



Governments in Partnership

*Annual Report to Parliament on State-Local Government
Partnership Agreements
November 2006*



This report relates to the progress of implementation of State and Local Government Partnership Agreements between November 2005 and November 2006.

The Local Government Office of the Department of Premier and Cabinet prepared the report.

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Cover photos

From top of the page:

- Signing of the Tripartite Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania on 28 August 2006, from left to right, Councillor Michael Gaffney, President of LGAT, the Premier, Paul Lennon, and Senator the Hon Santo Santoro, the Australian Government Minister for Ageing.
- Premier Paul Lennon and Mayor Jock Campbell signing the Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Clarence City Council on 23 October 2006.
- Premier Paul Lennon, Mayor Mike Downie and the Town Crier, Jack McLaren, at the signing the Partnership Agreement between State Government and Central Coast Council on 15 October 2006.
- Premier Paul Lennon and Mayor Carmel Torenus signing the Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Sorell Council on 21 July 2006.
- Premier Paul Lennon and Mayor Ian Braid signing the Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Kentish Council on 16 July 2006.
- Mayor Tony Bisdee and the Hon David Llewellyn, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, signing the Protocol Arrangements for the development of the Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Southern Midlands Council on 8 June 2006.

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Executive Summary

The Partnership Agreements program is into its eighth year and the number of Agreements and positive outcomes continue to rise.

After the State election in March 2006, the State Government confirmed its commitment to the program and to the ongoing cooperative relationship with Local Government. Local Government also continues to support this cooperative arrangement through high level participation in the Premier's Local Government Council and through Partnership Agreements.

The Premier's Local Government Council met twice this year and continued to provide a forum for discussion of issues considered to be significant and relevant for the whole of Tasmania and oversight of statewide Partnership Agreements and projects.

In total, 27 of the 29 Councils in the State have now signed an initial Partnership Agreement with the State Government. Since November 2005, the State Government has signed four initial bilateral Partnership Agreements, with Central Coast, Clarence City, Kentish and Sorell Councils. The development of the Partnership Agreement with Southern Midlands Council is nearing completion and the development of the Agreement with Huon Valley Council is occurring.

During the past year, the process has been commenced or has continued for second Agreements with 14 Councils. Recently, three more Councils have accepted the Premier's invitation to proceed to a second Agreement. Two of the three regional Partnership Agreements are also progressing towards second Agreements.

In a major development this year, the first tripartite Partnership Agreement through this program was signed. The Australian Government joined with the State and Local Government to sign the Tripartite Partnership Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania on 28 August 2006. This is the first Partnership Agreement of this kind in Australia.

The Partnership Agreements program continues to deliver tangible outcomes to communities. Progress over the last twelve months has included significant achievements in relation to economic development, roads and transport, tourism, community safety, environment and land management, natural resource management, community and health services, arts, heritage and culture, youth services, education and training, and sport and recreation.

The Partnership Agreements have provided the mechanism for State agencies to work with Local Government to develop and implement plans and strategies that address local priorities, in key areas. Improved community safety is a significant area of achievement of Partnership Agreements.

In many of these areas, the Partnership Agreements also provide a mechanism for effective joint action with the involvement of the Council, or several Councils, multiple State agencies and, in some cases, community organisations as well.

The State Government continues its commitment to working in partnership and is confident of many more positive outcomes in the coming year.

Part 1: Overview and Background

Overview

The State and Local Government in Tasmania continue to demonstrate their commitment to working together in partnership, to improve sustainable economic development, to promote social and environmental outcomes and to better coordinate service delivery to the community. Following the State election in March 2006, the State Government confirmed its commitment to the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) and the Partnership Agreements program, which is now in its eighth year. Local Government has continued its support and participation.

There is high level participation of both parties in the Premier's Local Government Council and all 29 Councils in Tasmania are involved in the Partnership Agreements process.

Premier's Local Government Council

The Premier's Local Government Council continues to provide a forum for discussing issues considered to be significant and relevant for the whole of Tasmania and overseeing statewide Partnership Agreements and projects. It has met twice since the last report to Parliament in November 2005. A third meeting did not occur because of the State election.

Work has progressed on a number of matters including a new project to review the operations and functions of the Local Government Board, approval of new guidelines for Communication and Consultation between the State and Local Government and the Strategic Infrastructure project. The ground breaking statewide Partnership Agreement on financial reform concluded after being fully implemented.

First Tripartite Partnership Agreement

A major landmark this year has been the signing of the first tripartite Partnership Agreement in the program. On 28 August 2006, the Tripartite Partnership Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania was signed by Premier Paul Lennon, for the State Government, Senator Santo Santoro, Minister for Ageing, for the Australian Government, and Councillor Mike Gaffney, President, Local Government Association of Tasmania, for Local Government.

The Agreement, which will be in place for three years, expresses the commitment of the three spheres of government to work cooperatively towards key objectives through specific initiatives that address issues related to an ageing population. More details of the Agreement are included in the final section of this report.

Bilateral and Regional Partnership Agreements

The program's success continues as both the number of Agreements and the positive outcomes continue to rise. Each Council has either signed an initial Partnership Agreement with the State Government or is in the process of developing an initial or second Agreement. All Councils have been involved in the Program for some time through the three regional and four statewide Partnership Agreements.

Feedback received from the Councils, regional bodies and State agencies suggests that Partnership Agreements provide a mechanism for:

- better and more productive working relationships between the State and Local Government both at the officer level and at the elected member level;
- better and more informed decision-making, from exchange of information and data (eg B-double routes, water quality monitoring, landslip areas) and ongoing communication and consultation in accordance with the guidelines under the statewide Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation;
- better outcomes from collaborative approaches, such as joint projects and joint approaches for funding;
- better integration of State, regional and local action, with tourism, roads and community safety being particularly good examples; and
- greater clarity about State and local/community priorities, commitments and timeframes.

During the last year, another four initial bilateral Agreements have been signed by the Premier and the respective Mayors. These have been with:

- Kentish Council – signed 16 July 2006
- Sorell Council – signed 21 July 2006
- Central Coast Council – signed 15 October 2006
- Clarence City Council - signed 23 October 2006.

This brings to 27 the number of Councils that have entered into a bilateral Partnership Agreement. Considerable progress has been made on the Agreement with Southern Midlands Council and it is expected that the Agreement will be ready for signing early in 2007. The development of the Agreement with Huon Valley Council is underway.

Two of the signings this year took place as part of community forums, which increased the knowledge and involvement of the community in their local Partnership Agreement.

Two Councils, Circular Head and Launceston City Councils, have already entered into a second bilateral Agreement with the State Government following the conclusion and review of the first Agreement, and the negotiation of a second one.

During the year from November 2005, there was progress in relation to:

- 10 second bilateral Partnership Agreements, where the first Agreement had concluded before November 2005; and
- four second bilateral Agreements, where the first Agreement concluded during the year; and
- two regional Agreements, where the first Agreement had concluded before November 2005.

The current status of those Agreements is detailed in the section, 'Summary of Progress in Partnership Agreements'.

In addition, three Councils have recently accepted the Premier's invitation to develop a second Agreement, and the process to review the first Agreements and collect issues for a second one will proceed.

The process for second Agreements is more protracted for a number of reasons. However, action in relation to many initiatives continues beyond the life of the first Agreement. There are many examples of this in the section, 'Detailed Reports on Progress'. A particularly good example is in the Break O'Day municipal area. Cooperative action over several years in relation to the St Helens History Room and Visitor Information Centre came to fruition with the official opening on 4 May 2006. Through the first Partnership Agreement, Tourism Tasmania facilitated the extension of the St Helens History Room and the relocation of the Online Access Centre to the new premises. The Tasmanian Community Fund provided \$186,000 for the project and the State Library and Arts Tasmania provided additional funding for equipment, training and a professional curatorial management system. Tourism Tasmania also supported the development and the implementation plan for the History Room. The Visitor Information Centre also met the accreditation standards and was accepted into the Tasmanian Visitor Information Network in September 2006.

Discussions have also been held at officer level about possible changes to the development and negotiation processes for a number of second Agreements, based on the experience of the first Agreement, eg Burnie and Hobart.

Issues of greater complexity are being negotiated for many second Agreements, given that many standard or common issues have already been addressed. In many cases, there is interest in focussing on a smaller number of more complex strategic issues. Working through the issues for negotiation to the satisfaction of both parties has been found to take more time than for first Agreements. To a large extent this reflects the maturity of the program and of the working relationships that have developed between the State and Local Government.

The development of effective working relationships as a result of first Agreements has also led to cooperative action on other initiatives, and consideration of whether to include these in a second Agreement or pursue them separately. For example, this has been the case with the Cradle Coast Authority and State agencies. Consideration is being given to the form of the second Agreement to reflect the range of cooperative action, without adding to the reporting workload of those involved.

The State Government election in March 2006 also impacted on the timeframes for some negotiations.

Between November 2005 and November 2006, the period this report covers, the State and Local Government have been working together on delivering a large number of initiatives. Since the last report in November 2005, 18 bilateral Partnership Agreements and one regional Agreement have been in implementation.

Background

Partnership Agreements

The State and Local Government Partnership Agreements program was launched in December 1998. The first pilot Agreement was negotiated with the Circular Head Council and signed on 1 June 1999. The second of the pilot Agreements was developed with the Launceston City Council and signed on 26 November 1999.

A Partnership Agreement is a document that sets out actions and timeframes that will be undertaken to address agreed key issues. Partnership Agreements provide an agreed framework for action and have proven very successful in delivering positive outcomes for local communities.

Fundamentally, the aim of the Partnership Agreements program is to find better ways of serving Tasmanian communities, through a cooperative approach by State and Local Government, and where appropriate, the Australian Government.

There are four types of Partnership Agreement:

- Bilateral – between the State Government and one Council;
- Regional – between the State Government and a self-identifying group of Councils;
- Statewide – between the State Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania, on behalf of all 29 Tasmanian Councils; and
- Tripartite – between the Australian Government, State Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania, on behalf of all 29 Tasmanian Councils.

The Local Government Office facilitates the Partnership Agreement program. During the year, the Office became part of the Community Development Division in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It continued to coordinate the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, review and reporting processes for all Partnership Agreements. This included continuing liaison with Councils, regional bodies, the Australian Government and all State Government agencies involved in negotiating and implementing initiatives in the Partnership Agreements.

All Partnership Agreements are entered into for a three year period. Approximately, three months before they end, the Premier invites the Council (or regional body) to enter into a second Agreement. The first Agreement is then reviewed and both the Council and State agencies nominate which matters should continue from the first Agreement. Councils (or regional bodies) and State Government Ministers then recommend new issues, which after acceptance by both parties become the basis of negotiations for the second Agreement. Once the new Agreement is developed, it is signed by the Premier and Mayor, and lasts for three more years.

A Peak Group is established for each bilateral and regional Partnership Agreement. The Peak Group has high level representation from the State Government and the Council/regional body, to ensure effective management of the development and implementation process. It is chaired by a Secretary or a Deputy Secretary of a State Agency and includes a State Government representative, who is, in most cases, a Minister. Council representation usually includes the Mayor, General Manager, a number of other Councillors/Aldermen and senior managers, as determined by the Council. It is usual for all State agencies with an interest in the Agreement to nominate staff from management positions to represent them on the Peak Groups.

Appendix 2 lists the Government representatives and Heads or Deputy Heads of State agencies that oversee each bilateral and regional Agreement.

Statewide Agreements may be overseen by Steering Committees or Working Parties, with both State Government and LGAT involvement. The Tripartite Partnership Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania will be overseen by a Steering Committee with Australian Government, State Government and LGAT representation.

Premier's Local Government Council

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) was formed in 2000 as a forum for high-level discussion between the State and Local Government on issues of statewide significance. Its first meeting was held in February 2000 and eighteen meetings have now been held. Its nineteenth meeting will be held on 7 December 2006.

The PLGC monitors the progress of major projects and statewide Partnership Agreements and also provides a forum for the discussion of topical issues. Over the years the parties have entered into four statewide Partnership Agreements: on waste management, simplifying planning schemes, State and Local Government financial reform (all now concluded) and communication and consultation.

The PLGC is chaired by the Premier, Paul Lennon. Local Government membership includes the President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania and the seven other members of the General Management Committee of the LGAT. The full membership list is attached in Appendix 3.

The Officials Committee supports the PLGC, with membership provided from Local Government and State agencies. The full membership list is also attached in Appendix 3.

Part 2: Summary of Progress

Summary of Progress in Partnership Agreements

Bilateral and Regional Partnership Agreements

By November 2006, the following 27 Councils and three regional bodies had signed at least an initial Partnership Agreement with the State Government:

- Break O'Day
- Brighton
- Burnie City
- Central Coast
- Central Highlands
- Circular Head (2nd PA)
- Clarence City
- Cradle Coast Authority (regional)
- Derwent Valley
- Devonport City
- Dorset
- Flinders
- George Town
- Glamorgan-Spring Bay
- Glenorchy City
- Hobart City
- Kentish
- Kingborough
- King Island
- Latrobe
- Launceston City (2nd PA)
- Meander Valley
- Northern Midlands
- Northern Tasmania Development (regional)
- Sorell
- Southern Tasmanian Councils (regional)
- Tasman
- Waratah-Wynyard
- West Coast
- West Tamar

First bilateral Partnership Agreements are being negotiated with Southern Midlands and Huon Valley Councils.

In the last year, there has been progress in relation to second Partnership Agreements with Councils and regional bodies as follows:

- Break O'Day
There has been considerable progress to review the first Agreement and identify ongoing and new issues for the second Agreement.
- Burnie City
Discussions have been held on the content and process for the second Agreement. It is expected that issues and the process for the new Agreement will be finalised so the Agreement can be negotiated early in 2007.

- Central Highlands
The review of the first Agreement and collection of issues for the second is underway.
- Cradle Coast Authority
The Authority and State agencies have continued to work well together, following the establishment of effective working relationships through the first Agreement. Discussions have been held on a more flexible approach to the second Agreement to reflect the wide range of action that is occurring, without adding unnecessarily to reporting workloads.
- Derwent Valley
As for Central Highlands.*
- Flinders
The draft second Agreement is being updated and will be reconsidered by the parties.
- George Town
The first Agreement has been reviewed and issues for the second one are close to finalisation. Negotiations will commence early in 2007.
- Glamorgan-Spring Bay
As for George Town.
- Glenorchy City
Following considerable negotiation to confirm issues for the second Agreement, Working Groups are finalising the drafting of the Agreement. It is expected to be ready for signing early in 2007.
- Hobart City
There have been discussions at officer level towards a second Agreement. As with other second Agreements, consideration is being given to a flexible approach to suit the needs of both parties.*
- Kingborough
A number of discussions have been held on a broad strategic focus for the second Agreement, to reflect key State Government commitments, in the 'Kingborough Package' announced during the March 2006 State election, including the \$30 million commitment to a new high school in Kingston. *
- King Island
As for George Town.
- Latrobe
The review of the first Agreement and collection of issues for the second Agreement are being finalised. Negotiations will commence early in 2007.

- Meander Valley
The review of the first Agreement is well advanced. Collection of issues for the second Agreement is underway.
- Northern Tasmania Development
There was considerable delay in the process, due to the restructuring of NTD, but it is expected that issues will be finalised so that negotiations can proceed early in 2007.*
- West Coast
The review of the first Agreement has been completed, State issues have been finalised and the Council is about to finalise its issues.

* **Please note:** There is no further report in the 'Detailed Progress' section because there is little, if anything, to add to progress reported in past years.

The process is likely to commence shortly for the development of second Partnership Agreements with Dorset, Northern Midlands and West Tamar Councils, which have all accepted the invitation from the Premier to develop a second Agreement.

A statistical summary of progress is included in Appendix 1.

Statewide and Tripartite Partnership Agreements

Details of statewide Partnership Agreements are reported in relation to the Premier's Local Government Council later in this report.

Summary of Outcomes

The Partnership Agreements program continues to deliver tangible outcomes to communities. Progress over the last twelve months has included significant achievements in relation to economic development, roads and transport, tourism, community safety, environment and land management, natural resource management, community and health services, arts, heritage and culture, youth services, education and training, and sport and recreation.

The Partnership Agreements have provided the mechanism for State agencies to work with Local Government to develop and implement plans and strategies that address local priorities, in key areas such as economic development, tourism, culture and the arts, events, positive ageing and sport and recreation. Improved community safety is a significant area of achievement of Partnership Agreements. It is common for them to include initiatives in relation to emergency management, crime prevention, Inter-Agency Support Panels and community road safety.

In many of these areas, the Partnership Agreements also provide a mechanism for effective joint action with the involvement of the Council, or several Councils, multiple State agencies and, in some cases, community organisations as well.

Each of the detailed reports on progress, in Part 3 of this report, includes a range of examples that demonstrate the breadth of the outcomes from Agreements. Some particular examples from the last year include:

- During the year, two highly productive forums organised by the Department of Economic Development and the Southern Tasmanian Councils were held to workshop issues relevant to economic development within the region. The outcome to date has involved the planning of a range of strategic projects that include skills and the availability of labour, water and waste water integration, settlement patterns, telecommunications and specific projects to further outcomes from the Integrated Regional Transport Plan.
- The State Government and Dorset Council are continuing to work together to develop the Trail of the Tin Dragon to celebrate the Chinese Community's rich mining heritage in the Dorset area. The trail was officially launched in July 2004 and is being supported by a number of Government Departments under the Partnership Agreement. This year, the State Government has provided \$1.8 million for the Trail. Break O'Day and Launceston City Councils are also involved in the project.
- Waratah-Wynyard Council and Economic Development staff have met with staff from Burnie City Council and Central Coast Council in relation to investigating the possibility of undertaking a coordinated approach to development planning for strategic industrial infrastructure for the region.

- A draft Management Plan for the Tooms Lake area has been completed this year and legal issues, surrounding existing management responsibilities, have been resolved. Further negotiation is now required to secure agreement on the draft management strategy, particularly tenure arrangements. A multi-discipline reference group was formed to develop and implement the management plan. The group consists of representatives from Macquarie River Water Trust, Northern Midlands Council, Freshwater Anglers Council of Tasmania (FACT), Department of Primary Industries and Water, representative of Tooms Lake Shack Owners, Inland Fisheries and the then Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment.
- The recent establishment of an Inter-Agency Support Panel involving Kentish, Latrobe and Devonport Councils has significantly advanced the sharing of information between relevant Government agencies as well as with the Councils. This panel, as with others throughout the State, is proving to be a good forum for information sharing in relation to youth issues.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Water, the Meander Valley Council and Natural Resource Management North are continuing to work together to implement a strategy for karst protection and property planning plans.
- An innovative and important community initiative has been the *Brighton Better Services Project*, which has continued this year, resulting in the completion of a Service Profile, 'Brighton Community Services Guide'. The Guide, which was compiled in close consultation with members of the community and local service providers, was officially launched on 7 August 2006. It is a directory of 170 organisations that deliver a wide range of services and advice to people living in Brighton, particularly children, young people and their families, and was delivered to households throughout the area.
- There has been further development of the Inveresk Arts precinct. Since November 2005, the State Government has provided a \$3 million funding package to enable Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery to attract more international exhibitions through the provision of a fully environmentally equipped gallery and dedicated temporary exhibition space. There has also been continued commitment to the development of the Aurora Stadium at York Park.
- Redevelopment of the Low Head precinct in the George Town municipal area continues. The second stage, which commenced this year, involves the upgrade of the Boat Crew cottages and the upgrade of the school house for accommodation. Funding has been secured from Federal and State Governments, and there has been commitment from Council to upgrade the sewerage system (connecting Low Head Pilot Station to the sewerage system).
- The Stanley Tourism Development Plan and Implementation Strategy has been completed and the parties are currently working together towards achieving the commitments contained in the document. The tourism potential of the Robbins Passage Wetland is being considered as part of the Stanley Tourism Development Plan.
- Implementation of Major Road Priorities is a major schedule of the recently signed Partnership Agreement with Clarence City Council, involving commitments from the State Budget. Actions and timeframes cover work including installation of traffic lights at the Mornington Roundabout and improvements to the South Arm Highway between the Shoreline Roundabout and Oceana Drive, and between Oceana Drive and Rokeby.

- The recently signed Partnership Agreement with Central Coast Council will build on the very successful work that has already occurred through the Central Coast Youth Engaged Steering Committee and its School-Business Alliance Project. They were initiated by the Council, and high school Principals will continue their active involvement in activities that are already improving participation rates in post year 10 education and training for young people.
- The building of the joint ambulance and State Emergency Service facility in Sheffield has been completed. It was jointly opened on 10 November 2006, by the Mayor, Ian Braid, and the Ministers for Police and Emergency Management, David Llewellyn, and Health and Human Services, Lara Giddings.
- Youth services have developed in many areas as a result of Councils working with State agencies through the Partnership Agreements. For example, in the Tasman area, the Youth Program has developed links with numerous community groups to contribute to community-based activities. The Youth Program also provides opportunities for young people to have contact with other members of the community through planning and implementing their own events. These opportunities include sourcing their own materials, event venues and other services.
- On the West Coast, funding through the Natural Resource Management (NRM) program enabled the ongoing employment of the Weed Officer to September 2006. The position is based at the Council Chambers in Zeehan, with Council hosting the position and providing a vehicle and administrative support. The Weed and Fire Management Group meets on a regular basis, coordinating numerous projects and maximising the resources of the stakeholders involved. Council has commented that this was a very successful part of the Partnership Agreement, with on-ground works exceeding expectations, and with many community individuals taking up the challenge and becoming responsible for their own lands.
- The West Tamar Council and the Department of Primary Industries and Water continue to work together, and with other stakeholders, to improve the Tamar estuary marine environment. The State Government has also provided \$115,000 for a three year statewide rice grass management program and a portion of this will be used in the West Tamar region to maintain the rice grass free zone.

In the coming year the State Government will continue its commitment to working in partnership and is confident many more positive outcomes will be achieved.

Part 3: Detailed Reports on Progress

Bilateral Partnership Agreements

Break O'Day

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Break O'Day Council was signed on 12 April 2002 and concluded on 12 April 2005. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement. Discussions and liaison between the State Government and the Council have occurred. Considerable progress has been made on the review of the first Agreement and the development of issues for the second one.

Although the Agreement concluded some time ago, the parties have continued to collaborate on particular initiatives. For example, work in relation to the St Helens History Room and Visitor Information Centre came to fruition with the official opening on 4 May 2006. Through the first Partnership Agreement, Tourism Tasmania facilitated the extension of the St Helens History Room and the relocation of the Online Access Centre to the new premises. The Tasmanian Community Fund provided \$186,000 for the project and the State Library and Arts Tasmania provided additional funding for equipment, training and a professional curatorial management system. Tourism Tasmania also supported the development and the implementation plan for the History Room.

The Visitor Information Centre also worked hard to meet the accreditation standards and was accepted into the Tasmanian Visitor Information Network in September 2006. It now has yellow 'i' status and is part of the statewide network.

Other developments include:

- In November 2005, the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) and the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the coordination and data sharing of water quality monitoring activities. The Council actively assists DPIW with the collection of samples at the Georges River Stream Flow Monitoring Station, and this data is made available on DPIW's web site. The Station, which was opened in September 2004, is monitored as part of the water quality Baseline Monitoring Program and Baseline Pesticide Monitoring Program.
- In March 2006, with assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services, Break O'Day Council finalised its Community Recovery Plan.

Some of the highlights of the first Partnership Agreement are as follows:

- A local tourism plan including a Touring Route Plan was developed;
- A new initiative, added to the Agreement after the 2003 evaluation, proved to be very successful. Tasmania Police convened a meeting of the Safer Communities Committee and regular meetings of the Break O'Day Community Safety Committee continue to be conducted.
- The Binalong Bay walkway was upgraded. The State Government contributed \$6,500 and the Council \$3,000 towards the upgrade.

Brighton

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Brighton Council was signed on 2 September 2004. It is a wide ranging Agreement with a number of innovative initiatives, as well as standard ones that are common to many Agreements.

One such innovative and important initiative has been the *Brighton Better Services Project*, which has continued this year. As part of the Partnership Agreement commitments, a Steering Committee was formed and given the responsibility for investigating structures and processes to improve the coordination and efficiency of government and community investment in the Brighton municipal area.

The project resulted this year in the completion of a Service Profile, 'Brighton Community Services Guide'. The Guide was compiled in close consultation with members of the community and local service providers and was officially launched on 7 August 2006. The Guide is a directory of 170 organisations that deliver on a wide range of services and advice to people living in Brighton, particularly children, young people and their families and was delivered to households throughout the area.

The following progress has been made on other Agreement initiatives since November 2005:

- Following the development of the Tourism Plan in 2005, the Council is liaising with local businesses to further explore marketing options under the 'Brand Tasmania' framework.
- A brochure marketing the Brighton Industrial Estate has been produced, and the parties are currently preparing a strategic development plan for the site.
- An Arts Committee with community members was formed in January 2006. The first event organised was Circus Risque, which was performed at the Pontville Hall on 11 January 2006 to a full house. Other activities organised include a comedy night, one act plays and film nights. In April a mural competition was also held.
- Work on a traffic management plan for the East Derwent Highway and the Midland Highway is continuing.
- Information about local events and attractions can now be accessed via the Discover Tasmania and Online Access Centre's websites.
- The Bridgewater-Brighton Online Access Centre now hosts a comprehensive online listing of local community organisations as part of the statewide Tasmania's Community Net database. This service has been promoted to the community with training provided in how to create and maintain a listing. A similar arrangement exists for the display of local business information through BizTas, the State Government's online business directory.
- A Sport and Recreation Plan has been developed and implementation is now underway.
- The learning needs of the community and how these could be best met are being examined. This year a computer training program for members of the community was provided.
- In August, tenders for the supply and installation of gas hot water units was awarded. Tenants will be given the opportunity to convert their hot water systems to natural gas from now until April 2008.

- An Inter-Agency Support Panel, which includes Police, Education, Child and Family Services, has been established aimed at helping young people, aged from birth to Grade 6, who have complex and multiple needs, and require support and assistance. The aim is to work with the young children and their families.
- The Bridgewater/Gagebrook Urban Renewal Project (BURP) together with Tasmania Police is investigating holding special road safety days at local shopping centres to raise awareness about road crashes caused through vehicle defects.
- A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been appointed whose role is to respond to the needs of the community, particularly youth and positive ageing needs. A youth policy has recently been adopted by the Council.
- A partnership with St. Vincent de Paul has been developed and, as a result, 'Louie's Van' now provides meals and support to people in need in Bridgewater on Friday evenings. The service has recently been extended to provide additional support and assistance to women and young people in Gagebrook during lunchtime on Tuesdays. A number of volunteers from within the community are supporting this initiative.
- The 'Remember Me' project has been launched. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of urban speeding, and to assist the community to 'reclaim the streets' as safe pedestrian zones.
- A review was recently completed of the Brighton Emergency Management Plan in conjunction with the SES, Council and other emergency services. The Plan has been reviewed and submitted for final approval.
- The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources is working with the Council on resolving future traffic management requirements. These include a number of locations along the East Derwent Highway and sections of the Midlands Highway from the East Derwent Highway to Pontville.

Other highlights of this Partnership Agreement since its commencement include:

- The Department of Economic Development ran a series of promotional features about the Brighton Industrial Estate in the Tasmanian Business Reporter.
- The 'Lifestyle Options Working Group' developed a Lifestyle Options Implementation Plan for the Brighton community.
- Irrigation opportunities for the Brighton municipal area have been investigated as part the development of a Statewide Agricultural Opportunities prospectus.

Burnie City

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Burnie City Council was signed on 6 September 2002 and concluded on 6 September 2005.

Work on the second Partnership Agreement with Council has been progressing, including discussions with the Council officers of possible changes to both the Agreement and the development process. Consideration is being given to streamlining the Agreement process and particular strategic initiatives. Since the conclusion of the Agreement, the parties have also continued to collaborate on a range of initiatives.

Major achievements during the life of the first Agreement have been reported in the last two Annual Reports to Parliament. Since November 2005, additional information has been received during the review process on the following achievements:

- Successful arts based community projects have been developed involving mural arts, recreation and life skills development all with the aim of providing opportunities for rehabilitation of young offenders.
- Community Participation and Leadership was supported in the first Agreement through a working group and the Arthur District Community Learning Partnerships Consultative Group. Specific projects were pursued with individual schools as opportunities were identified. For example, the Council partnered with Parklands High School to implement the community service section of the Essential Learnings Curriculum and the Council worked with Hellyer College, Tasmania Police and the North West Youth Health Unit to apply for government funds to run a two year program aimed at giving young people alternative creative leisure. The parties were successful in obtaining \$80,000 from the Federal Government under a National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS) grant.
- The Community Learning Partnership Group also provided support to young people in the development of individual pathway plans in relation to their education and job aspirations. State Government is contributing \$819,000 towards this project and a further \$544,000 was received under the Commonwealth's Sustainable Regions Program.
- The Council's Children's Services division was selected as the preferred provider to operate a fifty-place long day care centre at Milpara Early Learning Centre at the Burnie Primary School. The centre development saw an investment of over \$600,000 from the State Government towards infrastructure costs.
- Collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Economic Development (DED) and Council occurred on methods to assist community groups to grow and thrive. An application for Federal Government funding to provide governance training for local not-for-profit organisations was successful and training was provided to organisations that wanted to participate.
- A number of successful partnerships were established with schools for the sharing of facilities, including the operation and development of Outside School Hours Care programs on seven school sites.

- As part of enhancing the visitor experience at the Burnie Wildlife Interpretation Centre, the Environment Division of DTAE provided advice on threatened species conservation, silver gull management and on penguin habitat conservation.
- Council, in collaboration with the Seniors Bureau and DHHS, developed a Positive Ageing Plan and implementation strategy.
- A range of community safety initiatives were pursued through the first Agreement. Notable projects include the “Who’s DES Tonight” (Designated Driver) project and the CBD Safety project (a Closed Circuit Television monitoring system). At the completion of the Agreement, Tasmanian Police reported that the profile of community safety in Burnie had been raised considerably, with the Community Safety Program enabling increased community involvement in strategies to prevent crime and promote safer communities.

Central Coast

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Central Coast Council was signed on 15 October 2006.

The Partnership Agreement will build on the very successful work that has already occurred through the Central Coast Youth Engaged Steering Committee and its School-Business Alliance Project. They were initiated by the Council and high school Principals will continue their active involvement in these activities that are already improving participation rates in post year 10 education and training for young people.

Other initiatives that will be progressed over the next three years include:

- Working on specific strategies to maximise economic development outcomes for Central Coast and the State and to support the attraction, retention and growth of business, including joint participation in the development of a Business Case for a Central Coast Community Enterprise Centre.
- Development of a strategy to improve utilisation and the long term viability of the Penguin Athletics Track.
- Exploration of tourism development opportunities in the Leven Canyon area and development of a Local Visitor Strategy which will examine opportunities for sites such as Dial Range, Leven Canyon and Leith Foreshore Public Reserve.
- Cultural planning initiatives including an examination of the Cradle Coast Cultural Audit and assistance to the Ulverstone History Museum.
- Examination of the future maintenance and enhancement of Preservation Drive between Penguin and Sulphur Creek.
- Initiatives related to the Leven and Gawler River Bridges and development of the Ulverstone wharf buildings and associated land.
- Participation in the Mersey Emergency Management Planning Committee.
- Regular formal meetings re community safety.
- Initiatives related to the management of at risk youth and reducing family violence, eg continuation of the Inter-Agency Support Panel and facilitation of information flow on family violence through the Central Coast Community Safety Partnership Committee.
- Raising awareness of the benefits of healthier food options and exercise through the Healthy Living program.
- Development of a health focussed program for presentation during Youth Week in 2007.
- Raising community awareness of issues and services related to disability.
- Developing a Positive Ageing Plan.

Central Highlands

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Central Highlands Council was signed on 15 October 2002 and it concluded on 15 October 2005. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the issues for negotiation.

Since its conclusion the parties have continued to collaborate on particular initiatives that they had started work on during the term of the first Partnership Agreement. Since November 2005, it has been reported that:

- The Central Highlands Primary Health Care Project has now been established to examine issues, such as the engagement and retention of rural doctors, and to assist in the implementation of the Rural Mental Health Plan.
- A brochure identifying available training programs for community use provided by individual schools in the area has been produced.
- The parties continue to develop mechanisms for auditing current water monitoring activities, exchange of water monitoring data and proposals to increase the cost-effectiveness of water monitoring activities. They have also agreed to undertake pesticide monitoring in the Central Highlands region.
- The Highlands Roads Consultative Group continues to meet regularly to discuss relevant issues such as signs, local safety issues, maintenance and environmental issues as well as issues relating to the Highland Lakes Road.

Some of the highlights of the first Partnership Agreement include:

- A number of upgrades to water and sewerage infrastructure have been undertaken and those at Gretna, Ouse and Bothwell have been completed.
- A Weed Management Strategy for the mapping of priority weeds has been completed. As a result, high priority weeds have been the target of an eradication/control program. In addition, the DPIW Regional Weed Management Officer delivered a weed hygiene training workshop to Council staff and community members. A Code of Best Practice has been developed to deal with weed management in a way that can be implemented by staff and contractors.
- The Rivers Run touring map and guide has been printed and released.
- In 2003-04 Central Highlands Council received funding from the State Government to develop the final stage of the youth participation model and youth policy project.

Circular Head

The second bilateral Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Circular Head Council was signed on 20 September 2004. Circular Head Council was the first Council to sign a first Partnership Agreement with the State Government in June 1999, as well as the first Council to sign a second one.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- The Stanley Tourism Development Plan and Implementation Strategy has been completed and the parties are currently working together towards achieving the commitments contained in the document.
- The tourism potential of the Robbins Passage Wetland is being considered as part of the Stanley Tourism Development Plan.
- A survey to identify community safety issues and concerns has been conducted and the findings were reported on through the Community Safety Report. Some of the actions being undertaken in light of the Report include: regular foot patrols by Police in CBD areas including stopping to talk to locals; “Project Bonnet” program to reduce the number of motor vehicle burglaries; and targeted patrolling of locations troubled by anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- A draft Sport and Recreation plan is being finalised prior to its release for public comment.
- Plans for the new age care facility were published during March 2006. As part of the examination of age care requirements in the Circular Head area, the parties have agreed that a new facility is required and have agreed on the preferred site. A fund raising committee has been formed and submissions forwarded to the Australian and State Governments have been successful. The Australian Government has agreed to commit \$2.5 million, the State Government has agreed to commit \$1 million and the Council will be contributing to the project both in funding and in kind to the value of \$1.5 million.

Other highlights of this Partnership Agreement since its commencement include:

- The State Government provided \$200,000 in funding for the completion of the multi-purpose Community and Recreation Centre.
- The State Emergency Service continues to support the SES volunteer unit and its emergency management projects.
- The Council and the State Government have jointly supported a private sector submission to the Commonwealth for funding an Aged Care Facility.
- A Careers Expo was held in October 2005 and there is ongoing dialogue between the Government and Council through the Circular Head Education and Training Consultative Committee.

Clarence City

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Clarence City Council was signed on 23 October 2006 and, therefore, implementation has just commenced.

Broad ranging initiatives will be progressed over the next three years. Implementation of Major Road Priorities is a major schedule involving commitments from the State Budget. Actions and timeframes cover work including:

- installation of traffic lights at the Mornington Roundabout;
- improvements to the South Arm Highway between the Shoreline Roundabout and Oceana Drive, and between Oceana Drive and Rokeby;
- review of the scope, requirements and benefits of a Richmond bypass; and
- contingency planning related to the Tasman Bridge.

Other initiatives include:

- Examination of further development opportunities in the Kangaroo Bay Marine Precinct.
- A coordinated and planned approach to infrastructure, in particular, identification and prioritisation of the water and sewerage infrastructure needs to support economic growth and identify possible future funding strategies and programs.
- Strategies for completing the development of a continuous multi-user pathway from Geilston Bay to Opossum Bay.
- Joint management protocols for land such as Rosny Hill and Kangaroo Bluff.
- Fire management and the development of a fire management plan for the Meehan Range.
- Development of the Clarence Jazz Festival as a major event for the region and the identification of opportunities to promote other events in the area.
- Development of initiatives and programs based around the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's new premises at Rosny, and Arts Tasmania assistance with Council's Cultural Arts Plan.
- Continued development of the Convict Trail Touring Route Strategy.
- A coordinated approach to mental health service provision to children, adolescents and young people, with better links to national and State drug and mental health strategies.
- Strategies to enhance information networks between Disability Services and Council.
- Exploring practical ways to provide safe after school services for primary school children and developing strategies to enhance networks regarding the provision of information about health services.
- Identifying possible affordable housing initiatives.
- Development of a cultural awareness plan and volunteer program.
- Examine the education and training needs of the area, including development of partnering opportunities with other public and private organisations.

Devonport City

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Devonport City Council was signed on 15 September 2004.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- A Service Level Agreement was signed in June 2006, which will facilitate the sharing and greater integration of state-wide emergency management data.
- Ongoing cooperation on developing and increasing the use of sewerage system modelling to assist with prioritising works and long term management of the system.
- Arrangements for verge and landscape maintenance on the areas abutting the Bass Highway and Victoria Bridge have been finalised.
- Training for Environmental Health Officers has been provided and will continue to be offered if changes of staff occur.
- The community safety liaison group is working on a Community Safety Plan for Devonport.
- An events strategy has been developed and 'Jazz in July', was one of the events organised.
- There have been a number of projects directed at local youth such as National Youth Week and Harmony Week, and information sessions about youth services and programs. Furthermore, alternative education programs have been organised at Zone Youth Centre and as part of 'Young Achievers' entrepreneur activities held with Reece and Devonport High School.
- Community Youth Justice assisted Devonport Council in its preparation of a submission for funding to the National Crime Prevention Community Partnership Program. As part of providing opportunities for rehabilitation of young offenders, the Council's Maintenance Services Division recently employed two persons on a full time basis.
- A number of options are being considered under the Healthy Options Tasmania (HOT) program one such is reassessment of businesses previously accredited with HOT.

Dorset

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Dorset Council was signed on 14 October 2003 and it concluded on 14 October 2006. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement. The review of the first Agreement will now be undertaken and the development process for the second Agreement will proceed.

There continues to be a close working relationship between Council and the Department of Economic Development, with the most recent example being the close advisory role the Department has provided to the management committee of the Trail of the Tin Dragon.

The State Government has provided \$1.8 million for the Trail of the Tin Dragon, which celebrates the history of tin mining and the presence of up to 1,000 Chinese prospectors in the North-East in the late 19th Century. Break O'Day and Launceston City Councils are also involved in the project.

Other progress made since November 2005 includes:

- Another six business projects were assisted under the Dorset Economic Development Group Inc. The State Government provided \$35,000 in assistance to those businesses to help with either the start up or expansion costs.
- Water meters have been installed for most commercial users taking water from the Great Forester river and its tributaries. Installation of water meters in the Ringarooma catchment will be undertaken once the Ringarooma Water Management Planning process is finalised. It is expected that installation of water meters for commercial water extractions from other rivers and streams in the Dorset municipal area will be completed over the next 2 years.
- A Regional Weeds management strategy is being developed.
- An upgrade of the hospital at Scottsdale is in progress. Day respite for dementia clients has increased and is now available once a week. It is planned that the further extensions and upgrade will provide five additional aged care beds.

Other highlights of this Partnership Agreement since its commencement include:

- Overall, the Dorset Economic Development Group Inc has supported 28 business projects and the State Government, through the North East Tasmania Assistance Program, has provided \$250,000 in financial assistance to these businesses. This has in turn resulted in \$1.5m investment in the area and 43 new jobs.
- Dorset Council introduced a three-year pilot rate rebate scheme for properties with perpetual covenants on title, under the Private Forest Reserves Program or the Protected Areas on Private Land Program. Council and the Government are cooperating to manage waste disposal on land administered by Parks and Wildlife.
- A Core passenger services review has been undertaken. Dorset Council is working in partnership with Community Transport and Dorset Community House in providing community transport options.

- The five Centres forming the Dorset e-Centre now have a recurrent funding allocation and are implementing local strategies within the framework of the revised Tasmanian Communities Online mission, goals and program scope.

Flinders

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Flinders Council was signed on 20 October 2000 and concluded on 20 October 2003. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement and considerable work occurred leading to a draft second Agreement. This is to be updated and reconsidered by the parties.

Since the conclusion of the first Agreement, the parties have continued to collaborate on particular initiatives that they had started work on during the term of that Agreement. Since November 2005, it has been reported that:

- The upgrading of Wingaroo Road has been completed. The State Government contributed \$112,000 to this project.
- The Department of Education continued to deliver a range of face to face and on line courses to year 11/12 students on the Island. Courses include customer service and aged care.
- A social worker continues to visit Flinders Island on a regular basis.

George Town

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and George Town Council was signed on 25 March 2003 and concluded on 25 March 2006. The parties have agreed to develop a second bilateral Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the issues for negotiation.

Since the conclusion of the first Agreement, the parties have continued to collaborate on particular initiatives that they had started work on during the term of that Agreement. Since November 2005, the following progress has been reported:

- The second stage of the development of the Low Head precinct has commenced. Stage 2 involves the upgrade of the Boat Crew cottages and the upgrade of the school house for accommodation. Funding has been secured from Federal and State Governments, with commitment from Council to upgrade the sewerage system (connecting Low Head Pilot Station to the sewerage system).
- Work on the Recreational Trail from Bell Bay to Low Head has been completed.
- Work on the development of York Cove has commenced. Public infrastructure that will be constructed as part of this includes: a public boat ramp, a village green and car park, disabled amenities, a barbecue area, walkways and a beach on the north-western side of the development.
- A strategic review of the Municipal Revaluation System has been conducted to provide for the provision of timely and cost effective valuation services.
- The redevelopment of the hospital has commenced with dental surgeries to be completed in stage 1 along with the hospital inpatient facility due for completion in late February 2007.
- An Inter-Agency Support Panel is developing support plans for young people and families who are identified as being at risk.
- The parties secured just over \$18,000 under the Envirofund Program for the preparation of a coastal management plan. The plan provides for the general management of Bass Strait beaches within the municipal area.

Other highlights of this Partnership Agreement since its commencement include:

- Redevelopment of the Low Head precinct has occurred. The Watch House redevelopment has been integrated with the overall Low Head development and is being used extensively.
- A number of coastal reserve management actions were completed. Signs were erected to control horses, dogs, and vehicles within foreshore areas. A project to eradicate African Boxthorn was undertaken and around 200 native seedlings have been planted on the foreshore. A new boardwalk has been completed through the dune system and some revegetation work has been undertaken.
- Sport and Recreation Tasmania has provided assistance to the Council on the preparation of a feasibility study into a new community recreation centre and the development of the Hillwood Recreation Ground Plan.

Glamorgan-Spring Bay

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council was signed on 3 December 2002 and concluded on 3 December 2005. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the issues for negotiation.

As for other Agreements that have concluded, work has continued this year on particular initiatives including:

- The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation has provided funding to investigate water usage and effects on estuarine health and oyster production within the Little Swanport estuary. As part of this project, a steering committee will be formed from community members to provide advice on the environmental values within the estuary.
- A Positive Ageing strategy has been developed for the municipal area. The strategy is based on the identified community needs and the parties are now collaborating on implementing the strategy.

Other highlights of this Partnership Agreement since its commencement include:

- The Glamorgan-Spring Bay Tourism Plan was developed and the Freycinet Tourism Board is overseeing the implementation of the plan. A Touring Map and Guide were also developed.
- The Bicheno water treatment plant has been upgraded through a grant of \$500,000 from the Clean Quality Water Program. The State Government provided around \$250,000 of funding through the Water Development Plan to develop a proposal for a new dam on Blueman's Creek to augment the water supply for Swansea.
- The State Government, Council and Federal Hotels developed three applications for dam works to augment the Coles Bay water supply, which were all approved by the Assessment Committee for dam construction. The Australian Government provided \$720,000 in capital funding towards these works, through the Water Development Plan.
- The Jubilee Beach boat ramp has been upgraded and an experienced coastal engineer was engaged to investigate options for the breakwater.
- Web page links have been established between the State Government and Council sites to provide better access to business assistance services.
- The Roadside Crash Marker Program was launched in June 2004. A number of road safety initiatives are now being implemented under the Partnership Agreement, including initiatives related to rural speeding, novice drivers, drink driving and bike safety.
- A new gymnasium was completed at the Triabunna District High School.
- A Community Learning Advisory Network (CLAN) was established to develop opportunities for young people such as local delivery of Adult Literacy training.

Glenorchy City

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Glenorchy City Council was signed on 19 October 2000 and concluded on 19 October 2003. The parties agreed to develop another Partnership Agreement and significant work was undertaken on the issues to be negotiated for the new Agreement.

The delays in this process were overcome by mid 2006. The development of the second Agreement is close to finalisation and is likely to be signed early in 2007.

Some of the issues being discussed as part of developing the second Partnership Agreement are a continuation from the initial Agreement and there are some new issues.

Key themes include:

- A caring community: community and health issues related to aboriginal people, young people, family support, early childhood and parenting, health promotion, mental health, disability services aged services and housing issues;
- Promoting educational excellence: issues including post compulsory and lifelong learning, library issues, school ground usage and mentoring;
- A safer community: issues related to community safety, crime prevention and family violence;
- Economic development: labour market issues and development opportunities;
- Efficient transport arrangements: Brooker Highway issues and road safety;
- An exciting creative community: tourism and events;
- An active community: improved opportunities for physical activity and sport and recreation planning;
- An environmentally sustainable community: exchange of information and management of foreshore, creeks and streams.

Kentish

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Kentish Council was signed on 16 July 2006 and implementation has commenced.

The following progress has already been reported:

- The building of the joint ambulance and State Emergency Service facility in Sheffield has been completed. It was jointly opened on 10 November 2006, by the Mayor, Ian Braid, and the Ministers for Police and Emergency Management, David Llewellyn, and Health and Human Services, Lara Giddings.
- The parties have commenced the review of the existing Kentish Tourism Strategy with a view to updating and addressing current and future issues.
- A development proposal and environmental management plan concerning Cradle Mountain development has been lodged by the Parks and Wildlife Service for consideration by Council.
- A meeting has been held to discuss strategies for sourcing funding for a feasibility study on the development opportunities at Gowrie Park and Lake Barrington.
- The Kentish Road Safety Committee is developing public consultation strategies for identifying key road safety issues in the municipal area. The problem of high-risk driving behaviour by young people has been flagged for particular attention.
- An Emergency Animal Disease workshop for the area is being organised.
- A Service Level Agreement for sharing land related information is being developed.
- The parties are exploring options for dealing with issues of drugs and alcohol related to young people in the municipal area.
- Vocational Education and Learning Development Officers have met with the Sheffield School Principal to discuss the introduction of the Guaranteeing Futures Pathway Planning Support program into grade 10 for 2007. Curriculum planning and professional learning will occur in term 3 of 2006.
- Council has taken action in relation to Lorinna Road. Through the Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Kentish Council, the Council has committed to liaise and consult with the Lorinna community about the road. The State Government will assist the Council with technical support with Council's review and assessment of road issues, including consideration of alternative routes.

Other schedules of the Partnership Agreement include:

- Improving the aesthetic appeal of approaches to towns within the municipal area and coming to agreement on arrangements for these improvements.
- Development of a Recreation Plan that will result in improved opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and physical activity.
- Strategies to increase the employment of apprentices and trainees.

King Island

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and King Island Council was signed on 3 April 2003 and concluded on 3 April 2006. The parties have agreed to develop another Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the review of the first Agreement and issues for negotiation for the second Agreement.

Work has continued on particular initiatives while the re-development process proceeds including:

- The parties have met to discuss opportunities for jointly addressing issues of agricultural equipment/plant contamination and exotic disease preparedness.
- Consideration is being given to the management and security of Parks and Wildlife (PWS) facilities on King Island. PWS has allocated \$8,000 for road works on reserved land and another \$65,000 has been allocated under Natural Resources Management funding to re-route the Lavinia access road and to provide campsites in the reserves as well as a boardwalk to the viewing platform at Seal Rocks.
- A high level working group has met to develop contingency shipping plans for King Island. An allocation has been made in the 2006 – 07 State Budget for contingency arrangements to assist King Island with shipping.

Some of the highlights of the first Partnership Agreement include:

- Ongoing cooperation on the delivery of land management services: The Currie Sewage Treatment Wetlands has been completed. Construction has been completed on the Parena Landfill. Construction of the Currie Waste Management Facility will commence shortly and rehabilitation of the Currie Tip has commenced.
- A Community Well being working group has been established to address current and future community well being issues for King Island.
- With the opening of the King Island Windfarm in February 2004, the amount of electrical energy produced from renewable sources on King Island has significantly increased.
- The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources has provided mineral prospectivity and land stability maps to Council.
- A local tourism plan was developed and its implementation is continuing.

Latrobe

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Latrobe Council was signed on 17 July 2003 and concluded on 17 July 2006. A review of the Agreement is close to completion. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the issues for negotiation for the Agreement.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- The parties continue to have discussions on natural resource management issues through the Rubicon Foreshore Management Group. Council has carried out maintenance grading on roads within Narawntapu National Park and some repair works to the other reserve roads.
- In March 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding for the greater coordination of ongoing water monitoring and data sharing activities was signed. Current baseline data continues to be made available via the Water Information System Tasmania (WIST) website.
- Council is having regular meetings with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources regarding traffic movements in and around the town of Latrobe, particularly along the Bass highway near Latrobe, with the view to developing a long term strategy.
- Training of relevant council staff in community recovery continues to be supported. As a result, necessary updates to Council's Recovery Management Plan have been made.
- In May 2006, Latrobe Council, the Seniors Bureau, the Positive Ageing Consultative Committee and Latrobe community members met to pursue the development of a stand alone Positive Ageing Strategic Plan for the municipal area.
- The then Office of Youth Affairs provided \$4,430 to the Latrobe Council to involve young people in the implementation of a website for the youth advisory group 'VOICE'.
- There has been an increase in police strength at Port Sorell and the reports suggest that there has been a decrease in crime in the Latrobe area recently.
- The recent establishment of an Inter-Agency Support Panel for the area, representing Kentish, Latrobe and Devonport Councils, has significantly advanced the sharing of information between relevant Government agencies. The committee is proving to be a good forum for information sharing in relation to youth issues.
- Council continues to work closely with the SES volunteer unit and is pleased with the manner in which it responds to all types of incidents and events. The commitment from the State Emergency Service to its volunteer unit remains high, with regular meetings and training, and this commitment is reflected in the attendance and input by SES in the Mersey Regional Emergency Planning Committee.

Launceston City

The second Partnership Agreement with the Launceston City Council was signed on 14 July 2005. Launceston City Council was the second Council after Circular head to sign both a first and second Agreement.

Since the signing, there has been considerable progress on initiatives in the second Agreement. Some action has built on the notable achievements through the first Agreement on major issues including:

- There has been further development of the Inveresk Arts precinct. Since November 2005, the State Government has provided a \$3 million funding package to enable Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery to attract more international exhibitions through the provision of a fully environmentally equipped gallery and dedicated temporary exhibition space.
- Since November 2005, there has been continued commitment to the development of the Aurora Stadium at York Park by funding the development of two new grandstands and the Jim Bacon Gates and the underwriting of AFL football games.
- In September 2006, Launceston's air quality met a target set by the National Environment Protection Measure on Air Quality two years ahead of schedule, mainly due to the success of the Woodheater Replacement program, Council smoke patrols, and State Government monitoring, reporting and educational programs.
- The design for a new Regional Aquatic Centre, to be constructed at Launceston's Windmill Hill, has been developed. State Government has already provided \$4 million and has agreed to provide a further \$1.3 million towards this \$18 million development.
- The State Government continues to provide \$240,000 per annum to fund the Tamar River dredging program.
- Through the Agreement, a State and Local Government Steering Committee has been established to address issues around the flood risk to Invermay from the Tamar River. In 2005, specialist consultants were contracted to research and recommend on the issue and a second report which was commissioned in 2006 to highlight the economic and public policy components of the flood risk, is now being finalised. In February 2006, the State Government committed funding of \$700,000, matching dollar for dollar with Council, to establish a program of works for Launceston's flood levee system.
- Launceston City Council and Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) have continued to address the issues of shipping vessels moored at Launceston's Kings Wharf. Further action will occur with recent changes made to the *Marine and Safety Authority Act 1997*.

- There has been ongoing support of the Tamar Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy including land mapping of salinity and salinity in urban areas. Those working with the strategy have successfully attracted funding for salinity and vegetation control initiatives. Salinity has been mapped across the Greater Launceston area and a project is under development to incorporate the information into the Planning Schemes of the Launceston City, Meander Valley and West Tamar Councils.

The following progress has been made since November 2005 on other Agreement initiatives:

- The Department of Economic Development provided funding for a study of industrial land in the Rocherlea area. The draft study has now been completed and the parties have agreed to develop a brief for a regional industrial land strategy.
- During August 2006, a number of events were held in Launceston as part of Tasmanian Living Writers' Week.
- Three years funding for the Wood Design Centre has been secured through contributions from Arts Tasmania and the Australian Government.
- Community road safety projects have been undertaken. To date, these have included older driver seminars, migrant road safety, free breath testing at the Launceston Cup and resource development targeting driver distraction. The Council has appointed a part time road safety officer to work in its Community Development area.
- A joint analysis of the current and future freight issues and impacts within Launceston led to traffic levels being recorded and a model set up and calibrated. Alternative options on freight access to the east of Launceston are now being investigated.
- There has been roll out of gas to residential households.

In addition to the Agreement, the State Government has:

- committed \$500,000 (and the Council \$400,000) towards development of a new regional tennis centre in Launceston to be located on the site of the old ABC Bowls club;
- helped fund Council staff to travel to Holland and to New Orleans in the United States to gain greater understanding of flood management options;
- appointed a new Local Government Liaison Officer, in the Environment Division of the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment, to assist Local Government with air quality education and to undertake broader education programs under the Tasmanian Air Quality Strategy.

Meander valley

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Meander Valley Council was signed on 24 July 2003 and concluded on 24 July 2006. A review of the Agreement is underway. The parties have agreed to develop another Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the issues for negotiation for the second Agreement.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- In March 2006 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Water Resources Division on DPIW and the Meander Valley Council for the greater coordination of water monitoring and data sharing between both parties.
- The parties continue to work together to address opportunities to maximise the potential economic, social and environmental benefits of the Meander Dam project.
- A land systems map of salinity for the Meander Valley has been completed.
- The Community Forest Agreement is providing funding for the protection of karst on private lands associated with forest, which involves the Meander Valley Council. DPIW, the Meander Valley Council and NRM North are working together to implement a strategy for karst protection and property planning plans.
- A priority schedule and protocol for the efficient transfer of Crown Land to Council has been finalised.
- The upgrade access to Lake Trevallyn between 43 and 45 Bayview Drive has been completed. Discussions are continuing with MAST and Council to resolve issues around water access in the Blackstone Heights area and the control and removal of illegal and unsafe jetties and pontoons.
- DIER has provided to Council a detailed register of road assets. An assessment report has also been completed. The report identified substantial financial implications from the life cost cycle. DIER, in consultation with Council, needs to review the priority of progressing this matter in the short term in the light of limited resources.
- A full time Youth Health Development Officer has been appointed, by the Council, for the life of the Regional Health Service funding. DHHS continues to work with the officer in developing youth leadership opportunities in the Meander Valley municipal area.
- The quarter ending June 2006, has seen the commencement of an Inter-Agency Support Panel in the area, which is an interdepartmental government panel aimed at early intervention to reduce the incidence of juvenile offending.
- An Aged Care Working Group has been formed to advise Council on current trends and issues in relation to Aged Care.
- The Council and the Department of Police and Emergency Management met to coordinate and improve the Meander Valley Emergency Management Plan.
- A recreation plan for Prospect Vale Park has been completed.

Some of the highlights of the first Partnership Agreement include:

- The Great Western Tiers touring route including the Westbury Historic Trail, Artists Studio Tour and Bike Tour and bundled packages with operators of Marakoopa Caves and Trowunna Wildlife has been completed.
- The current Memorandum of Understanding on water quality monitoring has been updated to reflect the addition of pesticide monitoring in the Meander Valley region. The DPIW continues to post current State water quality and quantity information on its web site. The parties are assessing possible funding options for upgrading the Westbury treated water supply.
- A cross-tenure karst management strategy is being developed alongside the impending Karst Best Practice Management Project.
- Implementation of the Meander Valley Youth Strategy and Youth Forum recommendations continues.
- The Community Safety Liaison Group is meeting on a regular basis.

Northern Midlands

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Northern Midlands Council was signed on 5 December 2003 and will conclude on 5 December 2006. A review of the Agreement will then proceed. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- The Events Strategy for the Northern Midlands is now in place and is being implemented through a cooperative and practical approach, with Events Tasmania working with Northern Midlands Council. The development of existing events and the creation of new events through the life of the Partnership Agreement include: Evandale Village Fair and Penny Farthing Championships, Trout Expo at Cressy and Transit of Venus bicentenary 2004. Planning is underway for a proposed National Military Collectors event to be held in Campbelltown in 2008.
- A Service Level Agreement has been signed, which replaces the old Data Share Agreement and provides opportunities for increased sharing of data, as well as allowing for discussion about relevant work programs that may assist each party.
- A draft Management Plan for the Tooms Lake area has now been completed and legal issues, surrounding existing management responsibilities, have been resolved. Further negotiation is now required to secure agreement on the draft management strategy, particularly tenure arrangements.
- There is ongoing liaison between the Department of Economic Development and Council over individual business opportunities.
- Maintenance licences for weed, fire and feral animal control now cover sections of reserved roads on and around Gibbet Hill. The Parks and Wildlife Service has worked cooperatively with local landowners to assist with chemical spray or mechanical removal of weeds and fire hazards in return for ongoing maintenance.
- The first election of trustees for the Elizabeth Macquarie Water Trust has been organised. The parties are now assisting the new Trust to put in place arrangements to manage the new Lake Leake/Elizabeth/Macquarie Irrigation District and the Tooms Lake/Macquarie River Irrigation District.
- Funding has been provided by the State Government under the Sustainable Management of Agricultural Resources in Tasmania (SMART) Farming initiative to continue investigation work for irrigation water development projects.
- Investigation of options for the upgrade of Campbell Town, Ross and Cressy town water supplies has been completed, with the State Government providing \$15,000 for the Campbell Town /Ross study.
- A successful Youth Summit was held March 2006. Opportunities for involving young people in local decision making and conducting activities are being made available and actioned wherever possible.

- Tasmania Police is actively supporting early intervention programs for youth at risk and continues to support Council's Youth Development Officer in the diversion of youth from the court system into community service through Council's Youth Support Placement Program. An Inter-Agency Support Panel has recently been established in the municipal area and is meeting on a regular basis.
- The Northern Midlands Community Recovery Plan was completed in July 2006 and a desktop community recovery exercise organised for December 2006.

Sorell

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Sorell Council was signed on 21 July 2006. Implementation has commenced.

Some of the initiatives that will be progressed over the next three years include:

- Establishing effective working relationships between the Department of Economic Development and the Council to ensure there is information sharing and project cooperation.;
- A structured review and assessment to define and understand traffic flow issues through Sorell and Midway Point and to develop viable options for now and in the future that respond to the issues identified by the review.
- A Positive Ageing Plan for Sorell, based on community needs, the Council's Strategic Plan and the suggestions for Local Government outlined in the Tasmanian Plan for Positive Ageing 2000 – 2005.
- Development of programs and strategies to reduce the incidence of Ross River Virus.
- Development of cultural strategies using outcomes of an audit and/or community consultation to create opportunities for increased participation, employment and investment in cultural activities and culturally based enterprises.
- A range of environment and land management issues including sewerage infrastructure, management of the Orielson Lagoon/Pittwater RAMSAR site, information sharing and protection of Aboriginal heritage sites.
- Commitment to maintaining a Mental Health Service resource in the municipal area.
- Support for young people to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Development of processes to support the shared use of Department of Education facilities.
- Establishment of a framework and process to facilitate staff exchanges that will enable cross sector development and the transfer of skills and knowledge.

Southern Midlands

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Southern Midlands Council is being negotiated. The Protocol Arrangements with agreed issues for negotiation were signed on 8 July 2006. Since then, nine working groups have been developing the schedules that will form the Partnership Agreement. It is expected that the Agreement will be finalised soon and ready for formal approval and signing early in 2007.

Issues in the following areas being discussed as part of developing the Partnership Agreement:

- Economic Development;
- Heritage;
- Cultural and arts planning;
- Tourism;
- Environment and land management;
- Roads and transport;
- Community safety;
- Community health and wellbeing;
- Education; and
- Sport and recreation.

Tasman

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Tasman Council was signed on 11 May 2004 and is being implemented.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- An agreement has been reached to manage maintenance services on reserved lands. The Parks and Wildlife Service (in DTAE) has agreed with Council that PWS will manage pedestrian safety and access and Council will manage vehicle use.
- Public consultation processes for development of the Pirates Bay Visitor Services Zone, including the Blowhole precinct, have been undertaken.
- Under the NRM South regional strategy, the Council is involved in the South East Coastal Management Planning and it received \$300,000 to implement the integrated South East Coastal Management Strategy. The funding will be used for shore birds, weed management and revegetation works at Pittwater.
- PWS has conducted an autumn fuel reduction burn at the Coal Mines Historic Site and plans more there as part of its partnership with Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA).
- Funding has been obtained to engage a consultant to develop Council's risk management strategy.
- The Tasman Tourism Development Strategy was finalised and endorsed in August and funding has been obtained from Regional Partnerships to employ a project officer to assist with the implementation.
- A Convict Trail brochure including a map of the trail has been developed and published.
- There have been a number of information workshops, held at Port Arthur Historic Site, providing architectural/conservational advice in relation to stabilisation of buildings and about funding available for restoration and maintenance of heritage buildings.
- The parties continue to work through the national forum to have Port Arthur included on the list of Australian Convict Sites nomination for World Heritage listing with UNESCO.
- PAHSMA, in conjunction with the Tasman community arts group Out on a Limb, hosted a concert by The Australian String Quartet in early August. PAHSMA's other contributions to the social, intellectual and economic life of the Tasman Peninsula include:
 - Sponsorship arrangement with the local radio station, Tasman FM;
 - Sponsoring of a local musician and his group *The Barking Dawgs* to enable them to promote a week of performances featuring *For the Term of His Natural Life* in Cygnet and Hobart;
 - A service commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Port Arthur Massacre;
 - 'Port Arthur Talks' – public lectures. Two most recent talks include '*Buried in common, unmarked graves up to six bodies deep*' and '*Re-enacting at historic sites: Slavery at Colonial Williamsburg*'.

- A skate park in Judd Park Nubeena is being developed; currently the parties are considering a sculpture project for the same park.
- A family/volunteers health promotion event was conducted in May 2006. This provided activity for children and health promotion materials were distributed in show bags.
- A pilot project 'The Loop', that provides transport for young people within the Tasman Municipal area, has been implemented. This was made possible through a grant from the then Office of Youth Affairs.
- The Multi Purpose Service Social Worker and Youth Development Officer provided training assistance to secondary students and assisted them to facilitate a communication program with primary students.
- The Youth Program has developed links with numerous community groups to contribute to community-based activities. These activities have included a family/volunteers day and a men's health day. Plans are afoot for Seniors Week. The youth program also provides opportunities for young people to have contact with other members of the community through planning and implementing their own events. These opportunities include sourcing their own materials, event venues and other services.
- The Youth Worker has now been trained in Parent Effectiveness Training and will now run training for parents in the Tasman Community. The Community and School Social Workers continue to work together where appropriate.

Other highlights of this Partnership Agreement since its commencement include:

- PAHSMA was placed on the National Heritage List on 6 June 2005. This was an essential step to enable World Heritage Listing to be progressed.
- A six month Green Corps program in 2005 provided opportunities for leadership and skills training for eight young people.

Waratah-Wynyard

The Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Waratah-Wynyard Council was signed on 26 April 2005 and is being implemented.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- The Lighthouses Cluster of schools oriented around Yolla, Boat Harbour and the two Wynyard schools has established very positive relationships with the Waratah-Wynyard Council especially in areas that encourage adolescents to be involved with the community. The Council facilitates a Junior Council with two representatives from each of the local schools. A home assistance program that sees students working with elderly residents has been established and a Co-pilots Mentoring Program is operating.
- An evening to celebrate the successes of the latest Co-Pilots Mentor program was held on 31 October 2006 at Wynyard High School. The Program saw twelve mentors working with individual students ranging from grade 5 through to grade 10 on a wide range of community based projects including an outdoor table for the wheelchair bound residence of Yaraandoo, the repairing of a letter box for the elderly residents of Ibis Nursing Home, social interaction relating to a group of elderly residents of Wynyard and the removal of a noxious weed from one of Wynyard's beaches.
- 'Alliance 64' – Early Years Integrated Services Project website (initiated under the Partnership Agreement with Burnie City), now provides information about services available in the entire 64 telephone district, including information on access and services available to Waratah-Wynyard residents.
- During 2005, the Community Recovery Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator from Council attended training at Mt. Macedon and an extension course on community recovery was conducted on the East Coast of Tasmania.
- A review of the local tourism plan including analysis visitor experience development opportunities is underway.
- The Council and the Seniors Bureau are working together to develop a Positive Ageing Plan for Waratah-Wynyard. The intention is to incorporate strategies and recommendations into the Council's next Strategic Plan.
- Waratah-Wynyard Council and Economic Development staff have met with staff from Burnie City Council and Central Coast Council in relation to investigating the possibility of undertaking a coordinated approach to development planning for strategic industrial infrastructure for the region.
- An audit on Council training needs is being conducted.
- A two year project reviewing the landslip mapping for the north-west coast, including Waratah-Wynyard, is underway. The Council has provided the relevant data and it will be kept informed as the project progresses.

West Coast

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and West Coast Council was signed on 11 September 2002 and concluded on 11 September 2005. The parties have agreed to develop another Partnership Agreement and are currently finalising the issues for negotiation for the second Agreement.

Since the conclusion of the first Agreement, the parties have continued to collaborate on particular initiatives:

- Funding through the Natural Resource Management (NRM) program enabled the ongoing employment of the Weed Officer to September 2006, based at the Council Chambers in Zeehan, with Council hosting the position and providing a vehicle and administrative support. The Weed and Fire Management Group meets on a regular basis, coordinating numerous projects and maximising the resources of the stakeholders involved. Council has commented that this was a very successful part of the Partnership Agreement, with on-ground works exceeding expectations, and with many community individuals taking up the challenge and becoming responsible for their own lands.
- A consultant was appointed early in 2006 to prepare the Strategic Management Plan for Strahan. The draft plan has now been provided to Council. State Government committed \$35,000 towards the development of the Plan.
- The Crown Land Assessment and Classification process for the West Coast has been completed and a number of properties have been identified for sale or for transfer to the Council.
- The parties continue to work together on implementing the West Coast Tourism Strategy, which was developed as part of the first Partnership Agreement.
- There have been a number of formal and informal forums that have facilitated better communication and sharing of information about community safety issues. Both the Council and DPEM agree that things are working well in the West Coast community.

West Tamar

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and West Tamar Council was signed on 30 October 2003 and it has recently concluded. A review of the Agreement will commence shortly. The parties have agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- In May 2006, the West Tamar Council, Northern Tasmania Development and Tourism Tasmania completed the review of the West Tamar Tourism Marketing and Development Plan.
- The State Government has provided \$115,000 for a three year statewide rice grass management program and a portion of this will be used in the West Tamar region to maintain the rice grass free zone. A number of community volunteers have agreed to monitoring and controlling of the weed in the longer term. A survey of rice grass infestation in the Tamar area was conducted in February 2006 and it was found to be one of the most heavily infested sites in the State.
- The Council and the Department of Primary Industries and Water continue to work together and with other stakeholders to improve the Tamar estuary marine environment.
- Work on the Frankford, Birralelee, West Tamar and Batman – Corridor Planning Study is continuing. The expenditure of \$5.15 million set aside for this project is expected over the period 2005 to 2008.
- The land stability program for the Tamar municipal area has been provided and is now being assimilated into the Council's information systems. Mineral Resources Tasmania continues to work on the groundwater prospectivity maps and will supply these to all Councils when finalised.
- The West Tamar Emergency Management Plan was amended in December 2005 to include the West Tamar Community Recovery Plan, developed by Council and the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The parties have successfully negotiated for two events to be held in the West Tamar area as part of the *Ten Days on the Island* festival in 2007.
- A recreation trail strategy has been developed and the parties are now working on implementation.
- A local area plan for the Windsor Park sporting complex has now been completed and was endorsed by Council in June 2006. Sport and Recreation Tasmania is now helping with the implementation and finalising of the detailed long-term site plans.
- The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) now has ten members and meets every six weeks, instead of every three months. The YAC and other young people organised a youth festival in Beaconsfield for National Youth Week in April 2006.
- The parties continue to provide support to community groups and to advise and assist them in achieving good conservation and land management outcomes on crown lands in the West Tamar municipal area.

- There is ongoing commitment by Council and the DIER to early communication prior to the certification of planning schemes or amendments that affect the state road system, and this has achieved good outcomes to date.
- As reported last year, the Council, DIER and Tourism Tasmania developed a streamlined approval process for the provision of tourism information signs in accordance with the Tasmania Visitor Information System (TVIS) principles to ensure customer requests are processed in an efficient and timely manner. This Tourism Signage process and approvals are in place and working well.
- West Tamar Community Safety Committee, established in 2004, consists of representatives from a range of State Government agencies, the Council, community groups, youth advisory council and the emergency management group. It meets regularly to discuss issues of concern and to recommend possible solutions. Council refers social issues to the committee for consideration, input and recommendations. The Committee continues to develop strategies to increase public awareness of community safety, and is developing a community safety plan which will recognise Inter-Agency Support Panels as a resource for the management of young people at risk in the West Tamar municipal area.

Regional Partnership Agreements

Southern Tasmanian Councils

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and the Southern Tasmanian Councils was signed on 11 December 2003 and it is due to conclude on 11 December 2006. Southern Tasmanian Councils (STC) represents 12 southern Councils: Hobart City, Central Highlands, Clarence City, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy City, Brighton, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands, and Tasman. During the year, STC redeveloped its organisational structure, and this resulted in the formation of the STC Authority as of 1 July 2006.

The following progress has been made since November 2005:

- Work on the Integrated Regional Transport and Economic Development Plans has progressed well over the last year, and is due for completion by the end of 2006.
- During the year, two highly productive forums organised by the Department of Economic Development and the STC were held to workshop issues relevant to economic development within the region. The outcome to date has involved the planning of a range of strategic projects, related to skills and the availability of labour, water and waste water integration, settlement patterns, telecommunications and projects to further outcomes from the Integrated Regional Transport plan.
- Work continues on the Community Business Migrant Support Program and other Regional Projects.
- The Southern Tourism Business Plan has been completed and implementation is now underway.
- The Southern Events Strategy has been completed and the 2006-07 Operational Plan.
- NRM South has developed a regional strategy, which is accredited and under implementation. DPIW reported that core resources had been secured through a 4-year Budget commitment, plus substantial in-kind support from the Department. Close to \$12 million was approved for the strategy's activities.
- DHHS and STC plan to form a working group to progress planning for health and human services in the region in preparation for the second Agreement.
- Tasmania Police and the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Council (CPTED) continue to work with Councils on crime prevention and community safety issues and there is growing support for the development of a regional forum on the issue.
- The State Emergency Service (SES) worked extensively with local councils and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) in the last 12 months, to ensure that volunteers were recognised and appropriately resourced. Ten of the twelve Local Government Emergency Management Plans, which now include risk treatment strategies, were reviewed and the redeveloped plans approved.
- The parties are pursuing a regional approach to sport and recreation planning.

Cradle Coast Authority

The Cradle Coast Authority represents the nine north west Councils: Burnie City, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport City, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe, Waratah-Wynyard and West Coast.

The first Partnership Agreement between the State Government and the Cradle Coast Authority was signed on 10 October 2001 and concluded on 10 October 2004. The parties agreed to develop a second Partnership Agreement and considerable work was undertaken towards the Agreement.

Delays in completing the second Agreement have been due to discussions and consideration of a more flexible format for the Agreement, that will reflect the broad range of cooperative action, but not add to the reporting workload of those involved.

Since the conclusion of the initial Agreement, the parties have continued to collaborate on major regional initiatives. Some have been those that they had started work on during the term of the first Partnership Agreement and some are new initiatives.

As a result, since November 2005, it has been reported that:

- The redevelopment of the former Burnie Hospital has been completed and there is now a Harvey Norman store on the site. (The site was sold to the Harvey Norman Group last year.)
- Upgrade of the Bass Highway at Sisters Hills to improve road safety is in progress.
- The Cradle Coast Integrated Transport Strategy has been finalised and is now a public document. The Strategy was developed under the Cradle Coast Partnership Agreement and was informed by wide community and stakeholder consultation. It provides a coordinated and strategic framework to address Regional transport issues over the next 20 years, and identifies objectives and outcomes to be achieved in addressing these issues.

Premier's Local Government Council

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) comprises Premier Paul Lennon as the chair, the President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and seven other elected representatives from various Tasmanian Councils. The membership is drawn from the General Management Committee of the LGAT. During this year, Cr Lynn Mason retired as President of the LGAT and was replaced by Cr Michael Gaffney. A long standing member of PLGC, Cr Ross Hines, Mayor of Circular Head, retired from the General Management Committee and was replaced by Cr Kevin Hyland, Mayor of Waratah-Wynyard Council.

The PLGC has met twice since the 2005 Report to Parliament, on 7 December 2005 and 7 June 2006. A third scheduled meeting was not held due to the State election in March 2006. The next meeting is to be held on 7 December 2006.

The PLGC is a high level forum for State and Local Government to raise and discuss issues considered to be significant and relevant for the whole of Tasmania and to oversee particular projects. Since November 2005, the PLGC continued to monitor and provide direction in relation to the following projects on which there is more detail below:

- Review of the Operations and Functions of the Local Government Board.
- Strategic Infrastructure and its Relationship to the Economic Development of the State;
- Statewide Partnership Agreements including:
 - the Financial Reform Partnership Agreement;
 - Guidelines for Communication and Consultation between the State and Local Government;
 - proposed Statewide Partnership Agreement for Young Tasmanians;
 - annual report related to waste management.

The PLGC has also received reports on:

- Tripartite Partnership Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania;
- Promoting Tasmania;
- Regional Economic Development and Investment (REDI) Plans;
- Addressing Skill Shortages in Local Government;
- Climate Change; and
- 'Ten Days on the Island', 2007.

There was also exchange of information and discussion of other matters raised as part of the issues of topical interest at each meeting. A Communique is issued after each meeting and can be viewed on the Local Government Office website.

PLGC is supported by an Officials Committee. It also met twice in 2006. Linda Hornsey, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet has chaired this Committee. In June 2006, Marguerite Scott, Director, Community Development Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, became Chair of the Committee.

Review of the Operations and Functions of the Local Government Board

A major project that commenced in 2006 is the review of the operations and functions of the Local Government Board. At its meeting in June 2006, the PLGC endorsed the membership of a Steering Committee established to oversee the project and endorsed the terms of reference.

The Steering Committee includes membership from the Local Government Office, the Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Local Government Managers Australia, and an independent member.

The Terms of Reference for the review are:

- (1) to evaluate the operations and functions of the Local Government Board;
- (2) to evaluate the effectiveness of the Board in delivering outcomes for Local Government and the community; and
- (3) to consider and to provide to the Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government:
 - options for improvement of the Board's operations and functions; and
 - details of a range of alternative means by which the Board might deliver outcomes for Local Government and the community.

In undertaking this analysis it was determined that the review will have regard to the functions detailed in section 214A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The PLGC also approved the Project Plan which includes:

- the distribution of an Issues Paper for broad consultation;
- a subsequent draft report and recommendations, which will also be distributed for comment;
- a final report and recommendations to the Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government.

The Issues Paper has recently been distributed, with responses due by early February 2007. It is expected that the final report will be ready later in 2007.

Strategic Infrastructure Investment Criteria Project

The Strategic Infrastructure Investment Criteria Project (formerly called the project for 'Strategic Infrastructure and its Relationship to the Economic Development of the State') is an ongoing project from 2005 that recognises that economic development in Tasmania is strongly dependent on infrastructure capacity and capability. The project's aim is to provide a framework that State and Local governments can use to guide decision-making about infrastructure investment so as to maximise the investment's economic benefits to Tasmania. It is not intended for use to identify and promote specific projects, but rather as a high level framework comprising criteria and evaluation processes to guide future potential joint venture investment decisions.

The project builds on and integrates information from the Regional Economic Development and Investment (REDI) Plans and the State Infrastructure Planning System (SIPS) projects. REDI Plans provide a profile of Tasmania's economic environment and activity. SIPS is a decision support tool which allows for the analysis of a range of information and modelling to show the likely impacts on infrastructure. The Sorell Infrastructure Planning Pilot project will be a test bed for the SIPS tool.

Statewide Partnership Agreement on Financial Reform

At the December 2005 meeting of the PLGC, it was agreed that the implementation of the very successful statewide Partnership Agreement on financial reform had been concluded. The Premier reported that, as a result of this reform alone, Local Government is better off by more than \$3 million a year.

The Financial Reform Partnership Agreement was signed on 29 July 2003. Up to \$10 million in State Government levies on Local Government were abolished and the new arrangements resulted in a net transfer of close to \$3 million per annum from State to Local Government.

It is an historic Agreement that has provided very considerable financial benefits for Local Government in Tasmania on a recurring basis. Under the Financial Reform Partnership Agreement, the State Government commenced paying Council rates on Crown land (apart from certain types of reserves, roads, bridges and associated infrastructure and Hydro land). Councils commenced paying all State Government taxes, including payroll tax and land tax with exemptions for parks, reserves and conservation areas.

Revised Guidelines on Communication and Consultation

The PLGC, at its December 2006 meeting, endorsed revised Guidelines for Communication and Consultation between the State Government and Local Government in Tasmania. The Premier, Paul Lennon, and the then President of the LGAT, Lynn Mason, agreed that communication and consultation had improved, that there was a much better working relationship between State and Local Government in Tasmania and that no other State or Territory in Australia matched these changed circumstances. It was also agreed that the new guidelines would be widely promoted to continue the improvement that has been made.

State agencies are required to consult within specific timeframes on major policy initiatives that impact on Local Government. Equally, Local Government is required to consult on decisions that will impact on the State Government. The Agreement also covers consultation on the State budget process and consultation on the legislative forward program and intergovernmental relations.

Waste Management

The statewide Waste Management Partnership Agreement was signed on 6 October 2000. It is now regarded as concluded but the PLGC will continue to receive annual reports on the work of the High Level Oversight Group (HLOG) on waste management.

The HLOG was formed in early 2005, and has met three times to date. It comprises the Director of Environmental Management, the CEO of the LGAT and a General Manager from a Council in each of the three regions.

A key role of the HLOG is to report to the PLGC on key statewide waste management issues including:

- Management of controlled waste;
- Implementation of a waste classification and measurement system to provide consistent data and inform performance monitoring programs;
- Development of a state waste management strategy, with an initial focus on controlled waste management;
- Developing and implementing a regional approach to waste management issues.

Draft Statewide Partnership Agreement for Young Tasmanians

The development of a draft statewide Partnership Agreement for Young Tasmanians took place between early 2004 and late 2005. The PLGC considered the draft Agreement in June 2006 and agreed that most of the draft had been implemented and the Agreement should be reconsidered in the light of changes to create the new Community Development Division in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Tripartite Agreement

The Tripartite Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania was signed on 28 August 2006 by the Premier Paul Lennon, Senator Santo Santoro, Australian Government Minister for Ageing, and the President of LGAT, Cr Michael Gaffney.

This landmark Agreement, the first of its kind in Australia, involves the three spheres of Government working together on a range of actions related to an ageing population. The negotiation of the Agreement was initiated by the State Government as part of its commitment to address the issue of an ageing population, through a coordinated and collaborative response to the policy implications.

All relevant State agencies, the Australian Department of Health and Ageing and the Local Government of Association participated in the development of the Agreement. Councils and relevant community organisations were also consulted.

The Agreement includes three schedules:

- Improved Community Capacity, with two sections:
 - Community awareness; and
 - Wellbeing;
- Greater Access to Information, with two sections:
 - Identification of key ageing-related information and research; and
 - Development of mechanisms for exchanging information across spheres of government;
- Planning and Implementation Processes for Aged Care Services in the Context of Bed Readiness and Land Use, with three sections:
 - Improving the planning of aged care services;
 - Identifying and addressing barriers to aged care developments; and
 - Encouraging best practice in the provision of aged care services and accommodation.

A Steering Committee with representation from the three spheres of government has been established to oversee the implementation. Six Working Groups are being established for implementation of the various initiatives under the Agreement and for reporting on progress. The Steering Committee will provide an annual report to the three parties.

The six working groups are:

- Inter Government Community Awareness;
- Community Transport;
- Volunteers;
- Healthy Ageing;
- Information Exchange; and
- Planning and Implementation.

A copy of the Agreement is on the website at:

http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgo/partnerships/agreements/Tripartite_PA_for_Population_Ageing_in_Tasmania.pdf

Part 4: Appendices

Appendix 1: Statistical Summary of Progress

The following table includes a statistical analysis of the bilateral and regional Partnership Agreements that were in implementation between November 2005 and November 2006. It also includes some statistical information on first Agreements that have concluded.

Generally a Partnership Agreement is divided into:

- Chapters – broad categories, eg Economic Development
- Schedules – sub-sections of the broad category, eg Tourism Plan
- Initiatives – actions with timeframes.

It is important to note that there are difficulties in making comparisons between Partnership Agreements as the commencement date for each is different and, therefore, each is at a different point of the three year implementation cycle.

Partnership Agreements are also ‘living documents’ and there are usually changes made at the time of the first evaluation after 12 months operation. This may include additional schedules or initiatives to reflect new issues that have been negotiated.

Timeframes may be extended for some initiatives because the initial timeframes were too rigid, or because external influences have arisen which have impacted on one or both parties. Most late initiatives are completed within a few months of the given timeframes.

A small percentage of the initiatives may be put on hold or discontinued. This may be because the parties have found a different solution to the one originally envisaged, the action has been subsumed into a statewide or regional project or the parties are trying to locate funding or other resources for the project.

Over the 12 month period between November 2005 and November 2006:

- State Government agencies have been working with Local Government on progressing 1,392 initiatives contained in the 18 bilateral and regional Partnership Agreements that have been in active implementation;
- work has also progressed on many initiatives that had commenced during the life of first Agreements that have concluded and are in re-development; and
- the State Government, together with Local Government, has commenced work with the Australian Government to implement 24 specific actions in the Tripartite Partnership Agreement for Population Ageing in Tasmania.

Summary of Progress under Bilateral and Regional Partnership Agreements

Council/Regional body	Signing Date	Number of Chapters	Number of Schedules	Number of initiatives	Progress				
					Completed %	Ongoing ¹ %	Progressing in accordance with timeframes %	Progressing in extended timeframes %	On hold or to discontinue %
Agreements being implemented between November 2005 and November 2006									
Brighton	2 Sept 2004	7	42	103	36	37	3	11	13
Central Coast	15 Oct 2006	8	35	99	Implementation just commenced				
Circular Head	20 Sept 2004	6	28	72	25	40	33	2	
Clarence City	23 Oct 2006	6	38	106	Implementation just commenced				
Devonport City	15 Sept 2004	6	24	59	22	32	39		7
Dorset	14 Oct 2003	6	39	93	26	54	2	11	9
George Town	23 Mar 2003	7	34	79	51	26		17	6
Kentish	16 Jul 2006	8	28	66	4	20	76		
King Island	3 April 2003	5	16	31	19	61		13	7
Latrobe	17 July 2003	5	28	58	47	36		10	7
Launceston City	14 July 2005	8	21	107	10	32	5	53	
Meander Valley	23 July 2003	5	33	71	41	52		5	2
Northern Midlands	5 Dec 2003	7	40	103	31	37	14	2	16
Sorell	21 July 2006	7	32	89		25	75		
Southern Tasmanian Councils	11 Dec 2003	4	8	26	19	27	4	46	4
Tasman	11 May 2004	6	28	93	12	51	8	15	14
Waratah-Wynyard	26 April 2005	7	23	66	8	36	55	1	
West Tamar	30 Oct 2003	5	22	71	37	34		22	7
Totals		113	519	1392					

¹ Ongoing initiatives are those where action occurs from time to time, eg exchange of specific information when the occasion arises, regular communication on particular issues.

Appendix 2: List of Government Representatives and Heads/Deputy Heads of Agency responsible for Partnership Agreements

Name of Agreement	Government Representative	Chair of the Peak Group
Break O'Day	David Llewellyn	Lisa Hutton (Justice)
Brighton	Michael Aird	Peter Hoult (Justice)
Burnie City	Bryan Green	Mark Addis (DIER)
Central Coast	Steve Kons	Michele Moseley (DPIW)
Central Highlands	Heather Butler	Kim Evans (DPIW)
Circular Head	Bryan Green	Peter Hoult (Justice)
Clarence	Paula Wriedt	Norm McIlfatrick (DED)
Derwent Valley	Michael Aird	Mark Addis (DIER)
Devonport City	Paul Lennon	Bob Rutherford (DPAC)
Dorset	Jim Cox	Rebekah Burton (DPAC)
Flinders	Michelle O'Byrne	Linda Hornsey (DPAC)
George Town	Jim Cox	Jack Johnson (DPEM)
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	David Llewellyn	Felicia Mariani (DTAE - Tourism Tasmania)
Glenorchy City	Graeme Sturges	Don Challen (Treasury)
Hobart City	David Bartlett	Linda Hornsey (DPAC)
Huon Valley	Paula Wriedt	Mark Addis (DIER)
Kentish	Heather Butler	Philip Harrington (DIER)
Kingborough	Lara Giddings	Richard McCreadie (DPEM)
King Island	Steve Kons	Peter Hoult (Justice)
Latrobe	Bryan Green	John Smyth (DoE)
Launceston City	Jim Cox	Dr Martyn Forrest (DHHS)
Meander Valley	Heather Butler	Michele Moseley (DPIW)
Northern Midlands	David Llewellyn	Linda Hornsey (DPAC)
Sorell	Lin Thorp	Michael Stevens (DoE)
Southern Midlands	David Llewellyn	Simon Barnsley (DHHS)
Tasman	David Llewellyn	Scott Gadd (DTAE)
Waratah-Wynyard	Brenton Best	John Smyth (DoE)

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West Coast	David Llewellyn	Michael Stevens (DoE)
West Tamar	Michelle O'Byrne	Rhys Edwards (DED)
Cradle Coast Authority	Steve Kons	Scott Gadd (DTAE)
NTD	Jim Cox	Kim Evans (DPIW)
STC	David Bartlett	Norm McIlfatrick (DED)

Appendix 3:

Membership of the Premier's Local Government Council

Premier Paul Lennon, Chair

Cr Lynn Mason, President, Local Government Association of Tasmania*

Ald Rob Valentine, the Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council;

Ald Jock Campbell, Mayor, Clarence City Council;

Cr Ross Hine, Mayor, Circular Head Council;**

Cr Mike Downie, Mayor, Central Coast Council;

Cr Barry Easter, Mayor, West Tamar Council;

Cr Deirdre Flint, Mayor, Central Highlands Council;

Cr Robert Legge, Break O'Day Council (now Mayor).

* Following his election as President of the LGAT, Cr Michael Gaffney replaced Cr Mason from July 2006.

** Following his election to the General Management Committee of the LGAT, Cr Kevin Hyland, Mayor, Waratah-Wynyard Council, replaced Cr Ross Hine from July 2006.

Membership of the Premier's Local Government Council Officials Committee

Linda Hornsey, Chair, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet;***

Allan Garcia, CEO, Local Government Association of Tasmania;

Norm McIlpatrick, Secretary, Department of Economic Development;

Mark Addis, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources;

Marguerite Scott, Director, Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet;

Andrew Paul, General Manager, Clarence City Council;

Kathy Schaefer, General Manager, Central Coast Council; and

Gerald Monson, General Manager, Northern Midlands Council.

*** In June 2006, Marguerite Scott, Director, Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet, became Chair of the Committee.

Appendix 4: Acronyms

DED	Department of Economic Development
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DIER	Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
DoE	Department of Education
DPAC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DPEM	Department of Police and Emergency Management
DPIW	Department of Primary Industries and Water
DTAE	Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment
Justice	Department of Justice
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
MAST	Marine and Safety Tasmania
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PAHSMA	Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority
Treasury	Department of Treasury and Finance
TT	Tourism Tasmania