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Tasmania *Together* releases 2010 Progress Report

Fewer Tasmanians are smoking or reporting high levels of psychological stress. Investment levels have risen and there is an increase in workforce participation in Tasmania.

However, under-employment has increased and more children are on care and protection orders. There are fewer Tasmanians doing enough exercise to avoid chronic disease and there have been more road accidents with fatalities and serious injuries.

These are just some of the highlights of the biennial report to Parliament on the State's progress by the independent Tasmania *Together* Progress Board.

The Tasmania *Together* 2010 Progress Report, released today by the Board's Chair, Mr Bob Campbell, measures the State's progress towards its social, environmental and economic goals. The report also coincides with the launch of the 10 Year Review Tasmania *Together* in mid-September.

"We are now at the half way mark to 2020 and want to let the community know how we are tracking towards its vision for Tasmania," said Mr Campbell. "On balance, the report paints a positive picture of Tasmania's progress."

Whilst 2010 data for the majority of measures is still to be reported due to the time lag between data collection and publication, 54% of its 188 measures have already achieved or are making progress towards their 2010 targets.

"Our economic benchmarks have performed very well, with 60% having achieved or making progress towards 2010 targets. Those that have already reached their targets include measures related to investment in Tasmania, pay equity, tourism, food production and the State's credit rating," said Mr Campbell.

The report also highlights important areas that require attention, including 47 measures (25%) that are moving away from targets set by the Board and a further 40 measures (21%) where no change has been made.

"Some areas, such as being active and healthy and having the ability to access quality health care, appear to be slipping away from their targets, as does the need to improve the health of our waterways."

Mr Campbell said it was up to all levels of government, business and community groups, and the broad community to work towards the community's vision for 2020, as expressed in Tasmania *Together*.

"Tasmania *Together* is the community's vision for 2020, it is not a government plan. With the 10 Year Review about to get underway, the Progress Board would like to remind people that it's easy to get involved. Having your say will make a difference to the future of Tasmania," said Mr Campbell.

Highlights of the 2010 Progress Report include:

- A decrease in the cost of living for low income families, but an increase in the number of Tasmanians experiencing rental stress and longer waiting times for high priority applicants to secure public housing;
- Fewer young people (0-24) dying due to external causes, but an increase in road crash fatalities and serious injuries;
- Strong growth in the proportion of Tasmanian participating in post-secondary education and training, but a decrease in the number of Tasmanians commencing apprentice and trainee contracts;
- A decline in smoking, avoidable mortality and levels of psychological distress, but an increase in overweight and obese adults and low birth weight babies;
- A slight increase in the level of population growth, including rural population, but this has not kept pace with the national population growth for the same period;
- An increase in attendance at multi-cultural events and major cultural heritage sites, and an increase in enrolments in cultural heritage courses, but a decline in the value of contribution to the Gross State Product from selected Arts industries;
- More schools integrating Aboriginal perspectives throughout their curriculum, but less teachers receiving professional development in their role teaching indigenous studies;
- Increased pay equity between men and women in Tasmania and more families using flexible work arrangements, but an increase in underemployment;
- An increase in investment, employment in science, technology, research and development, and increases in food value added, agricultural and fish production, but a reduction in mineral exploration expenditure, international export values and Gross State Product;
- More sites listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register and an increase in the area of protected land, but no improvement in protected marine bioregions, new invertebrate pests have been established and the status of threatened species remains a concern; and
- An improvement in air quality but a decline in the condition of Tasmanian rivers and an increase in the proportion of water samples with high levels of pesticides.

To view the progress of Tasmania *Together* benchmarks in detail, copies of the 2010 Progress Report can be found at www.tasmaniatgether.com.au and Online Benchmark Reports can be found at www.ttbenchmarks.com.au.

Copies can also be provided on request by contacting the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board by phoning 6232 7010.

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