

From: Latham, Ross B <Ross.Latham@education.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 February 2021 4:57 PM
To: State Service Review
Cc: Office of the State Archivist (DoE)
Subject: Submission in response to Interim Report of the Review of the Tasmanian State Service

Good afternoon

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the *Interim Report of the Review of the Tasmanian State Service*.

I am providing this response in my capacity as Tasmania's State Archivist with primary focus on the following key issues that were identified in the Interim Report:

- The Big Picture
- Continuous Review and Improvement
- Building One State Service
- Ways of Working in the future
- Contemporary Service Delivery

Given my statutory responsibilities as per the [Archives Act 1983 \(Tasmania\)](#) include provision of guidance and direction for the adequate creation, management and accessibility of State records my feedback primarily relates the opportunities the interim report has identified for greater accountability, agility, innovation and cohesion which I believe will be more quickly and effectively realised via improved creation, stewardship and sharing of trusted and reliable information across government and, where appropriate, with the Tasmanian public.

Our response to COVID-19 necessitated agility and informed decision making which for the time being at least has broken down unnecessary barriers that previously inhibited achievement of an agile, cohesive, informed and confident Tasmanian State Service. Prior to COVID-19 the predominant culture was to not share information across government agencies and only do so out of necessity such legislative requirements, inter-government agreements or high level instruction despite the fact that we are one State Service.

Moving forward we need to maintain the improvements in practice achieved in response to COVID-19 and if necessary refine them so they are suitable for ongoing public administration beyond a State of Emergency. This includes agile sharing of relevant information across agencies.

In recent years my office in collaboration with the Digital Strategy and Services Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet have developed an [Information Management Framework](#) of standards, policies, and tools needed to guide practice across our State Service. The goal of the Framework is to deliver better services for all Tasmanians by transforming the way we value, manage and share information. The Framework identifies and defines the various components which contribute to effective information management and is aligned to whole of government strategies and policy including Our Digital Future Strategy, and the Tasmanian Government Cybersecurity Policy.

This approach was developed in recognition that continuous improvement in information management across our State Service is best guided by a risk based approach that enables agencies to focus their time and available resources on valuing, managing and sharing their high value information assets.

Having considered the issues that were identified in the Interim Report I think that greater awareness of the value of information management across the State Service combined with continuous improvement of practice in this area will be invaluable in achieving the ways of working in the future that we are aspiring to.

My team and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to further work of the Review so do let us know if we can be of assistance in anyway.

Regards,
Ross

Ross Latham

Director Collections & State Archivist | Libraries Tasmania

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91 Murray Street | HOBART | Tasmania 7000

Ph +61 3 6165 5579 | [REDACTED] | ross.latham@education.tas.gov.au | www.libraries.tas.gov.au



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