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Tasmania *Together* Snapshot shows the State we are in

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board has released its third annual Snapshot of Progress.

The 2009 Snapshot of Progress reports on the progress achieved against a range of social, economic and environmental indicators over a twelve month period.

Bob Campbell, Chair of the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board, said that “most of our headline indicators have shown progress or remained much the same which is a good sign for Tasmania”.

The cost of living has decreased for low-income families, there has been a reduction in the number of avoidable deaths, regional population levels have been maintained, and investment growth continues to be strong.

“The proportion of people living outside the major cities has been declining over several years, so maintaining the status-quo is a positive result for our regional communities.

“Considering the global economic backdrop Tasmania’s investment growth has been impressive, with the private sector component proving most resilient”, Mr Campbell said.

However, there are some areas where progress has proven difficult to achieve.

“Tasmanians will not be surprised to hear that there are fewer people participating in the workforce than there were this time last year”, Mr Campbell said.

Additionally, a slightly smaller proportion of people voted in the recent local government elections; and the latest available data (for 2007) shows an increase in the level of Tasmania’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Following the introduction of nationally consistent testing and reporting for school literacy and numeracy standards last year, the Progress Board has identified Year 5 reading as the headline indicator. There has been no significant change in the proportion of Tasmanian Year 5 students achieving the national standard in reading compared with Australia.

There has also been no significant change in Tasmanians’ feelings of safety at night.

The headline indicators for the Snapshot of Progress are drawn from each of the 12 goals in Tasmania *Together* and assessment is based on the latest available data.

When compared to the 2008 Snapshot of Progress:

- The costs of essentials for low-income families have come down;
- There has been no significant change in Tasmanians' feelings of safety at night, both at home and in public places. However, the 2020 target for feeling safe in public places at night has been achieved;
- There has been no significant change in the proportion of Year 5 students achieving the national standard in reading compared with Australia;
- There has been a reduction in the number of avoidable deaths (2007 data);
- Regional population levels were maintained (2008 data);
- Attendance at cultural heritage sites including our museums and art galleries has increased;
- The number of visitor centres with Aboriginal cultural interpretation has not increased;
- The percentage of people voting in local government elections declined slightly;
- There are fewer people participating in the workforce;
- Tasmania has had strong investment growth;
- The amount of land protected in conservation reserves has increased; and
- Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions increased (2007 data).

In addition to featuring in a number of metropolitan and community newspapers, the 2009 Snapshot of Progress flyer is being distributed to Tasmanian households.

"It is important for the Tasmanian community to know how the State is going in terms of achieving our shared vision for 2020," Mr Campbell said.

The Snapshot of Progress flyer includes details about how Tasmanians can register their interest to participate in the 10 Year Review which will take place later this year.

More detailed information about each of the Headline Indicators is attached, and reporting for all Tasmania *Together* benchmarks is available via the Online Benchmark Reports website at www.ttbenchmarks.com.au.

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