
From: Bridget Delaney
Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2023 12:06 PM
To: McLennan, Cameron
Cc: Shirleyann Varney; Sappho Bettega
Subject: Tasmanian Positive: our state's sustainability strategy - consultation open
Attachments: TasPos_DiscussionPaper_Short_v1_WCAG.pdf; TasPos_DiscussionPaper_v1_WCAG.pdf

Hello Cameron,

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy consultation and I apologise that this is a late response. Volunteering is implicit in nearly every government strategy, and we struggle to respond to all the requests for input due to a lack of capacity.

The Tasmanian volunteer workforce of 297,000 is comparable in size to Tasmania's paid workforce of 293,000. It is the largest industry in Tasmania in terms of economic, social and community participation. The contributions of Tasmania's volunteer workforce contribute significantly across each of the high-level goals identified in the discussion paper. Yet volunteers are rarely recognised or named as essential contributors to sustainability, and the reliance on Tasmania's essential volunteering workforce remains largely invisibilised in public policy, despite outcomes relying on an assumed, sustained volunteer presence.

Please see Volunteering Australia's [website](#) for some examples about the ways that volunteers contribute to the sustainable development goals in Australia.

Every day we are privileged to hear stories about the real and lifechanging impacts that volunteering has had upon the lives Tasmanians and their communities (both people and place), yet we are also confronted with the realities of a declining volunteer workforce and the significant implications for the wellbeing of Tasmanians. COVID-19 gave us a glimpse into a world with fewer volunteers. It revealed significant systems gaps, a concerning dependence on volunteers to deliver services and supports to the community and a need to invest in the systems that support both formal and informal volunteering. It is estimated that without significant strategic intervention and investment in volunteering enabling infrastructure, that by 2029, there will be a 42% gap between the demand for and supply of volunteers in Tasmania. If this trend continues it will have significant implications for Tasmania's sustainability outcomes.

The development of Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy is an opportunity to support Tasmania's future by ensuring the diverse contributions of volunteering are understood, respected, represented and resourced as powerful drivers of community resilience; individual, collective and environmental wellbeing; and economic prosperity in Tasmanian public policy.

While we acknowledge the significant intersections between volunteering and the developing Sustainability Strategy, with minimal resources, we have been unable to make a submission. We would however, welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the importance of volunteering in the context of this work, and to ensuring its success.

Kind Regards,



Bridget Delaney

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If you are receiving this email outside of regular business hours, it's because it's the time that best fits my life-work balance.

There's no expectation for any response outside of normal business hours.



Volunteering Tasmania acknowledges the palawa/pakana people as traditional custodians of the lands, seas, skies, and waterways throughout lutruwita/Tasmania. We pay respect to elders past and present and recognise their deep history and continuing connections with our shared country, culture, and community.

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