

SPEECH NOTES
Chair – Mr Bob Campbell
Launch of Tasmania *Together* (Revised 2006)

Key Messages

- Tasmania has changed over the last five years, so must Tasmania *Together*.
- The revised Tasmania *Together* reflects what the people told us.
- More user-friendly and we can better measure our progress.

1. Introduction

Tasmania *Together* is visionary public policy that began five years ago.

At its core, it is a community based vision for the future that provides a framework for government and community decision making.

It is also a mandate from the people for change. It is not about maintaining the status quo.

Where priorities are not being met then we need to take action.

Tasmania *Together* has come a long way in the five years since it was released.

It is now an integral part of government decision making. It enjoys support across the political spectrum.

The Progress Board also has 30 individual partnerships with major business and community organisations.

2. Five Year Review

Tasmania *Together* has to remain a living document that responds to change – change in circumstances and change in the community's views.

Under our legislation Tasmania *Together* undergoes a major review every 5 years.

The Progress Board has just completed the first five year review. This document is the result of that review.

We went out and consulted with the people of Tasmania. Tens of thousands joined on line, on our touring bus, via questionnaires, in writing, and on the phone.

All the community feedback was analysed and used by the Progress Board to develop new goals and benchmarks for Tasmania *Together*.

It was hard work.

In the 18 months of the Five Year Review, we had 14 benchmarking committee meetings, 11 Steering committee meetings and 11 Board meetings to produce the revised Tasmania *Together*.

3. What's Changed?

Tasmania has changed in the last five years and so must Tasmania *Together*.

Although a significant percentage of the current Tasmania *Together* has been retained, much has changed to reflect our consultations with the broader community.

We are now more optimistic, confident, economically prosperous and safer.

A New Vision

Given these changes we now have a new vision for Tasmania

“Tasmania is an island community, unique for its natural and cultural environment, where people enjoy a prosperous lifestyle based on quality, creativity and opportunity.”

It's a new vision for a new Tasmania.

New Goals

The goals Tasmanians aspire to have also changed.

The number of goals in Tasmania *Together* has been reduced from 24 to 12.

The new goals avoid overlaps and better reflect the community consultations.

They are simpler and up-to-date and cover the community's interests in health, education, lifestyle, environment, democracy, to name a few.

Benchmarks

The number of benchmarks has been reduced from 212 to 143.

The big difference now is that all our benchmarks are now measurable – nearly half of the benchmarks in the original Tasmania *Together* were not measurable because we didn't have the data.

26 benchmarks are new. For example, the community are keen to see:

- a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- improved services for people with disabilities and mental health problems
- harmonious workplace relations
- affordable housing
- tackling obesity in our community
- reducing the death toll on our roads
- efforts to deal with alcohol abuse in young people
- improving adult literacy

These are just some of the new areas of community concern.

We haven't thrown the baby out with the bathwater.

Just over 90 of the original benchmarks in *Tasmania Together* have been retained, but they have been refined to better match community priorities.

Only a handful remain totally unchanged.

This is hardly surprising. The core concerns of the Tasmanian community don't change overnight.

4. Post Five Year Review Tasks

The work of the Board doesn't stop with a new *Tasmania Together* receiving Parliamentary approval.

Developing better measures of progress is an ongoing task.

During the community consultations and over the last 12 months we have identified 34 separate benchmarking tasks to be undertaken as soon as possible.

The tasks relate to areas where there is no available data or indicator at the moment but we are confident there will be in the coming years.

We want to measure progress in these areas such as community connection, planning, transport accessibility, waste and water management.

It's a crucial job for the incoming Board. Like all our benchmarks these areas represent what the community is demanding.

5. Where to From Here?

At some stage over the next two weeks, Parliament will be considering our recommended changes to *Tasmania Together*.

The Board has endeavoured to be as faithful as possible to the feedback we received from the Tasmanian community.

This is the community's plan; it is not the Progress Board's, its not the Government's, and it certainly isn't any one individual's.

From the Board's perspective, once Parliament approves a new *Tasmania Together* we move on to the next stage.

And that means an even greater effort at raising community awareness and action around the goals and benchmarks.

This is a 20 year plan for our State. That means a 20 year effort to create the sort of community the people of Tasmania want.

7. Thank You

Everyone who has been involved with Tasmania *Together* over the last five years should be thanked.

I want to thank my fellow Board members for the huge effort they put in not just during the community consultations but in the numerous benchmarking, steering committee and board meetings we had to get to this point.

We couldn't have produced a new Tasmania *Together* without the advice and support of officers in State government agencies.

I would like to single out the ABS for recognition of their ongoing role and support for TT. The Bureau's has been instrumental in ensuring we get the very best advice when it comes benchmarking and monitoring our progress.

Finally I would also like to thank the Secretariat, including past members of staff for their loyalty and hard work over the period of the Five Year Review.