



Government Media Statement

26 April 2010

BRIAN WIGHTMAN

Parliamentary Secretary for the Northern Economy

Young Tasmanians Asked to Help Shape the State's Future

All school-aged Tasmanians are being asked to step up to the challenge of helping shape Tasmania's future as part of a competition run by the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Northern Economy Brian Wightman said the Tasmania *Together* Youth Challenge was open to all primary school, high school and year 11-12 students across Tasmania.

Either individually or as part of a class or smaller group, young Tasmanians are asked to think about their vision for the future of Tasmania and express it in a creative and innovative way.

Students can bring their vision to life through a range of creative and artistic styles, including painting, photography, film, song, dance, poetry, prose, inquiry or essay.

Mr Wightman said the competition encouraged young people to have their say for the future and connect with Tasmania *Together*.

"Tasmania *Together* is a 20-year plan for Tasmania's future that sets out a vision for the State based on the wishes of Tasmanians, Mr Wightman said.

"Tasmania *Together* recognises that every Tasmanian plays an important role in shaping, improving and making a difference to Tasmania's future – especially Tasmania's young people.

"This is why we are asking young Tasmanians what they think, and inviting them to tell us through a fun, educational and creative medium that they are comfortable with.

“The line ‘*Tasmania’s future is in your hands... show us where you will take it*’ features in the supporting advertising campaign that starts today and sums up the thinking behind the competition.

The television advertisement also features successful young Tasmanian Brad Smith as the face of the 2010 Youth Challenge campaign.

At the age of 22, Brad is the designer of the Braaap Motorcycle and founder of the multi-award winning Braaap Motorcycles.

Tasmania *Together* Progress Board Member Kirsty Dunphey said Brad was a young and inspiring Tasmanian (who could not be at the launch because he is overseas due to business commitments) who was the perfect face for the competition.

“Brad is a fantastic role model to many young Tasmanians. He is the Young Australian of the Year – Tasmania 2010, and he has been awarded the Australian Young Entrepreneur of the Year for 2009 and 2008, Ms Dunphey said.

“He has also contributed significantly to the local youth community, encouraging young people to get their adrenaline rush from sport and personal achievements, rather than drugs and crime.

Ms Dunphey said it was very important that the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board heard from as many young people as possible.

“The youth challenge is the perfect way to achieve this. We want to hear from school-aged children. We want to hear their opinions.

This is the third year the competition has been run by the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board and it’s going from strength to strength.

Over the last two years, the competition has received 248 entries from individuals and schools across Tasmania, including independent entries and students in home-school, government schools and non-government schools.

Entries close on Thursday 5 August 2010. For more information or to enter please visit www.ttyouthchallenge.com.au.

Entries can be submitted either individually or as part of a group (class or smaller group) to one of the following six entry categories:

1. Kindergarten-Grade 2
2. Grades 3-4
3. Grades 5-6
4. Grades 7-8
5. Grades 9-10
6. Grades 11-12

There are great prizes up for grabs for individuals and groups, including iPhones, iPod touches, Wii consoles and Wii Fits, and Netbook computers.

Contact:

<http://www.tas.gov.au>