out of local Online Access Centre, neighbourhood centre etc.

It would cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 per position to fund them for one to three years .

Set up the TASMANIAN FUTURE FUND

Based on the Australian model and the Norwegian Model

The Future Fund is Tasmania's sovereign wealth fund.

We invest for the benefit of future generations of Tasmanian's.

To be established to strengthen the Tasmanian Government's long-term financial position.

Every dollar that we make is a dollar that adds to Tasmania's wealth and contributes to its future. We invest the assets of special purpose public asset funds such as **the**

- Future Fund, perhaps linked to the Federal fund
- Disability Care Fund, perhaps linked to the Federal Fund
- Medical Research Future Fund, perhaps linked to the Federal Fund
- Aboriginal Land and Sea Future Fund, perhaps linked to the Federal Fund
- Emergency Response Funds for disasters, perhaps linked to the Federal Fund

NEW

- Social Housing, Education, Training and Job Fund
- Arts, Sport and Recreational Facilities Fund
- **Community Planning and Regional Development Fund, see below.**
- Infrastructure Fund for power, roads, transport, buildings, pipelines etc
- Innovation and technology Fund
- Land and Water Fund (including drought and irrigation)

Our role is to generate high, risk adjusted returns over the long-term. We operate independently from Government and tailor the management of each fund to its unique investment mandate.

We are an inter-generational sovereign State wealth fund, not a superannuation fund. We are designed to allow the Tasmanian Government to save today to meet the costs of tomorrow.

OPTIONS

Investment of \$10 Billion with an investment return of \$700 million a year

Investment of \$20 Billion with an investment return of \$1.4 billion a year

Investment of \$30 Billion with an investment return of \$2.1 billion a year

Could come from own wealth fund being set up and/or topped up by revenue generated through Marinus Link and Battery of the Nation.

***Community Planning and Regional Development Fund**

Set up 29 LGA investment funds so each Council can access these for issues that may arise such more resources for:

- **Planning,**
- **Staffing**
- **Infrastructure and roads**
- **Better links to other key bodies such as Tas Water, Tas Networks , SES etc**
- **Community responses to events**