



MEDIA RELEASE: 20 November 2009

PARLIAMENT APPROVES TASMANIA *TOGETHER* BENCHMARKS

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board today welcomed Parliament's endorsement of 35 new and revised benchmarks, which will now form part of the community's 20 year plan for all Tasmanians.

Mr Michael Lynch, Deputy Chair of the Progress Board, said that it was important that the Board regularly reviewed the benchmarks used to measure progress, to ensure that Tasmania *Together* continues to reflect ongoing changes in community priorities.

Tasmanian's perceptions of their quality of life, views on tolerance and support within the community, opportunities to socialise outside the home, and government accountability will now be measured and reported to the public on a regular basis.

These new benchmarks were a direct result of a community survey conducted with 1500 Tasmanians from all regions of the State.

"Many Tasmanians enjoy their quality of life with almost 70 per cent of those surveyed feeling satisfied; they also seem to be content with their opportunities to socialise and receive support within their families and social networks, with over 80 per cent satisfied in these areas".

"Interestingly, however, only 41 per cent believed that their fellow Tasmanians were tolerant of other ethnic groups, religions and sexual orientations".

"The new benchmarks will allow us to measure any progress in these areas and to track any changes over time", said Mr Lynch.

A number of existing benchmarks have also been revised or replaced in order to make use of the best available data sources. These include indicators related to social inclusion, literacy and numeracy, the Tasmanian economy and the environment.

"Tasmania *Together* continues to measure and report on issues that are close to the hearts of the Tasmanian community, and has developed challenging yet realistic benchmark targets for 2010, 2015 and 2020", said Mr Lynch.

The package of new and revised benchmarks has undergone a rigorous development and public consultation process with key stakeholders in the Tasmanian community.

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“Tasmania *Together* is the community’s plan for 2020 and the Progress Board is committed to continual consultation with the Tasmanian community” Mr Lynch said.

Next year will mark the Ten Year Review of Tasmania *Together*. As part of this review, the Progress Board will further consult with the Tasmanian community about any changes they see as necessary to maintain the relevance and value of Tasmania *Together* over the next ten years. Public consultations for the Ten Year Review will commence in August 2010.

Progress toward targets for all Tasmania *Together* benchmarks can be viewed online at www.ttbenchmarks.com.au.

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