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The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board presents the 2008 Snapshot of Progress

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board released its second annual Snapshot of Progress today. The Snapshot of Progress reports progress across a range of social, economic and environmental indicators and is widely distributed throughout the State.

Michael Lynch, Deputy Chair said that “once again the results are mixed although there was overall improvement compared to 2007. The cost of living decreased for low-income families, employment levels improved and greenhouse gas emissions were reduced.”

“In today’s current economic climate the first two results are really positive, although there is concern that Tasmania lags behind in reflecting what is happening globally.”

“The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is an important step towards achieving Tasmania *Together* targets, as well as doing our bit towards reducing national emissions”.

Mr Lynch said that “Tasmanians’ feelings of safety at night did not improve and Tasmania’s regional population has declined. In terms of student literacy and numeracy, while there was some improvement in years 3 and 5, overall there has not been progress since the 2007 Snapshot”.

The Department of Education advises that the new National Literacy and Numeracy Assessment report released in September 2008 is not comparable with the data series currently used by Tasmania *Together*. The Snapshot reports data collected in 2007 as part of the previous data series. The Progress Board is working with the Department of Education to enable the new national assessment data to be included in future benchmark reporting.

The Headline Indicators chosen for the Snapshot of Progress reflect each of the 12 goals in Tasmania *Together* and are based on the State’s vision for 2020. All of this information is available via Online Benchmark Reports (www.ttbenchmarks.com.au).

“It is important for the Tasmanian community to know how the State is going in terms of achieving the vision for 2020,” said Mr Lynch.

“The *Snapshot of Progress* provides a brief report and complements the more detailed Progress Reports the Board produces every two years and gives an indication of what can be found on the Online Benchmark Reports,” he said.



Compared to the 2007 Snapshot:

- 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. The 2020 target for feeling safe in public places at night has been achieved;
- Overall the proportion of students above national benchmarks for literacy and numeracy has not improved;
- There has been a reduction in the number of avoidable deaths;
- Our regional population has declined;
- Attendance at cultural heritage sites 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 in 2007;
- There are more 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 have reduced.

Mr Lynch said "The report card shows that there is a need to address some important issues in order to achieve the State's vision, including improving school literacy and numeracy, and maintaining population levels in rural and regional areas."

"Tasmania is doing well in other key areas including workforce participation and reducing its greenhouse gases," he said.

Mr Lynch said that a one-page 'flyer' of the *2008 Snapshot of Progress* scorecard will be distributed to households throughout the State. More detailed information about each of the Headline Indicators is also available on Online Benchmark Reports (www.ttbenchmarks.com.au), Tasmania *Together's* up-to-date benchmark reporting system.

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