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BENCHMARKS FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL

Tasmanian's perception of their quality of life, views on tolerance and support within the community, and government accountability will all now be measured and publicly reported on a regular basis.

The new measures of progress are included in 35 new and revised benchmarks prepared by the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board and tabled in Parliament today.

“The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board regularly reviews the benchmarks used to measure progress to ensure Tasmania *Together* reflects changes in community priorities and uses the best progress measures available,” said Progress Board Chair, Bob Campbell.

Included in the package presented to Parliament today are a number of new benchmarks resulting from a community survey of 1500 Tasmanians covering all regions of the State. These benchmarks relate to perceptions of:

- quality of life;
- support from family, friends and local community;
- opportunities to socialise outside the home;
- tolerance within the community; and
- Government accountability.

Mr Campbell said that these issues had been identified by the community as being very important and needed to be measured.

“The introduction of these benchmarks is very timely, particularly in light of the recently released Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania.”

“The Progress Board's community survey results show that only 41 per cent of those surveyed view other Tasmanians as tolerant of other ethnic groups, religions and people's sexual orientation.”



Survey results also reveal that over 80 per cent are satisfied both with their opportunities to socialise and with the levels of support they receive from their family and social networks; almost 70 per cent of Tasmanians feel satisfied with their quality of life; yet only 25 per cent of Tasmanians believe the State Government is listening to and acting on their wishes.

New benchmarks have also been developed in the areas of health and primary industry.

In addition, a range of existing benchmarks spanning eleven of the *Tasmania Together* goals have 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,” says Mr Campbell, “and has developed challenging yet realistic benchmark targets for 2010, 2015 and 2020.”

The package of new and revised benchmarks has undergone a rigorous development and public consultation process involving key stakeholders, including the Tasmanian community, and has now been tabled for approval by Parliament.

Tasmania Together, created in 2001, is a 20 year social, environmental and economic plan for the State’s progress which sets out the vision and goals that Tasmanians want to achieve for themselves and their children.

Progress toward targets for all *Tasmania Together* benchmarks can be viewed online at www.ttbenchmarks.com.au. For a copy of the report to Parliament contact the Progress Board on 6232 7010.

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