

Sustainability Consultation Report

Analysis to inform Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy



Acknowledgment of Country

The University of Tasmania pays its respects to elders past and present and to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status and to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that continues to care for Country.

We acknowledge the profound effect of climate change on this Country and seek to work alongside Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, with their deep wisdom and knowledge, to address climate change and its impacts.

The Palawa people belong to one of the world's oldest living cultures, continually resident on this Country for over 65,000 years. They have survived and adapted to significant climate changes over this time, such as sea-level rise and extreme rainfall variability, and as such embody thousands of generations of intimate place-based knowledge.

We acknowledge with deep respect that this knowledge represents a range of cultural practices, wisdom, traditions, and ways of knowing the world that provide accurate and useful climate change information, observations, and solutions.

The University of Tasmania likewise recognises a history of truth that acknowledges the impacts of invasion and colonisation upon Aboriginal people, resulting in forcible removal from their lands.

Our island is deeply unique, with cities and towns surrounded by spectacular landscapes of bushland, waterways, mountain ranges, and beaches.

The University of Tasmania stands for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language, and history, and a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights paving the way for a strong future.

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Disclaimer

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Tasmanian Government.

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About the Institute for Social Change

The Institute for Social Change works to provide information and analysis that supports good decision making in and for Tasmania.

We draw on the expertise of researchers from across the University of Tasmania to understand how people and communities experience and adapt to social, cultural, environmental and economic change.

We work with community, government and business on researching the challenges and opportunities presented by change, providing data, analysis and commentary to inform public policy and debate on key issues affecting Tasmania.

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Executive Summary

This report presents summaries and analysis of insights gathered as part of the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy consultation. This includes the recommendation and rationale for a sustainability strategy presented in the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) final report in 2021, 6 workshops with over 100 government and non-government stakeholders in 2022, the Wellbeing Consultation in 2023, and the Sustainability Strategy Consultation in 2023 which included the release of two discussion papers, a 7-question online survey open to the public, and submissions received by the Department of Premier and Cabinet via e-mail.

This executive summary attempts to synthesise what was heard across the different consultation processes in terms of what Tasmanians want in relation to sustainability, how we can get there, and expectations around the role of the state government and Sustainability Strategy in getting there.

WHAT TASMANIANS WANT IN RELATION TO SUSTAINABILITY

Those who participated in the consultations had varied priorities, concerns, and levers for action in relation to sustainability. However, across the consultation processes, stakeholders expressed a desire for Tasmania to be a place where everyone has the opportunity to participate and contribute, where people can be proud of living, working and operating, and that is leading the way in terms of environmental sustainability.

Additionally, there was broad acknowledgement and acceptance that sustainability comprised the three interconnected dimensions of environment, social, and economic. Participants in the consultations raised a huge array of concerns across all domains of sustainability that the Strategy should focus on, and the following summary can only be viewed as the broad strokes of the focus areas raised. In the environmental domain, continued protection of heritage areas, increased protection of marine areas, and greater protection of native animals (particularly on roads) were common concerns. Spanning both economy and environment, many expressed strong concerns about destructive and polluting industries such as native forestry, salmon farming, and mining and the need to rapidly move away from them and create or support more sustainable industries. In the economic domain, jobs were the strongest theme such that appropriately skilled workers were needed to meet the needs of businesses in a transitioning economy and society in light of demographic and economic changes, and individuals needed jobs to live a good life and, particularly for younger people, to stay in Tasmania. In the social domain, addressing inequality, the housing crisis, the healthcare system, the education system, and cost of living was viewed as fundamental to sustainability. Additionally, the need for supports for everyone to be able to make more sustainable individual choices was identified.

Further, there was strong interest among those consulted in participation in bringing about a more sustainable Tasmania. While there is inherent sampling bias, such that those who participated in the Sustainability Strategy consultations likely have higher than average interest in sustainability and/or are likely to be directly affected by the Sustainability Strategy in the case of government, business and NGO representatives, there was a strong sense that collective action and shared responsibility was required. However, there were concerns that responsibility for sustainability was being unjustly pushed to individuals. Accordingly, the Strategy must strike a fine balance between including everyone in Tasmania's sustainability journey and ensuring that the burdens associated with sustainable action are distributed across societal stakeholders in line with the resources each has available and with consideration to the relative contribution to unsustainable activity.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Responses to the consultation revealed a vast array of opportunities to advance sustainability in Tasmania, as well as broad and deep expertise and strong care to do so.

- 1. Address current social challenges.** Many opportunities for a sustainable future identified revolved around addressing current challenges in Tasmania, particularly housing, healthcare, education and inequality. These challenges were identified as barriers to sustainability from a social justice perspective, such that it is not sustainable nor fair for current generations (or large segments of them) to have unmet needs and to be unable to access opportunities to meet them.

These challenges were also identified as instrumental barriers to the transitions required for a sustainable future. Many stakeholders expressed that it is not reasonable nor feasible for people who are struggling to access the basics of life to bear the time and cost burdens of adjusting their lives to be more sustainable (e.g., switching to EVs, electrifying their homes, investing in household renewable energy generation, avoiding single-use plastics, and purchasing the often more expensive sustainable brands and products). Additionally, several stakeholders identified that addressing inequality and providing quality education and training opportunities were critical to ensuring that Tasmania has a workforce that is equipped to undertake the transition to a more sustainable economy. Many stakeholders identified that formal and informal education on sustainability was critical for developing appetite among individuals and communities for sustainability and to provide the knowledge and practical resources for individual and community level sustainability initiatives.

It is important not to understate the scope of addressing current challenges. They are significant and involve sectors that are arguably the most foundational to human wellbeing and most expensive to government. However, tackling them with a sustainability lens can ensure that addressing them does not come at the expense of future generations. For example, stakeholders suggested integrating sustainability-focused education and training into curricula at all levels of education; investing in high-employing industries that support sustainable transitions and/or move us away from polluting industries; examining opportunities to reduce emissions and waste at hospitals; and targeted support (incentives, funding, subsidies, finance with attractive terms) to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to make sustainable choices. The interconnected nature of these challenges was also noted, for example, addressing the housing crisis will help with the attraction and retention of medical practitioners and other needed workers and addressing inequality is key to unlocking the human potential and endeavour required to tackle the climate crisis.

2. **Examine and realign systems.** A common need identified across the consultation processes was to examine and realign systems to support and facilitate sustainability. Systems identified included policy, legislation, taxes (including offsets, subsidies, and levies), and government funding. Many identified specific ways that government could lead by example in this arena through procurement reforms to ensure a sustainability lens is applied to all services, tenders, proposals, and projects; policies and strategies (e.g., disability employment; gender equality) to ensure that equity and inclusion are embedded into the operations of all government departments; and sustainable construction principles and requirements to be applied to all government buildings.

Stakeholders also identified duplication, lack of clarity, and conflicts between different policies, strategies and legislation as creating barriers to sustainability by increasing administrative burden and leaving people and organisations not knowing the correct thing to do in various circumstances. A suggested remedy was an audit to understand and align the different ways that government departments are approaching sustainability through their policies and strategies.

Organisations and individuals alike also noted various ways that systems disincentivised sustainable choices, such that sustainable options were often more expensive and harder to learn about than their less sustainable counterparts. Common examples were that sustainable construction is much more expensive than traditional, less sustainable methods; recycled materials often more expensive than new; and proper storage of waste more expensive than dumping. Incentives such as subsidies, offsets and grants and disincentives such as levies and taxes, as well as comprehensive, practical educational resources were often suggested to remedy this.

3. **Leverage efforts and expertise.** A thread running through the consultations was that many people and organisations from all corners of the state were undertaking action towards sustainability, whether individual consumption choices, community action and advocacy, development of sustainability strategies and policies, or changing ways of operating to be more sustainable. It was also noted that Tasmania is particularly well-positioned in relation to sustainability because of the extent of relevant expertise, particularly scientific expertise, in the state.

Accordingly, a common suggestion was to identify, coordinate, and leverage the different sustainability efforts and expertise present across sectors in Tasmania. Suggestions to do this included 'audits' of initiatives across the state, the facilitation of cross-sector working groups on sustainability issues, and collaborative development of industry and place specific sustainability action plans. As elaborated below, this was seen as a role for state government.

4. **Tailored approaches.** The sheer breadth of the construct of sustainability along with the different stages of stakeholders with regard to sustainability thinking, action and resources available to direct towards sustainability led many to highlight the need to develop tailored approaches. For the overarching Strategy, this included the development of specific goals, targets, and actions, broken down into timeframes, usually immediate, medium-term (5-10 years), and longer term (15-20 years).

Tailored approaches also included the development of industry or sector-specific sustainability action plans, local sustainability action plans (e.g., local government area), and information and resources for individuals that 'meet them where they're at' regarding sustainability. For example, information about what the state government is doing and why, what is happening in their local area, what they can do as individuals, sustainability jobs, and where they can go for more information.

ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Stakeholders' perception of the role of the state government in relation to sustainability was significant and primary, but not solitary. As the funder and provider of core services, commissioner of large projects, custodian of much of Tasmania's infrastructure, and developer and implementer of policy and legislation, there are few sustainability levers that the state government does not have a hand on. However, in developing and implementing a sustainability strategy, there was implicit recognition of the involvement and importance of all sectors (including individuals and households) and industries in ensuring that the eventual strategy's goals are achieved.

In delivering a sustainability strategy, key roles for the state government raised in the consultation included leadership, accountability, coordination of action, collation, vetting and distribution of information, and infrastructure investment.

Leadership. It was important to stakeholders that government 'walked the talk' when it came to sustainability by ensuring that processes, policies, and strategies across all departments had sustainability embedded into them. Suggestions and mechanisms for doing this varied, for example disability inclusion plans for public sector employment, establishing a Future Generations Commissioner and ensuring that all government decisions are evaluated in terms of their effect on future generations, transitioning vehicle fleets to electric, and the use sustainability principles for all government infrastructure projects.

As well as modelling sustainability practice, it was noted that demonstrating leadership in these ways would also inherently facilitate sustainable practice across the state through the government's role as a funder. For example, procurement reform that institutes a sustainability requirement will mean that organisations will have to consider and address sustainability if they wish to access government funding.

Accountability. A significant concern for stakeholders around the Sustainability Strategy was accountability for achieving its goals. Particular concerns were that the Discussion Papers had not identified current sustainability issues nor clear targets and goals and actions towards addressing them, did not provide enough detail of the monitoring and reporting plan, and risked becoming a rhetorical device that does not advance sustainability in Tasmania.

Accordingly, stakeholders called for the clear articulation of goals and how they were to be achieved, mandatory public reporting at regular intervals such as annually, and clear lines of responsibility for actions and outcomes.

Coordination of action. As outlined above, stakeholders noted that significant action towards sustainability is happening at various levels of Tasmanian society (individuals, community groups, and organisations of all sizes and sectors). Stakeholder thus advocated that a key role of government was to coordinate this action. Suggestions included convening of cross-sector working groups, development and maintenance of a sort of 'sustainability database' that identified initiatives, their location, and stakeholders involved, and reforms to funding processes to incentivise collaboration on sustainability.

Collation and distribution of reliable information.

As education and information were viewed as fundamental to driving action towards sustainability, a role that many identified for the state government was the provision of reliable, relevant and useful information on sustainability.

The scope of information stakeholders sought was broad, from information for individuals about sustainability changes that could be made at the household level, to detailed action plans for industries undertaking major sustainability transitions. Therefore, tailored approaches to communicating about sustainability would be required.

Infrastructure investment. Infrastructure was noted as a key element to a more sustainable Tasmania and many infrastructure investments were at least partially in the remit of the state government. For example, improvements to transport infrastructure such as (preferably electrified) public transport were viewed as key to reducing private transport among individuals, and infrastructure was necessary for industry to shift to environmentally sustainable transport and machinery options. Opportunities for the government to invest in infrastructure, research and development to support sustainable industry (e.g., biofuels, regenerative agriculture, renewable energy) were also identified.

Further, opportunities to improve environmental sustainability in healthcare were identified and investments in infrastructure to improve liveability were noted as important to attracting and retaining the medical professionals required for a sustainable health system. Additionally, the use of sustainable construction principles and materials in state-funded housing developments and renovations as well as government office buildings were noted as opportunities for improving sustainability through infrastructure investment. This included educational facilities to support education for sustainability initiatives through all levels of education.

1. Introduction

This report presents analysis of data collected during the consultation process for the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy). The impetus for the Strategy arose from recommendations from the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council 2021 final report on how Tasmania should progress post-COVID. In 2022, workshops with key stakeholder groups on the development of the strategy took place. In 2023, the Wellbeing Consultation survey took place, which included a question related to sustainability ('what does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?')

Building on research on similar strategies and insights from these consultations, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) released two sustainability discussion papers along with seven questions for public consultation. Consultation took place via an online survey on the Tasmanian Positive website and e-mail submissions to DPAC.

This report presents and summarises the insights gained from the consultation process. This chapter summarises the journey to present: the recommendation in the PESRAC final report to develop the Strategy and the rationale underlying it; the 2022 focus groups (led by KPMG); the discussion papers; and the consultation.

1.1 PESRAC REPORT

After its comprehensive consultation with many stakeholder groups in Tasmania, including individuals, communities and businesses, the PESRAC final report recommended the development of a comprehensive sustainability vision and strategy. Key features of the recommendation are summarised below:

- **Rationale:** PESRAC consistently heard from Tasmanians about the importance of sustainability to theirs and Tasmania's future. Individuals particularly emphasised the importance of the natural environment to their wellbeing, concerns about what future generations will have access to (in relation to the natural environment and other core aspects of life such as education, housing and healthcare), and opportunities for Tasmania to be world-leading in its sustainability approach. Many businesses identified Tasmania's sustainability credentials as crucial to their competitiveness in local and global markets and thus the need to maintain and expand these credentials, particularly as other countries start to 'catch up'.

The PESRAC final report emphasised that collective action across all sectors is needed and reported significant appetite amongst those consulted to participate in bringing about a sustainable future for Tasmania.

- **Sustainability definition:** The PESRAC final report advocates for a holistic definition of sustainability, defining sustainability as "development, and approaches to living and doing business, that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs" (p64). Importantly, it emphasised that sustainability is about balancing social, economic and environmental goals in order to have positive impacts in all domains, as opposed to trading off between them.
- **Sustainability focus areas:** The final report identified that the sustainability vision and strategy should:
 - address climate change and decarbonise the economy;
 - improve the management of the environment and natural resources, with an immediate focus on water resources;
 - maintain biodiversity; and
 - transition to a circular economy.

Additionally, the PESRAC report advocated acknowledgement and understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural heritage as key to Tasmania's sustainability. As well as frameworks to address for the above-mentioned specific sustainability issues facing Tasmania, the report also noted the importance of a framework to ensure "a consistent and coordinated government approach to sustainability" (p69). PESRAC also noted that several strategies and action plans already in place, such as the Waste Action Plan and Climate Action 21, should be leveraged and aligned with an overarching sustainability vision and strategy.

- **State government responsibilities:** The PESRAC final report emphasised that responsibility for Tasmania's sustainable future lies with everyone. It put forward the state government's role as "providing leadership, allocating resources and implementing the right regulatory settings to encourage and support businesses and communities to adopt sustainable development practices." (p66).

The final report called for the government to articulate a sustainability vision for Tasmania and develop a broad strategy to realise that vision, including the setting of "ambitious goals and measurable targets, and concrete actions to deliver the targets" (p66) over the short, medium, and long term. It further suggested that sector-specific targets and actions be developed to ensure the achievement of the overarching vision and strategy.

The PESRAC final report also called for strong leadership from state and local governments and government businesses through the integration of sustainability into all policy, programs, procurement, services and operations, and for sustainability goals and targets to be integrated into all public sector corporate plans with progress against them to be reported annually. To facilitate the integration of sustainability across all facets of government, the final report suggested the resourcing of a "permanent structure for inter-agency coordination, collaboration, information sharing and decision making" (p69).

1.2 SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

In April 2022, six workshops took place with representatives from more than 30 state government departments, local government authorities, government business enterprises and other governmental organisations and more than 40 business and community service organisations and peak bodies. Workshops were facilitated by KPMG and University of Tasmania, and a consultation report delivered by KPMG. The following summary of the workshops and their findings is derived from the KPMG final report.

Prior to the workshops, participants were provided with a video introducing them to the project and sustainability in the context of the project. Workshop attendees were also provided with a pre-workshop questionnaire that asked about current sustainability initiatives in their respective industries/ sectors that could be leveraged and/or promoted as part of the Sustainability Strategy, opportunities and barriers to sustainability in their areas of working, and perceived sustainability expectations of their colleagues and stakeholders.

The workshops comprised three activities, closely aligned with the pre-workshop questionnaire. The first activity was a discussion of existing sustainability efforts in Tasmania, opportunities and barriers, and stakeholder expectations. The second sought to assess Tasmania's current state with regard to sustainability in terms of capabilities, skills and expertise, motivations, opportunities, and risks and challenges. In the third activity, attendees were asked to map their organisations alignment with and contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and opportunities for and barriers to current and future contributions.

In terms of high-level themes, emissions, education and collaboration/coordination were common across both the government and non-government workshops. However, health, housing and cost were much more prominent themes in the non-government workshops. The table below briefly summarises the sustainability opportunities, barriers, and expectations identified through the workshops. The government workshops identified coordination and collaboration, leadership, advocacy and education, policy and frameworks and investment, including in educational and career pathways as stakeholder expectations around sustainability.

	Government workshops	Non-government workshops
Sustainability opportunities	• Policy and practice reforms (e.g., reforming land use policy, conducting ESG audits) • Investing in sustainable infrastructure (e.g., EV charging stations, sustainable construction materials) • Education on sustainability for all, including practical advice for business. • Collaboration and integration across sectors for sustainability.	• Assistance to reduce cost shock of sustainable transitions. • Planning reforms and inclusion of sustainability clauses for developments (e.g., use of sustainable construction materials, public transport infrastructure). • Education on sustainability practice. • Collaboration and coordination • Long-term planning
Sustainability barriers	• Limited resourcing. • Limited knowledge. • Lack of information about why people should care about sustainability. • Short-term thinking and politicised decision-making.	• Lack of coherence in regulation. • Processes and policies that promote/force competition rather than collaboration for outcomes. • Lack of knowledge and resultant resistance to changes required for sustainability. • Short-term thinking. • Lack of funding stability and certainty. • Strains on health and housing systems.

Table 1: Sustainability opportunities and barriers identified in workshops.

As evident in the table above, there were substantial overlaps in the sustainability opportunities and barriers identified by government and non-government representatives through the workshops. In particular, sustainability education including practical advice for both the community and business; collaboration and coordination across industries and sectors to break away from short-term thinking and action; and policies and procedures to support the integration sustainability into all aspects of operating were identified as key to a sustainability in Tasmania.

Tasmania's current sustainability capabilities were identified as:

- Small size which allows for efficiency and ease of collaboration, when supported and desired.
- Renewable energy generation and its possibilities to attract business and export.
- Access to and management of the natural environment, and temperate climate.
- Skilled workforce and specialist expertise in sustainability (e.g., scientists, Aboriginal Tasmanians, agricultural industry, community industry).
- Self-sufficient, innovative, and community-minded people.
- Arts, culture, brand, and lifestyle.

In line with its strengths, the workshops identified Tasmania's sustainability motivations as being centred on preserving what we have (nature, lifestyle, community orientation, leading position) and improving where we face challenges (equity, health, economy, climate change) for better wellbeing for current and future generations.

Workshop attendees most commonly mapped their work to SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth, as well as 13 – climate action, 3 – good health and wellbeing, 4 – quality education, 11 – sustainable cities and communities, and 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure. All 17 SDGs were 'covered' by workshop attendees, though the workshop facilitators noted that several attendees lacked the knowledge to confidently identify their contributions to the SDGs.

From the workshops, KPMG identified that stakeholders took a broad definition of sustainability, encompassing people and planet, with particular emphasis on health, equity and equality, inclusion and prosperity of people. The report identified key themes and recommendations within those themes:

1. **Timing.** The need to break the sustainability journey down into manageable and comprehensible parts, without losing the long-term thinking and planning required to achieve sustainability goals. In response to this theme, the consultation report recommended a three-phase rollout, with phase 1 focused on 'easy wins' and stopping of practices particularly detrimental to sustainability, phase 2 on tackling Tasmanian sustainability challenges that were not addressed in phase 1, and phase 3 on maintenance and monitoring for continuous improvement and necessary tweaks to ensure long term sustainability. Additional to the phased rollout, the report recommended the embedding of a lifecycle approach through policy and incentives, to break short-term thinking.

2. **Leveraging change.** Stakeholders identified that there were currently insufficient incentives for more sustainable ways of operating (e.g., using recycled materials, lower emissions infrastructure), such that sustainable options were more expensive, time consuming, and unsupported in terms of training and education. Accordingly, the consultation report recommended the implementation of tax-based incentives for sustainable options and disincentives for less sustainable options (e.g., levies). Further, the report recommended the integration of sustainability criteria into government funding processes in a similar fashion to the current local procurement processes.
3. **Inclusivity.** The report identified a lack of inclusivity as a barrier to sustainability, such that the achievement of sustainability goals requires the buy in and participation of all stakeholder groups. Particular cohorts, namely the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, regional communities, migrants, and future generations, were identified as important to Tasmania's sustainability. The suggested actions varied by cohort: recognition and reconciliation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, better connection and infrastructure for regional communities, social and economic inclusion for migrants, and embedding of consideration of future generations into all decisions.
4. **Quantification and regulation.** The need for a coherent policy and regulatory environment that disrupts siloed and duplicative thinking and decision making was strongly articulated in workshops. Specifically, the consultation report recommended a resource and waste audit, policy audit, appointment of a Chief Scientist, and planning reform.
5. **Education.** Education was a concern in terms of general low literacy and numeracy in the community and low knowledge and a lack of resources through which to gain knowledge about sustainability. The report thus recommended the development of strong educational pathways for young people, forums for sharing sustainability knowledge and engaging with the eventual strategy, and the provision of practical sustainability information so businesses and community can confidently engage with the strategy.
6. **Infrastructure.** Infrastructure was a key theme, particularly a lack of local waste management and cost ineffectiveness of sustainable waste management creating barriers to a circular economy, and a lack of infrastructure to support transition to electric vehicles. Therefore, the report reiterated its recommendation for a lifecycle approach that disincentivises single use products and products with no end of life plans, as well as considering levies on non-sustainable transport to meet the revenue shortfall arising from loss of fuel excise tax as transition to electric vehicles occurs.
7. **Facilitation.** The workshops identified that stakeholders saw a key role for government as a facilitator of sustainability in the state. In particular, the report recommended an ESG procurement policy and invest in platforms for sustainability knowledge, advice and idea sharing (e.g., CSIRO's ASPIRE).
8. **Tailored approach.** The consultation report also recommended that the strategy incorporate tailored approaches for individuals, small entities, and large entities, as well as for particular industries e.g., health, construction, mining.

9. **Major challenges.** The consultation report noted the need to address major challenges in the Tasmanian context to mitigate potential barriers to the strategy's successful implementation and adoption. These included housing, healthcare, the policy and regulatory environment, public transport, regional connectivity, inequality, education, and workforce skills.
10. **Sustainability and ESG reporting frameworks.** A common concern heard throughout the workshops, particularly among smaller entities, was the cost of compliance and reporting against a sustainability strategy. Therefore, the report recommended alignment of reporting requirements with existing and emerging federal and global sustainability reporting standards.
11. **Sustainability is a journey.** The report noted that stakeholders were at different levels of sustainability knowledge and practice, and the need to meet stakeholders where they're at and help them progress on their sustainability journeys.
12. **Greenwashing risk.** The risk of greenwashing was identified as a significant risk to Tasmania's sustainability credentials, therefore, the report recommended consideration of and mitigation of greenwashing risks.
13. **UN SDGs.** The report recommended the alignment of the sustainability strategy with the SDGs, tailored to the Tasmanian context.
14. **Climate impact modelling.** The report recommended expansion of climate modelling to include social and economic risks to better inform decisions.

Sustainability workshops were also held with the Premier's Youth Advisory Council in 2023. The workshops were divided by age, with 12–17-year-old members in one and those aged 18–24 in the other. There was agreement in both groups that the status quo could not continue, and questions about whether sustainable growth was a fundamentally contradictory idea (i.e., whether economic growth always comes at the expense of the environment). Addressing inequality, the housing crisis, and improving education were identified as critical in both groups.

The 18–24-year-old workshop was particularly concerned with inequality amongst citizens and corporate greed and viewed the government as responsible for addressing both of these through regulations, taxes, and the provision of core services. They also raised concerns that the messaging of the Sustainability Strategy, 'it all starts with you', places responsibility on individuals whose relative contribution to unsustainable practice is small and who have significantly fewer resources than companies to action sustainability. The 12–17-year-old group advocated for more sustainability education, greater opportunities for young people to be involved, and waste and recycling initiatives.

1.3 SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION PAPERS

In August 2023, DPAC released two sustainability discussion papers introducing the state's sustainability strategy 'Tasmanian Positive' to inform and invite input from all Tasmanians. Sustainability was defined in the short paper as 'ensuring that future generations have what they need to live well' and in the long paper 'understanding how individual and social wellbeing, the economy, and the environment are inseparable and interdependent'. Both papers articulated the purpose of sustainability strategies: to ensure that current actions do not jeopardise future resources and human wellbeing by ensuring balance between economic, social and environmental goals, now and for the future. The papers also emphasised a positive, inclusive approach to sustainability, such that everyone can be involved and everyone has responsibility (because everyone bears the consequences of a lack of sustainability).

The first paper introduced sustainability – its definition, why it's important, the purpose of a sustainability strategy, how people and businesses can contribute to sustainability, and examples of sustainability in businesses across Tasmania. It encouraged people to provide their perspective on the key areas and goals for sustainability action in Tasmania, and proposed the following:

- **Climate and renewable energy:** All Tasmanians have access to affordable clean energy, transition to fossil fuel alternatives, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- **Health and wellbeing:** All Tasmanians have the opportunity to live healthy, active lives in communities that support connections to people, place and culture.
- **Education and skills:** Full functional literacy and numeracy through quality education at all ages to ensure everyone can succeed, and ensure we are ready for future industries and technology.
- **Circular economy and waste:** Eliminate the disposal of waste to the environment through better consumption choices, production design and developing circular economies.
- **Housing and liveability:** Access to affordable, energy efficient and climate resilient housing and urban communities, built sustainably with infrastructure to support safety and resilience.
- **Natural environment:** Strong natural resources and environmental management through protection and regenerative practices across all sectors to preserve the quality of air, land and water, and enhancing biodiversity.
- **Fair, equitable and inclusive society:** Eradicate all forms of discrimination including gender, age, sexuality, disability, race, and ethnicity, for an inclusive and equitable society. Promote the voice, culture, heritage, and empowerment of Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

The second discussion paper focused more on informing readers about the development of the Tasmanian sustainability strategy. It outlined a timeline for development, and the components of the strategy: vision, goals, and targets and actions. Additionally, the paper communicated that the strategy will likely align the SDGs into around six focus areas for sustainability in Tasmania, accompanied by aspirational goals, with these chosen to reflect Tasmanians' views as gleaned through the consultation. Additionally, these goals will be supported by concrete targets and actions to achieve them, and a robust and transparent platform for reporting progress against them. Further, the paper articulated that the strategy would be supported by a statewide education, training, and media program to raise awareness and promote collaboration towards the goals, as well as a clear governance structure to support cross-sector action and collaboration.

The discussion paper put forward regenerative agriculture, sustainable tourism, land and forestry management, education and training, healthcare, and human services as examples of sustainability advances in Tasmania. It also identified several government strategies and initiatives with intersections with sustainability, such as the establishment of Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania, Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board, and the Women's Strategy and Population Strategy. An appendix provides examples of how current and planned policies align with the SDGs.

In the absence of an established best practice approach to developing and implementing sustainability strategies, the discussion paper put forward the following guiding principles for the sustainability strategy:

- Build on established sustainability assets and initiatives;
- Commit to collaboration and fostering collective responsibility to promote sustainability;
- Strive for consensus, establish clear targets, and commit to transparent reporting;
- Build community awareness via education and support community-led action;
- Drive innovation and leverage private investment and community programs; and
- Aim for sustainability objectives that increase the wellbeing of present and future generations of Tasmanians.

In relation to the SDGs, the discussion paper noted that the Tasmanian strategy could simply adopt the SDGs (using Canada as an example of a jurisdiction that has done so) or could streamline by identifying six priority areas and goals and mapping the SDGs to those goals (using the Hawai'i Aloha+ challenge as an example). The discussion paper then presents the proposed sustainability priority areas and goals (as presented in the short discussion paper) mapped against relevant SDGs.

1.4 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The release of the Sustainability Discussion Papers in August 2023 marked the opening of the Sustainability Strategy Consultation. Tasmanians could participate in the consultation by answering up to 7 sustainability questions through a form on the Tasmanian Government's website sustainability.tas.gov.au/have-your-say, e-mailing a submission to policy@dpac.tas.gov.au, and/or registering interest in further consultation. The consultation questions were:

1. What words would you use to describe an ideal Tasmania in 2050? (with participants asked to enter up to 5 words)
2. What are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania?
3. What do you plan to do by 2030, 2040 and 2050, to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania in 2050?
4. What do you hope Tasmania looks like in 2050 - our society, economy, and natural environment?
5. What are the most important challenges we need to overcome to achieve your vision for Tasmania in 2050?
6. If we streamline the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to around six sustainability topics or focus areas for Tasmania's sustainability goals, what would they be, or do you think we should simply align with the SDGs?
7. In what areas of sustainability do you think Tasmania is doing well, and are there other priorities where we could do better?

Concurrently, the Wellbeing Consultation survey was in the field and its second open-ended question 'what does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?' was included to inform the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy.

1.5 THIS REPORT

The rest of the report unfolds as follows:

- Chapter 2 presents analysis of the sustainability-related question asked in the Wellbeing Consultation: 'What does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?' The analysis is presented by domains of life and society (e.g., governance, natural environment, health), in order of how prominently the domains were mentioned across people's responses. Additionally, sustainability-related themes that arose in other government consultations are outlined.
- Chapter 3 presents analyses of responses to the seven questions of the Sustainability Strategy discussion papers. The analysis is presented by question.
- Chapter 4 summarises and analyses the themes that arose in submissions to the Sustainability Strategy Discussion Paper Consultation.

2. What does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?

The Wellbeing Consultation survey, conducted through The Tasmania Project of the Institute for Social Change at University of Tasmania, was commissioned by the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet as part of the consultation process to inform the Tasmanian Wellbeing Framework. The survey was formally open between 5th June and 30th September 2023.

The first question of the survey asked “what does wellbeing mean to you?” The analysis of that question is presented in the Wellbeing Consultation report. The second question of the survey asked: “what does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?” Asking people to envision an ideal state and invoking future generations resulted in more expansive and aspirational responses than “what does wellbeing mean to you?”, where many people’s responses were bounded by the realities of the present. For example, while most wellbeing responses related to work focused on the importance of work/life balance, sustainability responses talked about the importance of an economy and society that offered jobs for everyone, meaningful career development opportunities, and competitive wages relative to the mainland.

As with wellbeing, the themes of responses to the sustainability question often intersected, both in that respondents mentioned multiple themes within their responses (e.g., ‘enough jobs, a pristine environment’), and that the themes intersected with each other (e.g., several people linked a strong economy with government investment in social programs; many saw environmental protection as an opportunity for economic innovation; feeling safe was a very prominent aspect of the social environment and several people linked it to the need for crime reduction, justice reform, and/or cultural change around violence). Additionally, there were several themes that cut across the main themes that emerged from responses.

The most prominent cross-cutting theme was equity. This is perhaps unsurprising given that the question asked respondents to think about an ‘ideal’ for (all) ‘future generations’, however the extent to which people applied their responses to all future Tasmanians was still striking. This was evident in simple ways, such as calls for housing for all, jobs for all, and rights and political freedoms for everyone, as well as more complex ways such as visions of a society where everyone has access to opportunities regardless of their background, social safety nets that support those who need it to participate in society, and a service system that meets the needs of everyone.

A second cross-cutting theme was sustainability. Again, this is not surprising given that the consultation question aimed to get at notions of sustainability; however, it is notable considering that the survey question did not use the word sustainability. Most references to sustainability appeared to focus on the environmental component, but in various contexts, for example individuals living sustainably, sustainable management of the natural environment, high environmental standards for industry, and using innovation to develop an environmentally sustainable economy. Another cross-cutting theme was Tasmanian identity and pride. This was evident in calls to maintain Tasmania’s natural identity (most often through environmental protection and conservation), to leverage Tasmania’s unique identity in economic development (e.g., sustainable tourism, renewable energy, local food production), and maintaining Tasmania’s

laid back, friendly and welcoming social environment to make Tasmania ‘a place people want to stay’.

Finally, a strong cross-cutting theme was opportunity. Particularly prominent was the presence of opportunities for people, in terms of jobs, wages, access to the environment, and participation in decision making. However, many also mentioned the use of opportunities present in local and global landscapes to develop the Tasmanian economy and physical infrastructure.

2.1 Governance and governance institutions

The role of governance and governance institutions in an ideal Tasmania for future generations was prominent. Responses articulated that the government and economy should be person-centred, that Tasmania’s Indigenous people and cultures should be respected and recognised, there should be a strong public service and public services, and opportunities for participatory decision making. In addition, many called for better governance, such as through less corruption, greater transparency, a robust democracy, and reforms to systems. Finally, several people expressed worry about political polarisation, diversity and robustness of the media, and trust in science.

2.1.1 PERSON-CENTRED GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMY

A strong subtheme under governance and governance institutions was the idea of a government and economy that puts people at the centre of decisions. This was often presented in general terms, such as ‘a Tasmania which puts its people at the centre of decision making’, ‘people-focused government’, ‘a government that looks after people’, or ‘a place where people matter’. However, many people appeared to contrast a person-centred ideal with what they observe at present. Some were concerned with decisions being dominated by politicians’ interests:

“...our systems and policies empower EVERYONE, not just the white middle class educated people that sit in government.”

“...better politicians who are interested in the welfare of the population instead of their own welfare!!”

Some were concerned with the disproportionate power of big business and corporations:

“A Govt that governs for the citizens and not just for itself and corporations.”

“That big business doesn’t have control over everything or of the government.”

While others were concerned about general wealth and power disparities:

“A government that promotes & protects a healthy environment & developments that improve quality of life for all, not just those with the power to get what makes money for them.”

“Not be too scared of lobby groups etc to make the right decisions.”

"Having a government that serves its people rather than vested interests."

"A future where we don't have government by rent seekers and vested interests."

2.1.2 INDIGENOUS RESPECT AND RECOGNITION

Indigenous respect and recognition was central to many respondents' ideal Tasmania for future generations. Particularly prominent was the need to acknowledge and redress prior wrongs, including the events of colonisation and the ensuing narrative about those events:

"There would be proper truth-telling process in order to address aboriginal issues."

"Active repentance for past wrongs and reconciliation — including sins in founding, like the wrongs committed in colonisation and transportation, and more recent wrongs, notably the way we treat the unborn and the elderly."

"Recognition and redress of the genocide of Tasmanian aboriginal people."

"There should be a resolution of the consequences of the English invasion in the 1800s."

"An ideal Tasmania shows respect to its traditional owners and strives for visibility in the shadow of the "there is no more aboriginal Tasmanians" lie."

A number of direct references were made to core elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – voice, treaty, and truth. For example, 'treaty with Palawa people', 'significant land given back to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people', 'recognition of Aboriginal people', and 'our First Nations people have a voice into parliament and a treaty'. One person talked about advancing a state-level Voice:

"A state which is a leader in supporting and advancing the inclusion and listening to our aboriginal communities - a formal state Voice."

Many people envisioned an ideal Tasmania where aboriginal wisdom and culture are 'valued', 'respected', 'acknowledged', and 'celebrated'. As well as the aforementioned truth-telling, voice and treaty, some people had specific areas in which indigenous wisdom, culture and heritage should be better recognised, such as traditional place names and environmental management.

"Tasmanian indigenous heritage will be deeply respected and Aboriginal place names will be commonly used."

"Better engagement with the Aboriginal community and representation of culture in public space - we need to do this so much more!"

"The culture reflects the wisdom of the first nations people – recognising no dichotomy between body, soul nor Country – recognising their wellbeing is interdependent with the wellbeing of Country."

"Our lands and waterways are owned and managed by Tasmanian people. We learn from and value the traditional custodians of this land, their sovereignty is recognised."

2.1.3 STRONG PUBLIC SERVICE AND SERVICES

Several respondents envisioned that an ideal Tasmania would have a strong public service and public services. For some, this was about the capacity and quality the public service:

"Its politicians and public servants would work for the people of Tasmania, corruption and nepotism would not be allowed to thrive."

"We need a well-functioning health system, an efficient Public Service open to change and a government with a slight socialist and green tinge."

"Our public service is small, talented, agile. Our politicians are different to those now - they too are smart, have integrity, vision and courage."

Some were concerned with bureaucracy and inefficiency, particularly in the allocation of funding:

"Reduction in bureaucracy and centralisation, in favour of strong local communities, with freedom to adapt and build as needed."

"Government spending focussed on Tasmania's needs instead of spending Tasmanian taxpayers' money on white elephants like the stadium proposed for Hobart."

"Government spending is transparent and budgeting kept accountable so that money allocated is spent responsibly and not wasted."

The envisioned end result of a strong public service were 'excellent', 'well-financed', and 'effective' public services. Particular sectors of the service system are discussed in relevant chapters (e.g., health, education, housing, social infrastructure).

2.1.4 PARTICIPATORY DECISION MAKING

A prominent element of an ideal Tasmania for future generations was participatory decision making – that people would have the opportunity to speak and be heard about decisions that affect them. Some respondents presented this as a general ideal:

"A place where the people matter and they are genuinely consulted and provided with age appropriate high quality services"

"One with the right priorities and a governing body that listens and can get things done for the better."

"A place where people have a good civic education and are active and informed contributors to democratic society."

Some were concerned with representation of certain cohorts, particularly those who are often marginalised or unheard:

"Children and young people have their voices heard, understood and considered."

"Being heard is crucial for a dynamic, healthy community -especially for those who have typically been excluded and denied a voice such as women, migrants, people with disability, queer folk."

"Opportunities for participation and engagement would be available to all, allowing diverse perspectives to shape policies and initiatives."

Many contrasted participatory decision making with their experiences of the present:

"Democratic processes are respected - legislation is not enacted to override community consultation processes which reveal a project is not supported."

"It is not run by lobbyists manipulating government. It is not governed by idealists but by practical and caring people in authority, who value community opinions rather than just money or votes."

"Public input respected and sought. Referendums for large projects, and approval processes adhered to. No ability for projects to circumvent these processes through sneaky back-door legislation."

2.1.5 BETTER GOVERNANCE

A theme that many respondents alluded to in different ways was better governance through various mechanisms, such as reforms, reduced corruption and increased transparency. Intersecting with the subtheme of person-centred governance, several people talked about an 'open' and 'robust' democracy and better representation through political systems:

"Politics would be more transparent and more inclusive of marginalised groups."

"Politicians of all political persuasions, to realize they work for, and are paid by the people, to work for the good of the people. To be treated and treat others with respect and dignity."

Reducing corruption and increasing transparency and accountability were also strong subthemes, reflected in statements such as 'negligible corruption in public and private sector', 'a responsive non-corrupt, transparent state and local government' and 'corruption in government will be eliminated'. Particular concerns were raised about nepotism and cronyism within politics and opacity around relationships between industry/the private sector and politicians and governments.

Several people called for reforms to governance systems or aspects of them. For some, these were calls for wholesale reform, such as moving away from a capitalist system and/or a rethinking of current models:

"A Tasmania that is equitable for the environment which sustains us. A society which thoroughly evaluates the impacts of human activity on the environment, and if negative consequences are unavoidable, offsets these."

"Focus on wellbeing as a process for decision making for government/development."

"Smaller government and increased opportunity for people to chart the own course through life."

Some respondents raised the need and/or ideas for reforms in specific areas, such as justice, local government, tax, and immigration. These ideas were often specific, but ideas and priorities varied between people, for example, in the case of local government:

"If the government cannot reduce the number of councils down to three or four, get rid of the entire third tier of government and manage council affairs through an extended state government."

"Council amalgamations with services being provided across boundaries, with the rate load shared. Currently ratepayers in the cities are subsidising users from other areas for major shared facilities. E.g. Launceston Aquatic Centre is used by ratepayers from several municipalities as 1 example."

"LGA's maintaining their identity after the local government review."

There was slightly more agreement around the tax system, with respondents seeking more fairness, such as greater taxes on wealth, assets and rents for individuals and higher taxes for big businesses. Some had specific suggestions such as abolishing land tax and a levy on businesses for being able to use Tasmania's resources (including its beauty).

Responses about the justice system were mostly about criminal justice and attracted mixed perspectives, with some people seeking greater enforcement of laws and harsher punishments for criminals, and others seeking reforms such as justice reinvestment (reallocation of funding from courts and prisons to social programs to prevent crime), giving non-violent offenders opportunities to work in the community, and building infrastructure (e.g., skate parks) to engage youths and divert them from crime.

"Where fewer members of society are incarcerated and social justice in general takes priority over law and order."

"This isn't to say "we need more police" (we need far less and that money to go on useful social programs)."

"Proper punishment for crimes committed."

A couple of responses referred to other aspects of the legal system, for example calls to reforms of planning laws and greater respect of individual rights by the government.

Immigration also attracted varied responses, with some people calling for an end to refugee detention and others calling for lower refugee intake and better screening of asylum applications. Similarly, some people talked about the need to be more welcoming and to take more (legal) migrants, while others wanted lower immigration, and some sought a middle ground of immigration numbers that were responsive to circumstances (e.g., less immigration during a housing crisis).

2.1.6 POLITICAL POLARISATION, MEDIA, AND SCIENCE

Several interesting points were raised about citizens' interactions with governance and related institutions and, indeed, each other. Many respondents raised concerns about political polarisation, some about disproportionate influence of the left, with references to 'radical socialist agenda', 'political correctness' and 'vocal woke minorities', but most were concerned about the inability to engage and debate meaningfully and find the middle ground:

"A vibrant and diverse population with the capacity to debate meaningfully rather than polarised yes and no."

"As for freedom vs equity. I think it's simple, one picks a balance point somewhere in the middle. Anywhere from 25% freedom 75% equity to 75% equity 25% freedom is fine. Just don't fixate on the extreme and let things change if they need to and Tasmania will be fine."

"Less polarisation on a range of issues including those previously mentioned and more viable middle ground solutions. A state which advocates for sustainability and community, compassion and caring."

Related to polarisation, many were concerned about the quality and representativeness of the media, particularly a lack of local media. Some called for “a media which represents Tasmania to Tasmanians”, “access to high quality public broadcasting”, and a Tasmania where “the local media improves its intellectualism”. The lack of diversity of perspectives in the media was a concern for several people, with varying perspectives on diversity:

“Create genuinely diverse media e.g., reduce hegemony of radical left in mainstream media.”

“New local media is supported; corporate mainstream media is shown to be inaccurate and coercive.”

“Where the internet and the information contained is no longer controlled and censored by corporations and governments in order to keep society dumbed down and controlled and where they can use social media to lead people into war.”

“A wider media landscape, particularly in print.”

Intersecting with political polarisation and the media, some respondents’ ideal Tasmania for future generations included beliefs and decisions based on evidence and science. Science and technology are discussed more in the natural environment and economy chapters.

2.2 Natural environment

Unsurprisingly, given Tasmania’s strong nature-based identity, the importance of the natural environment to Tasmanians’ wellbeing, and growing concerns over climate change, the natural environment was a strong theme in responses to “what does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?” In particular, respondents believed that an ideal Tasmania for future generations involved a clean, protected and biodiverse natural environment, sustainable living by individuals and a balance between economic development and conservation of the natural environment, preservation and valuing of Tasmania’s natural identity and heritage, access to nature for everyone, and action on and safety from climate change.

2.2.1 CLEAN, PROTECTED AND BIODIVERSE

The most prominent subthemes within the natural environment pertained to keeping it protected, clean and biodiverse. This was often mentioned in general terms, such as ‘environmental protections’, ‘control of nature’s assets’, ‘environmentally responsible’, ‘protected’, ‘preserved’ ‘nurtured’, ‘pristine’ and ‘respected’ natural environment. Some respondents specified the environments that they believed should be protected:

“Conservation of our waterways, national parks and Mount Wellington (kunanyi).”

“A Tasmania where we treasure the natural environment, not just our world heritage areas and national parks, but our farmlands, our oceans and waterways.”

“The natural environment will be cared for, this includes waterways, air, land and all of the native animals and vegetation”.

Interestingly, for several people, the arts and creativity were mentioned alongside the natural environment:

“Protecting our national parks and natural places is important for our children and their children and for the planet. Ensuring we keep our clean green farming and produce that the state is known for and our vibrant art community.”

“A sustainable, vibrant and equitable island state. Its natural resources are protected, creativity is celebrated and there is an equitable distribution of opportunities that are leading to a healthier population.”

A clean environment was mentioned a lot, with general phrases such as ‘clean and green’ or ‘a clean environment’, as well as references to particular natural assets such as ‘clean air’, ‘clean water’, and ‘clean waterways’. Pollution was a concern raised by many, with several pointing to particular sources of pollution that required better management or abolition in their view, such as salmon farms, wood stoves/ fires, mining, forestry, and ‘heavy industry’.

Biodiversity was raised frequently, both with direct use of the term and references to the importance of the state’s development not impinging upon natural flora and fauna.

“Maintain wild places and temper development with limiting the effects on climate, geography, the natural environment and its creatures.”

“Develop wildlife corridors and respect and protect the unique flora and fauna in the state.”

“An end to native forest logging, where our unique native forests are valued for their biodiversity and carbon storage values, and the inherent value of nature to humanity.”

2.2.2 SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND DEVELOPMENT

A very common theme was sustainable living and development. For individuals, this involved ‘living in harmony with nature’, reducing ‘consumerism’, ‘consumption’ and ‘waste’, and being ‘eco-friendly’.

“Flourishing ecologically diverse ecosystems, where people live in harmony with nature rather than dominating it.”

“One that appreciates and protects the natural environment, where people co-exist with nature and don’t over-run or destroy vulnerable and irreplaceable habitats or inhabit all of the open space.”

For many, individual-level sustainable living was supported by systems and resources, particularly renewable energy, green transport, and recycling.

“Clean air and water, good recycling systems, functioning waste management, care for the environment, looking after nature, better transport options, cheaper connections to the rest of Australia.”

“Zero homelessness. Zero greenhouse emissions. All single use plastics replaced with biodegradable plant-based plastics. Better recycling facilities. Widespread use of electric cars and trains. Sustainability education and reduction of waste.”

“Sustainable practices and innovation; regarding issues such as recycling options, forestry practices, EV take-up, etc.”

“We will have green energy to run our homes and vehicles, shared vegetable patches and humane treatment of our animals used for commercial use. Lots of parklands that are maintained with solar energy for lighting, interactive walkways and signs that explain our history.”

With regard to sustainable development, though some people called for environmental protection regardless of economic costs and some called for less influence of environmentalists on development decisions, overwhelmingly, most desired a balance between development and environmental protection:

"A balance between sustainable industries and economic development supporting the needs of the population."

"A Tasmania that strikes the perfect balance - maintains an environmental conscience while at same time providing a stimulating environment which keeps up with world progress."

"A holistic view is taken to managing environment and industry to ensure a healthy balance and industry are held to the highest possible standards to maintain the real Tasmanian image."

In a similar vein, several people talked about a balance between urban, rural and natural spaces in Tasmania. Once again, some called for decreased urbanisation and some for increased, but most called for a balance, for example mid-rise developments instead of high rise, wildlife corridors in suburban developments, and the integration of nature within developments.

"Conserving the natural environment and a consciously designed built and social environment- spaces that are well planned and access to community spaces that encourage interaction."

"A good balance between urban, rural and wilderness areas."

"It is a place where the natural environment is celebrated and urban spaces are green."

2.2.3 PRESERVATION AND VALUING OF NATURAL IDENTITY AND HERITAGE

Intersecting with sustainable development, many people mentioned the importance of maintaining Tasmania's natural identity. This included Tasmania's 'wilderness', 'wildness', 'island-ness', 'island identity', 'natural identity' and its 'difference from the mainland'. For many, the importance of preserving this identity was emphasised by concerns about the state's current development trajectory:

"I desperately want Tasmania to actually be the 'clean and green' environment it purports to be and maintain our unique wilderness areas. I am depressed about the trend for the state government to support and seek out development in national parks, about the logging of old growth forests and cutting down of the extraordinary old tall trees that still remain."

"Keeping Tasmania the way it is (or at least, not getting any worse!) - too many people are moving here from other places (in Australia, and the world) and saying that they love it here BUT they would like it to be like the place they've moved from in some way or other. If where they came from was so great, why did they leave?"

"Currently Tasmania is a place that is very attractive and unique to mainlanders. It is clean and green and very affordable to live here. I would like to see Tasmania look after its resources and keep being sensitive to the environment."

"Tasmania is changing, we are becoming a more diverse state with more mainlanders moving here who are savvier with needs and requirements. It is important Tasmania does not lose its identity of nature, walks and activity."

Several saw the preservation of nature and Tasmania's natural identity as an opportunity or unique selling proposition to consider as it grows and develops:

"The future of Tasmania must preserve the wilderness that makes the state precious and unique, whilst also bringing new life to our cities through embracing change and bringing in greater diversity."

"At the heart of an ideal future Tasmania is a robust commitment to environmental sustainability. Tasmania's unparalleled natural beauty, from its pristine beaches to its ancient rainforests and national parks, is its greatest asset. Preserving these ecosystems for future generations is of paramount importance."

"Maintaining the clean, green image and continuing to ensure that all levels of government and society understand what "brand Tasmania" means to people who choose to live here and those who visit."

Many respondents also referred to the need to preserve Tasmania's nature, wildlife and heritage, with many mentions of old growth forests, native forests, National Parks, and World Heritage Areas. For some, the value of these areas was inherent, others associated it with Tasmania's identity and 'brand', others still discussed the interconnection of natural and human wellbeing, and some talked about the importance of the aesthetic:

"Preservation of wooded and scenic areas. A good example is kunanyi. It's so iconic and aesthetically present but profit-makers see it as a commodity waiting to be 'developed', usually the result is loss of aesthetic integrity."

"A state that values its heritage - no more ugly buildings, friendly people, clean & green."

2.2.4 ACCESS TO NATURE

Access to nature was an important aspect of an ideal Tasmania for future generations among respondents. For many, this was linked to environmental protection, such that future generations' enjoyment of nature was a driving reason for the preservation of natural spaces. Several people raised tourism in the context of access to nature, with some concerned that locals' access and enjoyment of Tasmanian nature was impeded by or being sacrificed for tourists:

"Public access to all state and national parks, with no private corporate 'resorts' or development, as green spaces and nature so affect our mental health."

"A focus on our amazing environment. A restriction on crass tourist development and too many tourists. Let's keep what we have naturally."

"A place that values its natural beauty and its people - that doesn't put profit before people and that doesn't rush into developing places that are unique and untouched - ruining them for locals for the sake of convenience of tourists."

It's important to note that many responses were pro-tourism, raising opportunities to leverage Tasmania's unique natural identity in the tourism context without destroying the environment. These are discussed in the economy chapter.

A very strong subtheme within access to nature was green spaces 'for all'. This comprised 'urban' and 'open' greenspaces, 'gardens', 'flowers' and 'trees'. Green spaces were frequently mentioned alongside more rugged, natural landscapes including national parks, but many mentioned the role of developed green spaces to support activities that benefit people at all stages of their lives:

"Where there are adequate spaces for wellbeing (park, water, spaces) that work for all people at whatever life stage they are in."

"Where edible gardens and streetscapes abound so that healthy food is available to all and people care for it together and share what they grow with each other"

"Really sensible cohesive urban planning with good design parks and playgrounds incorporated into any new developments. Green space, cycleways and shopping centres within easy reach and buses that make it easy to get to and from."

2.2.5 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change featured in many respondents' ideal Tasmania for future generations in two main ways: the state and its people being safe from the impacts (or, at least, the 'worst impacts') of climate change, and the state taking climate action. Some took a hopeful view, envisioning a future where 'climate change is reduced to a non-issue', has been 'reversed', or Tasmania's population is 'unaffected' by it. Others saw climate change as transforming our way of life, and that an ideal Tasmania adapted to that:

"This involves prioritizing conservation efforts, investing in renewable energy sources, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Tasmania should continue to harness its potential in wind and hydroelectric power to achieve energy self-sufficiency and even become a renewable energy exporter. With a well-managed transition, Tasmania could turn into a global leader in sustainability and conservation."

"Population capped and strategies implemented to relocate residents away from climate change risk areas, including low lying coastal and riverine areas, away from bushfire hazard areas. Denser, greener cities."

"Climate change is recognised and all planning of housing and facilities have a mechanism which ensures preparation for predicted changes and more. Plans for climate disasters include everyone, schools kids are trained in high school to prepare."

People also talked about taking climate action in general terms, with references to the 'scale and pace [of action] required', communities being 'attuned to the challenge', and the state implementing 'forward thinking', 'climate minimisation' strategies. The importance of addressing climate change for future generations was not lost on respondents:

"Critically, the climate needs to have stabilised with atmospheric pollution reduced and CO2 below 350 ppm by 2050. Then, I think future Tasmanians will be able to speak for themselves."

"Ideally where future generations are not worried about climate change because it is fixed or measures that have been put in place to mitigate the problem are commonplace."

2.3 Social infrastructure

Many responses discussed the social infrastructure that an ideal Tasmania for future generations would have. This included social safety nets, social services, and services and amenities such as arts, culture and entertainment to support social wellbeing. However, most prominent in responses that referenced social infrastructure were the 'end results' of strong social infrastructure, namely opportunity, equity, and equality.

2.3.1 OPPORTUNITY, EQUITY AND EQUALITY

Several people talked about a future Tasmania that offered opportunities. As well as educational and work opportunities, which are discussed in their respective chapters, an ideal Tasmania for many respondents involved opportunities to 'grow to one's full potential', live a 'safe, fulfilled life', 'enjoy a good quality of life', 'contribute...and be valued'. It was particularly important that these opportunities be available to everyone, regardless of age, income, ability, or other factors.

"Future prosperities are open to all peoples of Australia not just the wealthy minorities."

"Our young people have opportunities to grow within the state and achieve their potential. Our vulnerable groups are supported and included."

"A Tasmania where every child has the same opportunities to develop and progress in life regardless of where they are born or what their background or ability."

"An ideal Tasmania would provide future generations with equal opportunity to thrive at all stages of life."

Strongly linked with opportunity was equity, which many people mentioned with just the words 'equity' or 'equitable' or alluded to with statements about inclusivity and 'for all' when describing an ideal Tasmania. Others were more expansive:

"Equitable: food and accommodation affordable and available to all residents; employment opportunities and incentives to work for people of all aptitudes; improved and adequate healthcare services. Research, review and investment in models for prevention of mental health, crime, AOD and homelessness."

"Equitable. A society where we look after those who are doing it tough or are unable to look after themselves, particularly our First Nation's people who have been so mistreated for so long."

"More equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to live their best life. Everyone feels included and can contribute no matter what their background and education."

Equality was also frequently discussed. Some people indicated that they felt that some groups and perspectives were currently unequally favoured, and many sought a Tasmania where discrimination, marginalisation and prejudice were features of the past:

"Also, an ideal Tasmania would be a place where EVERYONE is able to express their feelings/opinions freely and without fear, regardless of race, religious faith or gender i.e., REAL inclusion, not favouring one to the detriment of others."

"A place where the law is applied to all in the same manner. No one gets special rights or treatment due to their heritage. The right to free speech. The right to live, work and enjoy life, with minimal government interference."

"A place of equality, opportunity and diversity, free from discrimination of any form (sex, age, gender identity, race, health and disability) and free from corruption and crime."

"Peaceful, prosperous and one where people are treated equally no matter what sexuality; gender; race; culture etc."

The gap between rich and poor was the most commonly mentioned source of inequity or inequality, but some people mentioned intergenerational, sex, gender and sexuality, and racial inequity/inequality.

2.3.2 SERVICES, SYSTEMS AND SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

Many responses discussed the importance of social service systems and social safety nets in an ideal Tasmania for future generations. The service system was seen as key to providing access to the essentials of life:

"Having the necessary social infrastructure that all people can access - housing, health and aged care, education and power supply."

"Where they have access to food, shelter, education, social and recreational activities, where they feel safe and connected to community and environment."

Some responses mentioned particular cohorts for whom the service system and social safety nets should be present, such as children, families, young people, people with disabilities, and people with lower incomes. However, a strong thread among responses, including many who indicated a preference for smaller or less involved government, was that social safety nets should be there if and when anyone needs them. Accordingly, equity, including intergenerational (in) equity, was once again a strong focus:

"A government that rules with compassion helping others that are less able to cope with the world we live in i.e., health system; disability and mental health support systems."

"A society where people of all ages can access support as required to manage any challenges they face (i.e., quality support for people with disabilities, mental health problems etc)."

"As an older Tasmanian I worry about the youth. By depriving them of the advantages I had through my life such as free health, affordable housing, free education we are creating a generation of discontent and I don't blame them."

2.3.3 ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Arts, culture and entertainment were also important components of social infrastructure in many people's ideal Tasmania for future generations. For several respondents, cultural amenity and participation were listed alongside other essentials of life such as housing, education and healthcare:

"Where everyone has a place to live and enough resources to live and play. Having a safe warm place to live, being able to get around, and participate in cultural activities, being able to stay healthy, active, and having nutritious food."

"Remain clean, have excellent education and medical care, have full engagement with arts and sport. Housing for all and great public transport. Good infrastructure for active transport."

"A place where education, health, work and leisure are accessible and fairly supported, so that people from all backgrounds are supported to do their best."

The AFL stadium was mentioned, often negatively but sometimes positively. Regardless of stadium position, several responses talked about the importance of developing a Tasmania that allows people to have cultural and sporting experiences:

"A Tasmania that values and invests in the arts e.g., continuation of events such as Dark Mofo and other local festivals and arts initiatives. A Tasmania that encourages musicians and artists from the mainland and internationally to visit and perform."

"The opportunity to educate every child in the state, good education and health outcomes, coupled with good sporting opportunities. I think sport is such an important part of children's development, providing discipline, friendships and sense of belonging."

"Clean beaches and waterways. camping fishing bushwalking in managed natural areas. A supported and developed cultural life with art, music and theatre an important part of life."

Once again, cultural and entertainment amenity 'for all' was prioritised by respondents, with people referencing cost, for example 'free activities for families' and 'access to facilities and entertainment for all - not just for the "haves"' and location e.g., 'open spaces for entertainment in all the suburbs'.

2.4 Economy

While the economy was not a prominent feature in people's definition of their own wellbeing, it was a strong theme in an ideal Tasmania for future generations. A thread throughout people's visions of the ideal economy for future generations was sustainability, such as through environmental standards for industry, manageable economic and population growth, and investment in renewable energy. Related to sustainability was innovation, such that many envisioned an innovative economy that was 'world leading' and 'set global standards' in various regards. Some responses focused on particular industries or sectors, such as tourism, renewable energy, waste management and small business. The relationship between the economy and individual and community wellbeing was articulated by some, with recognition that a strong economy can fund strong social services and that a diverse, innovative economy is key to attracting and retaining the talent needed in the state.

2.4.1 SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of the economy was mentioned in various ways. For some, it was about ensuring that Tasmania had and retained enough of its own resources, such as food, energy and people, to be self-sufficient:

"An ideal Tasmania has its own energy supply and does not need to rely on the mainland."

"Ideally we should be in a situation where we don't have to rely on being subsidised by the other states, and where there is meaningful employment for all. That means getting sufficient new appropriate industries to develop in the state."

"An ideal Tasmania is where business is growing and would like to see more Tasmania made products rather than relying on the mainland Australia."

"The profits of the land stay in the land. Our energy consumption is reduced as we meet our needs using our current hydro system to supplement by other sustainable sources."

"We grow our own food using locally owned farms, small, locally owned businesses meet needs for consumer needs building, tourism, transport even."

"Self-sustainability, not relying on being propped up by other states for skilled labour."

Many were concerned with the sustainability of economic and population growth. Many people were worried about overcrowding and a loss of Tasmania's natural and small-town character through overdevelopment and overpopulation. Several called for caps to the population or maintaining a 'smaller', 'lower', 'similar' or 'the same' population size into the future. Many others discussed the need for 'manageable' population growth, in line with infrastructure and services, particularly housing, healthcare and education. It is worth noting that a couple of people advocated for a much larger population.

When describing sustainable growth of the economy, the most common concern was protecting the environment, however, many people also sought greater 'health', 'diversity' and 'mix' in the industries of the Tasmanian economy. The interconnection of human, environmental and economic wellbeing was articulated particularly clearly by one respondent:

"Stronger economic wellbeing that uplifts the whole of society. Economic wellbeing underpins a sense of opportunity for all, but that it is created through innovation and leverage of our unique attributes, scaled up. Tasmania creates prosperity through clever design and a growth mindset, not resource and environmental exploitation. Health and wellbeing are supported by a strong economy and excellent public investment."

A key way that many respondents wanted sustainability embedded into the economy was through the implementation of rigorous, high environmental standards for businesses and industries to protect air, soil and waterways.

"Economic stability via industries which respect the precious natural value of the land & water."

"World leader in sustainable industries that do not adversely impact on the environment and which utilise 100% clean power generation."

"A holistic view is taken to managing environment and industry to ensure a healthy balance and industry are held to the highest possible standards to maintain the real Tasmanian image."

Particular industries, such as salmon farming, agriculture, forestry and mining were mentioned frequently.

"Fish farms are made to work in a way that doesn't pollute and destroy our waterways. Current damage to our waterways is reversed."

"Fish farming, forest and mining industries within Tasmania follow world best practices."

A Tasmania where our unique natural environment is respected and protected, where resource extraction industries are limited in their capacity to mine, log and pollute what remains of our relatively pristine environment.

"There are no environmentally devastating industries like the current salmon farms in Tasmania."

"No aquaculture industry, sustainable forestry only, no old growth logging."

"Our agriculture is regenerative"

For several respondents, keeping businesses and industries local was key:

"An ideal Tasmania protects its natural resources. Preventing development into our wild bushlands and industry takeover from interstate and international companies."

"The ideal Tasmania keeps its wonderful green spaces, heritage areas such as the Tarkine and isn't mined or logged and more money is put into developing outdoor pursuits rather than selling off our oceans and waterways to overseas salmon farms or Chinese dairy farmers."

"Rejects large interstate and especially foreign companies that rape the land and sea, and install excessively large and inappropriate buildings and other structures."

"Retained natural resources, responsible use of forestry and mining resources to continue sustainable employment and economy."

2.4.2 INNOVATION

A number of people envisioned an ideal Tasmania as having innovation in its economy. This intersected with sustainability, such that many called for an embrace of renewable energy and the opportunities afforded to Tasmania by the green transition. For some, economic innovation was about entrepreneurship, technology, and ideas:

"An economy based on intelligent services and industry. Sustainable farming. 100% renewable energy."

"We lead the world in innovative businesses and research. Our health & education systems are second to none. We are smart and happy and never smug."

"Ideas are fostered and innovations are valued and enable a growing, diverse economy."

The use of technology and innovation to diversify the economy in terms of the range of products, services and industry offered and the expansion of secondary and tertiary industries:

"Somewhere that has retained or retained the knowledge resources (people) required to increase secondary production within the state to process more of our primary products. It would also have the capacity to do this without compromising the natural environment."

"One which the economy depends upon all 3 of primary (which includes mining) secondary and tertiary industries to produce wealth."

"Our economy is thriving based on decarbonised industry, the production of a range of value-added products and uniquely Tasmanian service offerings."

"A place focused on progressing away from old-world industry, such as forestry and mining, towards a state where education, health, and technology are placed above traditional norms and will foster new industries within the state."

2.4.3 TOURISM

Tourism was a very commonly mentioned industry by respondents. Several were concerned about large-scale and 'crass' tourism developments, and many were concerned about too much tourism and related development 'crowding out' locals from campsites, beaches, and nature trails.

"Not overrun by rampant tourists who spoil the very places we adore."

"Continue to enjoy camping, fishing etc, with increased tourism we need more facilities & camping areas to enable Tasmanians to continue to enjoy the lifestyle we have enjoyed in the past but now becoming crowded & overused"

"Environment is protected from being damaged through mass tourism."

"Tasmania already has the means to be sustainable, but it is wasting them, mostly on the altar of tourism."

Many people recognised tourism as a core industry and opportunity for Tasmania, and called for a balance of environmental protection, preservation of character, and preservation of amenity for locals, often through 'sustainable', 'green', 'targeted', 'specialist' tourism that is 'centred around our unique heritage'.

"A place where National Parks are exactly that and not opened up for tourism developments. Tourism developments can and should be there but always in balance with the environment."

"Tourism is facilitated but kept within reason to maintain the quality of life and not wreck the very things that attract tourists."

"Hopefully still a state of fresh air, world class produce, clean and green. But with a balance for tourism and employment opportunities."

"Where Tourism is sustainable and where every tourist is engaged to help care for the island whilst they are here."

2.4.4 OTHER INDUSTRIES

As evident in the sections above, several other industries were mentioned in relation to the economy of an ideal Tasmania for future generations, such as agriculture, forestry, mining, services, healthcare, and technology. With mentions of these industries, a reasonable summary is that respondents want a Tasmanian economy focused on the needs of residents, that is diverse and resilient, considerate, protective and respectful of the environment, and offers opportunities for people to live well and stay in the state.

A section of the economy that was discussed in quite a few responses was small business, with many arguing that small business contributes more to local communities than big business, promotes greater community connection, and is key to unlocking uniquely Tasmanian economic potential.

"Reduce big business and keep small business alive and well as this supports community so much better than ones only thinking of have huge money available to only a few and not all."

"Of being big with ambition and prospering industries, as well and supportive rural and regional communities that also play a part of these networks with 1 and 2 people small businesses tying the fabric of communities together."

"Global companies are only in it for the money and do not care about people; they are not created to serve but to profit. Local businesses understand the needs of the community and experience the impact of what they do on their friends and neighbours."

"Where local businesses are supported by local people and government instead of foreign owned mega businesses that put profit before people and environment (e.g., salmon farms on our shores that pollute our waters and exploit our clean, green image with names like Huon and Tassal but are owned by corrupt Brazilian businessmen)."

Some people talked about supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs to diversify and bring innovation into the economy:

"Supporting small business people to start and grow businesses which engage and challenge our talent in the field, showcasing local produce and manufacturing."

"An environment where entrepreneurial skills are able to flourish, where progress is not always limited by fear of change, where the natural environment is protected."

"Entrepreneurial endeavours given encouragement."

2.4.5 RENEWABLES

Related again to sustainability, many respondents discussed growing our renewables sectors, particularly energy and recycling. Some discussed exporting Tasmania's green energy to the mainland or the world, others advocated for retaining it; some suggested neighbourhood batteries to share excess energy from rooftop solar, and many simply envisioned a future Tasmania with a 'zero-carbon economy' and/or where all 'industries are decarbonised' and 'run on 100% renewable energy'.

A number of people also mentioned recycling, advocating for greater 'investment in recycling', 'an effective method of recycling and repurposing materials', 'improved and recyclable waste management' and 'good recycling systems'. Bans on single-use and non-compostable plastics were advocated by a number of people, and some related recycling to a (positive) move to a more circular economy.

2.5 Social environment

A lot of responses described the social environment of their ideal Tasmania for future generations – how people and communities would feel and the opportunities and outcomes that the social environment would afford them. People sought an inclusive, welcoming and diverse Tasmania that supported connection and helped people to feel belonging and to be happy and healthy. Safety was another prominent subtheme, with many responses describing an ideal Tasmania as one where people feel safe, and some linking safety to reduced crime and violence. Finally, many people articulated a desire for Tasmania to be a place that people want to stay and are proud of.

2.5.1 INCLUSIVE, WELCOMING AND DIVERSE

Many people's ideal Tasmania was inclusive, articulated in statements such as 'all people would be valued and respected', 'an inclusive place free of racism, hate and poverty', 'an inclusive society', 'a place where inclusion is the norm, not the exception' and where 'all are welcome'. Several people identified the importance of inclusion of people who are often marginalised on the basis of gender, age, race, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, culture, and income.

"An inclusive society where those with disabilities, or from other cultures and backgrounds are accepted and can live fulfilling lives."

"Welcoming, and embracing the differences of individuals' cultures. A safe haven for all, especially those on lower incomes."

"It would be inclusive of people with disability, LGBTIQ+, women, children, young people, older adults, people with culturally diverse backgrounds, and Aboriginal Tasmanians."

"One where our kids are not frightened to go out if they are LGBTIQ+. One that welcomes those from other cultures, especially refugees."

"Where older persons and people living with disabilities have purpose, respect and dignity and marginalised people and groups feel accepted for who they are."

The importance of building a community and society that 'wraps around' people throughout their life course and in line with their needs was alluded to by many:

"Community has been so well thought about that from the youngest to the oldest members there is good programs and activities available so everyone feels apart of this society and has no need to commit crime and hurt others."

"An inclusive place where no one qualifies as 'underprivileged', and all age groups are respected and cared for."

"We are seen as a warm generous people in our values that accept diversity and are generous for folk in need."

Several people recognised that inclusivity was aspirational, with contrasts to how people of different backgrounds are treated by some at the moment, and visions of an upward trajectory for everyone:

"Where we can look back in time to see how life has and continues to improve for everyone in terms of literacy, access to housing, access to opportunities and the welcoming of new Tasmanians."

Closely related to inclusivity was welcoming, with several respondents' ideal Tasmania being welcoming of 'all', 'strangers', 'refugees', 'new Tasmanians' and 'everyone, regardless of background'.

Alongside inclusive and welcoming, several people's ideal Tasmania for future generations was diverse. This was most often mentioned generally, for example 'equitable, inclusive, and diverse', 'a diverse population', and 'diverse and progressive'. Responses that elaborated on what diversity means mirrored the responses about inclusion, such that an ideal Tasmania would be diverse in terms of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, disability status and socioeconomic status. Interestingly, quite a few respondents sought social diversity, diversity of opinions (and a social environment that allows free and respectful expression of them), and diversity of lived experience:

"Tasmania celebrates and incorporates lived experience and diversity fully across all roles and functions in community and government."

"It's a place where diversity of people and views are accepted and encouraged."

"An ideal Tasmania for future generations would be a place where diversity and inclusion is the norm. A place where we no longer compartmentalise individuals by their differences. A place where we are all seen and heard as individuals."

"A community accepting of diversity and free of bullying and harassment"

2.5.2 STRONG AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

An ideal Tasmania for many involved strong and connected communities. For some, the focus was on the factors that support community connection and strength, such as the presence of formal services for those who need them and informal supports from and for community members:

"Community settings that support connection & cohesion."

"Community focused with programs that create opportunities for people to come together and feel included and important."

"One where people are connected and support each other to ensure everyone's needs are met."

"Tasmania should foster strong, resilient communities that are supportive of each other and have access to quality healthcare, education, and social services."

"A place that is supportive of all and helps everyone find their calling in life."

"We support people who need it, we foster connected, supportive communities and we don't stand for intolerance and hatred. We seek to understand each other, not yell at those we disagree with."

Others referenced the strength of communities, articulating that their ideal Tasmania was one with 'community spirit', 'a sense of community', 'strong communities', and people and communities that are 'community focused', 'connected', 'united', and 'thriving'. Several people also mentioned social harmony and cohesion as features of an ideal community.

"Communities which are socially connected and supportive to all residents. People saying hi on the street, knowing when someone is going through a tough time and offering support, random acts of kindness flowing freely and often. Sustainable infrastructure that supports connection, wellbeing and enables people to live their best life."

Caring was a commonly desired feature of the social environment, expressed through phrases such as 'caring society', 'caring, sharing community', 'a caring place', and 'caring people'. Many alluded that a caring society would require a shift in values:

"The pursuit of profit will not be the focus of government policy. We will have a kind and caring community."

"In short, a society that values the politics of compassion and evidence instead of the politics of greed and aspirational belief."

"That the life experience and contribution of older Tasmanians is not under-valued and that communities look out for one another."

"Where not only those with 'hard skills' are held up as successful but where the importance of 'soft skills', humanities, arts and kindness are valued just as highly."

Creativity was another aspect of the social environment that many wanted promoted, through 'arts/culture activity', 'a lively and vibrant arts and culture scene', and 'appreciation' and 'respect' of 'visual arts', 'art' and 'artists'. Multiple people viewed arts, culture and entertainment as a key aspect of Tasmania's social environment for both residents and visitors. Additionally, several people sought a social environment where people could express themselves through creativity and were in touch with their creative side.

Arising out of strong and connected communities, several responses talked about the outcomes or desired outcomes of such communities, particularly a 'sense of belonging' at an individual level and participation, contribution and giving back at a community/societal level.

"My ideal Tasmania values learning and cooperation – everyone is encouraged to develop their skills so they can contribute them to the community and feel valued for their contributions."

"One that is willing and able to care for everyone in the community regardless of their circumstances. One that will never let anyone suffer alone."

"Communities would have a sense of connection and would work together to support and help each other."

"Where people feel connected and contribute to their community through community participation, helping out and volunteering for a cause."

Some suggested changes to organisations, schools and society that would support individuals to give back:

"Tasmania actively supports people to volunteer. Organisations have funding to cover costs for clothing, petrol, and lunch for volunteers."

"Organisations are well supported to have a team of people look after volunteers, compliance and regulations, offer volunteers support and tailored placements."

"We have a 4-day work week, people are encouraged to use their 'spare day' to give back to the community, through volunteering or helping out neighbours/local school/ environmental projects."

"A place where volunteering is an important part of the school curriculum."

"Where Police checks and working with vulnerable people applications are free for volunteers and where subsidies are in place for a volunteer transport to get to a community to offer their support."

2.5.3 BEING HAPPY AND HEALTHY

Several people envisioned an ideal Tasmania as one where the populace feels happy and healthy. This was articulated through adjectives such as 'happy', 'healthy', 'content', 'resilient', 'thriving', 'healthier', and 'mentally healthy'.

"A well-educated, well employed, healthy, and happy population."

"Hopefully a happiness in mental spiritual and physical life."

"Of course we all want any Tasmanian in the future to be happy, healthy, prosperous, content & living in a sustainable world."

"Excellent healthy, educated and thriving communities."

Additionally, some responses talked about the absence of stress and pressure.

"A place where all people can live in harmony with themselves and nature without the stress of trying to keep up with the Jones's."

"An ideal Tasmania would be allowing people to live a healthy and relatively unpressured life where health, schooling and local issues are appropriately dealt with."

"Happy people in a relaxed, fun and natural environment (built and natural)."

2.5.4 FEELING SAFE

A social environment in which everyone feels safe was an important aspect of many people's ideal Tasmania for future generations. This was expressed through descriptions of Tasmania as a place where 'people feel safe', 'a safe place to raise a family', 'a place of security and comfort', and 'a safe and environmentally stable place to live'. While most people expressed a desire of safety for all, some identified particular cohorts that should be supported to feel safe including children, older people, culturally diverse people, women, LGBTIQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, and people with disabilities. For some, safety comprised freedom from fear and oppression:

"A place where love, peace and compassion are part of daily life rather than violence, division and fear."

"All citizens being sure they are welcome, they belong, they can seek and gain support if needed. They need to have a sense of safety, inclusion and no sense of fear whether from other people or government policies."

"Where all generations receive respect and support to live their lives in safety; free from coercion, bullying, discrimination, cruelty, threats of any kind."

Concerns around safety arose from several sources for people, from geopolitics to the family home. Some people described an ideal Tasmania as one 'free from extremists', 'not at war', 'safe from global threats' and 'at peace'. A number of people talked about an ideal Tasmania as having 'less' or 'reduced' crime, and some mentioned reducing alcohol, drugs and gambling (through supports to individuals and regulation) as key. For many, safety was about freedom from violence:

"Safe streets with no threat of violence."

"Happy families- no violence, every child with love and safety."

"We should all feel safe from local threats (e.g., crime, violence, poverty)."

A number of people mentioned a need to stop 'violence against women', 'domestic violence/sexual abuse' and 'domestic abuse' and provide 'far more resources and better resources for survivors of domestic violence' to create a Tasmania where 'women feel safe' and there is no 'gender inequality' or 'toxic gender stereotypes which keep violence going'.

"Gender equality: I still don't feel safe enough to catch a bus at night. Gender bias in medicine, and in careers need to go."

2.5.5 A PLACE PEOPLE WANT TO STAY

Many people expressed a desire for the social environment of Tasmania to elicit a sense of pride among its people and make it 'a place people want to stay'. For many, this involved creating opportunities for young people and families so 'they don't have to leave', as well as services, supports and manageable cost of living so people don't have to 'escape to the mainland'.

"Somewhere people can feel safe, with good social connections, and opportunities to develop skills without leaving the state."

"A place where relevant education is highly valued and where people want to come for their working years, not just their retirement."

"A State that young people do not have to leave to have a successful career, or where those of us who do leave (for specific opportunities) want to return to (as I have)."

"Somewhere where they want to live, work and study; a safe and supported environment with access to natural places and spaces for them to bring up their children."

Many people talked about leveraging Tasmania's strengths such as the 'pristine environment', 'relaxed lifestyle' and 'vibrant arts and culture scene' and addressing its weaknesses, most often 'healthcare' and 'education' in order to attract and retain people to the island. People wanted to retain Tasmania's uniqueness and envisioned a Tasmania for future generations that evoked pride in the state and "Tasmanian-ness":

"One where we are all proud to say we are Tasmanian and aspire to bring up our families and future generations here."

"A beautiful place where people are proud to live and want to give back."

"We are proud of our island and who we are."

2.6 Physical infrastructure

When communicating their ideal Tasmania for future generations, a number of people talked about physical infrastructure. This was often in a general sense, with descriptions of 'well-maintained', 'good', 'modern', 'developed', and 'better' 'infrastructure', 'major projects' and 'facilities'. Arising from acknowledgement that the future will involve various types of development, many respondents articulated a desire for that development to be thoughtful of humans and nature. Public transport was often mentioned as a type of infrastructure that people envisioned in their ideal Tasmania, along with other types such as hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, and sporting facilities.

2.6.1 THOUGHTFUL DEVELOPMENT

As well as the need for development to integrate and protect the environment, many respondents discussed the need for development to better consider people's needs, changes in Tasmania's demography and climate, and Tasmania's heritage, character and culture. Many called for better urban planning to facilitate transport, sustainability/eco-friendliness, and community building:

"Improved urban planning (fewer ridiculous one-way roads or major traffic and enormous trucks through the middle of town), improved access to services, improved public transport."

"Urban environments have effective transport systems and increased collective living options, and cities thrive as ecosystems celebrating our uniqueness and heritage."

"Better urban design focused on developing local communities and public and physical transport (bicycles and walking) rather than more cars."

Several raised concerns about the way in which infrastructure developments were decided on, planned and funded, seeking more transparency and less waste, particularly among governments:

"Efficient government which fully discloses major infrastructure projects which benefit all."

"No high rise blocks over about 6 storeys, decent public transport, transparent planning, adequate air connections to the mainland at a decent fair price."

"Better management of large projects to reduce government/council financial waste and come into line with leading practice".

A number of respondents discussed the need for developments to consider changes in Tasmania, including a growing and ageing population:

"Prepared and excited for population growth (i.e., housing, land development, infrastructure, and public transport on the Derwent)."

"Better focus on place-based policies that promote the integration of housing with accessibility to necessary services, shops and transport - really important for an aging population with reduced mobility."

As well as climate change:

"Careful investment now in essential infrastructure that is not highly vulnerable will save enormous costs when all construction and repair is far more compromised."

"Where there is a restriction on the amount of development as an essential part of addressing climate change and ensuring that money is put into essentials (not cable cars, stadiums)."

There were diverging views on how Tasmania should develop, with several concerned about preserving "Tasmanian-ness", which included the environment, size, and aesthetic:

"So investment in new business/tourism but not to the detriment of the things that make Tasmania special now. So we need to ensure that new development is environmentally and economically sustainable."

"Aesthetics matter in life and so often easily sacrificed thoughtlessly. Anything that contributes to a sense of belonging for the people of this unique place, and I hope not like a soulless big cityscape. It can be done with a thoughtful and determined mindset."

"Where old buildings are loved and protected and not destroyed by developers."

"We need to embrace our smallness and not strive for the blandness of larger cities. There are plenty of stadiums and high rises in other parts of the world. Not striving for that isn't regressive, it is visionary."

On the other hand, several others articulated the need for Tasmania and Tasmanians to increase their openness to development and the potential opportunities it can bring:

"We need to be a lot more proactive with new ideas and initiatives for the State rather than knock everything that is brought forward."

"Acknowledging that our beautiful, quiet little town won't be that forever. Tas will never lose its small town charm but we have to accept evolution."

"For future generations; spend on major projects is vital. This will keep our people here and lure others in. Instead of adopting a no to change culture I believe a yes attitude, championing what Tas is good at, is the answer."

"A place that is keeping up with its mainland counterparts, not a redundant backwater with no opportunities. This means better infrastructure, a lot more housing, high density city living and Councils that say yes to development and opportunities."

Naturally, there were many people seeking a balance between preservation and development, with many once again advocating for thoughtful consideration of projects and developments:

"A blend of preserving the past and embracing the modernity/future with better road, bridges and transportation networks."

"We need to protect our environment, recognise the unique beauty of Tasmania and manage our population appropriately, ensure access to housing and infrastructure, we need development but not unheeded."

"I'm not against cable cars or stadiums or other developments, but they need to be thoroughly and strategically thought through and positioned. We don't want cable cars going across the organ pipes, or stadiums dominating iconic spaces or foisted upon us by such dubious (and possibly ephemeral) entities as the AFL."

2.6.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Transport, particularly public transport, was a major subtheme in the physical infrastructure theme. Respondents sought better road, rail, ferry, and bus transportation in their ideal Tasmania for future generations. The rationales underpinning calls for better transportation were broad and included cost efficiency (for individuals and governments), environmental friendliness, exercise and physical activity, better urban planning (walkability and community connection), and connections to services and educational and employment opportunities. Some people had specific plans, particularly around urban areas, that they believed would increase amenity and reduce longer term costs:

"Active and public transport - you shouldn't have to have a car to get around. Put in bus lanes so buses aren't stuck in traffic. Stop increasing car parking in urban centres and widening roads for private cars. Put in separated bike lanes so people can feel safe getting around by bike. Put light rail on the Northern Suburbs corridor for goodness sake. More ferries - the Bellerive ferry service has been well used. Redline Buses suggested a free rush- hour bus service from Sorell to Hobart instead of major upgrades to Tasman highway. Surely that would be cheaper, less ongoing maintenance, plus reducing congestion and pollution."

"We don't need to wait for some big-investment end-game, we should get mini buses throughout the suburbs, connecting to very high frequency trunk lines just using normal buses on roads for now, plus Metro services to satellite centres like Huonville, Sorell, New Norfolk - this would then support transition to a fast bus or light rail solution when available - virtually free to implement by comparison with the rail line conversion."

For many, it was important that transport links included the entire state and were accessible to everyone, including those on low incomes, with some suggesting free or subsidised fares. Transport links were seen as key to meeting individual needs, particularly through access to health, education and employment:

"Significant investment in public transport, both intra-city and inter-city, is needed. It should be possible to travel easily by bus between towns - for people attending medical appointments, professionals travelling to board meetings, tourists, children visiting grandparents, etc etc... Better transport will assist in accessibility of educational and employment opportunities, and health services, for all Tasmanians."

"A cohesive statewide transport network (prioritised over private cars) connecting all parts of the State by bus, rail and ferry, utilising clean energy and providing regular services to isolated areas as well as direct links to health services and education centres."

"A great transport system that caters to everyone especially low paid workers."

Finally, many respondents referenced the role of transport in the state becoming more environmentally friendly and sustainable. Several people mentioned that the public transport infrastructure itself should be powered by renewables and/or use green technology, and many talked about public transport and other transport infrastructure providing 'greener' transport options than private transport (cars).

"Transport advanced roads/infrastructure and public transport advanced also to allow greener options than cars."

"Trains that connect us. Bike Lanes everywhere, for greener commuting."

"A diverse community with good access to environmentally friendly transport."

2.6.3 OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

It is worth noting that respondents mentioned several other types of infrastructure when describing their ideal Tasmania for future generations such as footpaths, sewerage, roads, renewable energy, housing, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, educational facilities, other services, farms/ agriculture, sporting facilities, arts, culture and entertainment facilities, and public toilets (e.g., on nature trails, by beaches). Some people took a tongue-in-cheek view of infrastructure development:

"Maybe one day, in the distant future, the road works might be finished!"

While others expressed discontent about infrastructure development priorities:

"A society that spends billions of dollars housing the thousands of homeless people and improving the failing public health and education systems rather than a football stadium."

Several people took a holistic view, stating or alluding that strong public infrastructure is key to vibrant and engaging communities:

"Supporting activities that deliver affordable clean energy, organic and sustainable farming, new business and career opportunities, quality education, great medical care, safe communities, engaging arts and entertainment experiences, accessible housing, safer roads etc."

"A place where creativity and novelty are welcome. With public infrastructure: health services (including mental health), transport, energy, parks, education."

"Much more financial investment into housing, health, infrastructure such as roads, sewerage, water hospitals, educational facilities."

2.7 Health

Health was mentioned in many responses, mostly in relation to an ideal Tasmania having a quality health system. The health system was mentioned alongside other core service systems such as housing and education. As well as the health system, food security was a prominent subtheme under health, and several responses talked about preventive health, health promotion and health literacy.

2.7.1 HEALTH SYSTEM

The health system was the most common subtheme under health, with respondents envisioning an ideal Tasmania that has a 'good', 'quality', 'decent', 'adequate', 'effective', 'high standard', 'excellent', and even 'world class' healthcare system. A particular concern was about the access to and timeliness of healthcare services, with many directly or indirectly contrasting with the healthcare system of today:

"Decent health care - SO bad at the moment."

"A health system that all can access in a timely manner."

"A health system that provides reasonable services and facilities that can be accessed in a reasonable time."

"A better healthcare system and access to more services instead of needing to travel to Melbourne to receive sufficient healthcare."

While hospitals, general practitioners and mental health services were mentioned most frequently, many respondents sought a 'comprehensive' healthcare system which included dental, allied health, and alternative health. Some respondents mentioned aged care, with some wanting support to age in place and many wanting to ensure that aged care facilities are well-funded, adequately staffed and that residents and staff are treated with dignity and respect.

"Better health services for people who want to live independently for longer, i.e., connect buses to a day care provided by public health care where podiatry, dental care, wellbeing services are available on a weekly basis."

"One that finds ways for our elders to be more included in community life and not end up alone in aged care facilities - initiatives that allow them to be connected to young people and others generally."

"Vastly improved aged care facilities with a focus on the resident's physical and mental well-being, using a respectful care model, nutritious and appetising meals, social functions and activities that are stimulating and not demeaning."

Affordability was also a concern, with many people referring to 'affordable', 'free', and 'truly universal' healthcare. Equality of access across geography and sociodemographic characteristics was a focus for several:

"A State where EVERYONE in the state (including remote areas) has equal accessibility to all health matters. (In other words, where you live does not decide whether access to dental, mental health, etc. is available.)"

"Access to health care, whatever is needed. By this I mean the basic rights of all individuals. Mental health support for everyone, whatever their gender, housing situation, income, identity. Support for kids young so that their issues don't get worse later on."

"Nobody left behind. More work done on picking up those who miss out ... those who finish school illiterate, who are unable to find adequate accommodation, who are unable to find fulfilling work, who have minimal access to holistic healthcare due to living regionally or remotely, etc."

"Equitable access to health care. Mandatory bulk billing for those on low incomes. Faster and easier access to mental health support for those in need."

Several people saw a role for technology in improving the health system and accessibility of health services, such as 'remote self-monitoring tools including AI symptom summary tools' and expansions of 'telehealth' and 'online consultations'. For many, the presence of a 'sustainable', 'well-resourced' and 'well-staffed' health system with 'more doctors, nurses and specialists' was a goal, and raised the role of government:

"An effective public healthcare system with sufficient funding and resources."

"Government finally fixes healthcare and school issues."

"Housing, health, education, environment are all supported by funding, policy, vision to give people confidence in how they live, how they will live in the future."

2.7.2 FOOD SECURITY

Food security was mentioned by many respondents, mostly in that an ideal Tasmania was one where people have 'enough to eat', 'no hunger', 'food security', 'access to nutritional food', and 'a sufficient, balanced and interesting diet'. As well as people having access to food, several people discussed the food system, with mentions of sustainable farming, retention of farmed food in Tasmania, and self-sufficiency for the state in relation to food (and often energy).

"Autonomous in its resources such as food and electricity"

"Self-sustainable through environmentally energy generation and self-sufficient through food production."

"We are so lucky to have natural beauty, a very liveable climate and renewable energy, and the ability to grow a wide range of foods. We should look more closely at food miles. Build on our strengths."

"One in which the many natural resources of Tasmania mostly stay in Tasmania - enriching our own population with nutritious food (bonus of low carbon mileage!) investing the best of our food resources in ourselves and then exporting what's left."

Equity of access to food was commonly referenced, such as through visions of 'everyone being able to access food' and 'enough food for all'. Some people also talked about a Tasmania without geographic and financial inequities in food access:

"A Tasmania where food and water can be produced to meet our needs and support others who are less fortunate."

"Access to cheap and affordable healthy local food such as fruit and vegies across Tasmania and not just in the major cities."

"We all eat well because we have created food systems for feeding ourselves and relying less on importing food we can or already produce for ourselves."

Finally, for some, food security and ensuring it was tied to notions of community, with mentions of community gardens and access to local growers.

"Where edible gardens and streetscapes abound so that healthy food is available to all and people care for it together and share what they grow with each other."

"Communities have access to affordable locally grown food."

2.7.3 HEALTH PROMOTION AND LITERACY

As well as health care, many felt an ideal Tasmania was one that promoted preventive health and built health literacy to facilitate a healthy population and less strain on the health system. Some saw a role for public policy and initiatives which varied in terms of their extremeness, from health education campaigns and school lunch programs to outright bans of certain foods and substances:

"A Tasmania where we have a healthy population through policy that deters and eradicates smoking, vaping, sugar drinks, big food."

"Improved public health measures focussing on Prevention, Promotion and Early Intervention, AND supporting families to DO these things - no good teaching kids about nutrition if their families can't afford to buy vegetables."

"Ban fast food and free cooking classes for healthy food."

"Less pharmaceutical drugs, more education about organic foods and using foods and lifestyle choices to mitigate disease. Understanding how the body can heal itself when given the right environment and foods. A total ban on cigarettes and vaping."

A number of people advocated for greater individual responsibility around health decisions, often supported by education and community initiatives. Relatedly, several respondents mentioned health literacy, suggesting that future generations will need support and education to have useful knowledge about physical and mental health:

"Community and preventive health: because of current generations lack of action coming generations are gonna need a lot more help in this space."

"Mentally healthy people with mental health education mandatory in school curriculum."

"Be aware of the risks to our health like the insidious advertising of smoking, vaping, gambling. A place of healthy choices."

"In my opinion, an ideal future would be having a healthier Tasmania through better education (especially around healthy eating, exercise and body image)."

2.8 Housing

Housing was mentioned by many respondents, mostly in the context of an ideal Tasmania having enough homes or housing for all and/or that every person would be able to access housing. Strongly associated with access was affordability. Additionally, some respondents discussed home ownership and several discussed the quality of housing and housing developments.

2.8.1 AVAILABILITY, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Many respondents' ideal Tasmania was one where there were 'enough houses' for 'ALL people to have access to housing' and there was 'no more housing crisis'. Housing was framed as a basic need, frequently mentioned alongside healthcare, employment, food, and water. Several people talked about 'accommodation options', particularly for people struggling financially, and saw a clear role for government funding and provision:

"There should be enough public housing to ensure everyone has a home."

"Much, much more community housing, with a short wait time to get into it."

"An ideal Tasmania would have housing available for people on a low income. So you wouldn't have to have a disability or illness, AND a mental health issue, AND a drug or alcohol problem to go on the list for affordable housing. Government at all levels should be ashamed for prioritising investor profit over people's need to live somewhere."

There were many mentions of homelessness and how it would not be present in an ideal Tasmania, the current lack of safe accommodation options for people experiencing homelessness and other challenges, and the strain that the housing crisis puts on other systems such as justice and health. Some people contrasted housing in an ideal Tasmania with the current housing crisis:

"The vibrant, quirky, creative aspects of Tasmania that are so appealing would be entrenched. And people would no longer have to live in tents and caravans!"

"Affordable housing. Safe places for the homeless and people escaping domestic violence."

"A home not crippled by high rents and charges."

Intersecting with access was the issue of housing affordability, with many respondents mentioning 'affordable shelter', 'affordable housing', 'affordable access for all to housing', and 'cheaper housing'. Once again, many envisioned a Tasmania where everyone could afford housing:

"A place where a home is affordable and available for those who require one."

"In general terms, I guess that one would hope, at a minimum there was affordable housing, sufficient affordable food, and clean air and water."

"Every Tasmanian having access to affordable, adequate housing and stable housing."

Housing was articulated by several as a foundation for life in Tasmania, linking it to the ability to work, access education, achieve potential, stay in the state, and for their children to be able to stay in the state. Many saw the housing crisis as a symptom of broader inequality and advocated for that to change in their ideal Tasmania:

"Housing for all and less stress and less wealth inequality"

"Where everybody can have a building to live in with reasonable certainty, have good access to health care and education and where inequality is not entrenched in all our systems."

"What comes to mind is housing - owning a house for their family and perhaps a shared shack with greater family. Not expecting that it's a right to make money off rentals and others' misfortune."

2.8.2 HOME OWNERSHIP

While, per the availability, access and affordability theme above, most people's focus was on 'housing for all', 'absolutely no homelessness', and a Tasmania where 'no one struggles to get a roof over their head', home ownership was important to several respondents. For some, home ownership was an 'either or' – a means to get a roof over everyone's head:

"Being able to afford rental properties, or to buy a home."

"Everyone having a place to live, be that rental or ownership."

"Suitable and affordable housing for everyone, be that ownership or rental."

While some people talked about home ownership generally, mentioning that it should be an option for everyone who wants it, most were concerned with the ability of young people and future generations to own their own homes.

"The future generations to have the opportunity to buy/rent in Tasmania."

"My children are able to buy a house, get a job and raise families of their own in this wonderful place."

"An Ideal Tasmania would provide affordable housing and also assistance to our younger generations trying to get into the housing market."

Once again, many saw a clear role for government in ensuring access to home ownership, articulated in general statements that housing policy should 'prioritise residents over investors' and that housing assets should be 'owned by residents', as well as suggestions for regulations on short-stay accommodation and the number of homes individuals and investors can own. Several people had suggestions for particular reforms to increase housing affordability generally, and to facilitate home ownership:

"Rapidly increase housing supply - regulate the private rental market to limit price increases to CPI and prohibit no-grounds evictions; 5-year moratorium on whole-property short-stay rentals"

"An ideal Tasmania is a place that puts Tasmanians first. Ensuring affordable housing perhaps by means of capping rental prices or taxing rental income or following the lead of NZ implementing ordinary resident laws on home ownership and Tenant Home Ownership grants."

"Plenty of social and affordable housing with rent to buy options to increase generational wealth."

"Cohousing is an excellent housing model which provides affordable housing with a low footprint and community connection. Hobart already has 2 cohousings. We could see further cohousing developments of both public and private housing".

2.8.3 HOUSING QUALITY

Many respondents talked about the quality of housing and housing developments in an ideal Tasmania. This was most often communicated in relation to access, with statements about all Tasmanians having access to 'decent', 'comfortable', 'adequate', 'appropriate', and 'good quality' housing. For some, housing quality was about physical attributes such as insulation, heating, eco-friendly materials and the alignment or integration of nature with houses and housing developments. For some others, housing quality was about security of tenure, safety, and resistance to climate change.

The quality of builds and materials was a prominent subtheme, with particular concerns and opportunities raised around sustainability, both in terms of ensuring comfort and affordability for residents and minimising environmental impact of development:

"There will be sufficient housing for all, built using sustainable materials and progressive designs, in integrated accessible communities comprising a mix of ages, income levels & lifestyles."

"Development of high quality affordable solar passive, energy efficient housing with access to green spaces."

"Building is another key issue. I'd love to see careful design and prototyping of localised building materials micro factories. Some kind of 3D printing of SIP (structural insulation panels) that can be adjusted to suit locally available materials e.g. we are near a pine plantation. Waste from the pine plantation could go directly to a micro factory making 3D printed SIPs."

"Making decisions about public or private housing that include good design and sustainable materials"

Linked to sustainable housing was the need for housing to withstand and protect from the elements, now and in the future:

"Secure and environmentally durable housing at all ages, stages and incomes."

"Affordable, accessible housing for all that is sustainably heated and cooled (or designed/ retrofitted) to combat our elements."

"A huge increase in public housing that is well insulated, with double glazing and efficient heating."

"Well designed housing to prepare for warming temperatures and extreme weather events."

The quality of housing developments was also mentioned by several respondents. While there were differing views about housing density and the height of building developments, there was agreement that housing developments provide for liveability such as through access to shops, parks and playgrounds, services, transport, and other amenities, and are integrated with nature to promote the wellbeing of humans and wildlife:

"This means large corridors of vegetation through new housing developments so as our wildlife has a good opportunity to survive us."

"Really sensible cohesive urban planning with good design parks and playgrounds incorporated into any new developments. Green space, cycleways and shopping centres within easy reach and buses that make it easy to get to and from."

"Good quality, affordable housing, being surrounded by nature with easy access to walks, parks and outdoor activities."

Some respondents discussed housing quality in terms of people's needs, such as 'stable housing', 'secure housing' and 'a safe place to live'. Again, people saw roles for government prioritisation, de-regulation (particularly around land use and tiny homes), and innovation in ensuring this:

"Inclusive communities with a government more concerned with housing its population safely."

"Diversity of living arrangements, lots of different types of homes from large to tiny homes. Secure land for people to park tiny homes to live safely in community."

"A wide range of accommodation to suit ordinary people, including tiny houses, and boarding houses."

"People who want can get tiny homes set up on vacant land can do so, with minimum essential conditions."

2.9 Education

While education was a relatively minor aspect of wellbeing for respondents, it was a more prominent feature of an ideal Tasmania for future generations. Once again, most responses referenced formal education systems such as schools, colleges, TAFEs and universities and many discussed educational opportunities for children and young people. However, several respondents also talked about an ideal Tasmania for future generations that encouraged and facilitated learning throughout life. Education was seen by many as key to individual wellbeing, the achievement of potential, retention of people in Tasmania, and/or the alleviation of social issues such as poverty and crime.

2.9.1 EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people were a strong focus of responses that discussed the role of education in their ideal Tasmania for future generations. Access to education and educational opportunities was a common theme:

"Better education/literacy with opportunities for young people."

"Adequate education for our children where all children finish year 12 education."

"Allow young people to have heaps of opportunities to learn – better, wider education choices with enthused teachers. So this leads to making it possible for kids in Tas to get to these, for parents to be able and willing to assist."

Education, in particular diverse education opportunities linked to career opportunities, were seen as key to retaining young people in Tasmania:

"Have opportunities to engage in education that enables them to work in the industry/ies that interest them, and do so here in Tasmania, and not feel the need to move interstate."

"Quality and diverse education opportunities and excellent opportunities exist for young adults to continue to live and thrive in the state."

"Encourage education in agriculture and create an 'ag college' in Tasmania to encourage younger people to stay or come to the state."

The cost of education, including early education and extracurricular activities, were noted, such that an ideal Tasmania had 'affordable', 'low cost', 'free', and/or 'debt-free' education opportunities for young people.

"Children provided with everything they need for school and parents not paying for school activities."

"It is where young Tasmanians can get a good education without too much debt."

"Education meets the demands of those being schooled and higher education is accessible and enabled not penalized with punitive costs."

Several people called for greater flexibility and quality of education for children, with acknowledgement of the varying needs and interests of children and the role of education in supporting, nurturing and developing children:

"An open and flexible education system that truly meets the needs of our children - not forcing them to meet the boundaries of a curriculum that does not suit their learning style or support their circumstances."

"Solid education for our children and supports for those on the spectrum and with things such as ADHD."

"Good (and affordable) healthcare and schools that nurture children to be the best version of themselves. Education is the key to better employment, better health and to a better life - we must break the inter-generational cycle of poor education, poor health outcomes, criminal behaviour and poverty."

2.9.2 QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM

An ideal Tasmania for many people included a quality education system, which was often mentioned alongside other systems such as health and transport. The desire for a quality education system was articulated with words such as 'good', 'excellent', 'best', 'high quality', 'world class', 'evidence-based' and 'supportive'. Like most other themes, many respondents talked about equity and equality in education, such that 'everyone' or 'all' should have access to quality education and that the quality of education should not vary based on background, location, or challenges and needs. Literacy and systems that ensure it were mentioned by many:

"A population with good literacy and numeracy skills and education that emphasizes evidence based programs."

"Will also be a place where educational outcomes have significantly improved along with a dramatic increase in literacy and numeracy rates. Investment in education will be a priority."

"An education system that ensures Tasmanians are all literate, are at or better than an educational average."

Education was seen as key to healthy functioning in modern society, with several people calling on education systems to incorporate key knowledge and skills, particularly around technology, money and financial management.

"Adequate education for everyone to adequately function in a technically complex world."

"All this underpinned by a progressive education system/framework which replaces the archaic 'industrial conveyor belt of the 19th century', a system/framework which genuinely educates our children and adults for the 21st century and beyond."

"Whole scale literacy program around all facets of money, and wellbeing initiatives that help build community."

Several people alluded to cultural changes around education in terms of individuals valuing and having interest in it, and systems being funded and inclusive so that everyone has access to education and understands its value.

"One which values education and ensures its schools operate to achieve the highest international outcomes."

"Everyone has access to (and is interested in pursuing) education"

"Where education and work are better defined and linked."

Several people envisioned various reforms to education in Tasmania. Particularly common were mentions of 'enough', 'enthusiastic', 'highly educated', 'valued', and 'well paid' teachers. The University of Tasmania was mentioned in various regards, with some suggesting that the University should not move campus, several mentioning that students should not have to move to Hobart or interstate to study the courses they want to study, some proposing that University of Tasmania should not be the only university option in the state, and several sharing a belief that the University has a responsibility to educate and upskill Tasmanians in ways that are useful for them.

Many responses featured suggestions for particular additions to current curricula, including increased art and music education, civic education, more education on Country, and greater practical skills relevant to potential future jobs as well as general life and 'self-sufficiency'. Some people wanted the College system retained while others wanted high schools that went to Year 12 and, similarly, some wanted more TAFE options, some more university, and others wanted integration and partnering of universities and TAFEs. Throughout responses that suggested changes to education systems was a common thread of increasing choice and diversity of options available to them, as well as strong acknowledgement of the need for increased and/or better funding of education in the state. Several people had expansive views on reforms to the education system:

"This means extending our brightest whilst also addressing any learning challenges faced by any of our students. This means we need more teachers who are well educated, teaching in their areas of expertise. Perhaps, given the current inadequacies, we should consider alternative education paths, such as online learning to supplement the current broken system."

"Children also have free access to childcare. There are many and varied types of schools which enables children to find a place which suits their learning style...Uni is free. There is the opportunity for all to access learning for life. Teachers are well paid and respected. Adult Ed has been revived and offers a huge range of activities."

"Education would be different for everyone as we all learn differently, want different, and have different needs and desires."

2.9.3 LEARNING THROUGHOUT LIFE

As well as education for young people and formal education, several respondents talked about the importance of opportunities for learning throughout life. For some, this was linked to job opportunities and skill development:

"Pathways for learning are mixed and vary and provide entry points across the lifespan for up- or re-skilling."

"A chance of employment if wanted, a place to call home, a recreational life outside work, and a place to learn throughout life."

Some people linked opportunities to learn throughout life with individual wellbeing and flourishing:

"A diverse Tasmania where people can learn lifelong, make mistakes with options to repair, and explore and contribute to themselves, their families and society."

"Future generations would benefit from a State which supports meaningful life long education, education is the key to a better Tasmania, education provides the foundation necessary for wellbeing."

And others linked a strong education system for all ages to improved social fabric and fewer social issues in Tasmania:

"I would like to see the return of Adult Education as this promoted people extending their skills and mixing with other like-minded people which strengthened the social fabric of Tasmanians."

"I want less entrenched intergenerational poverty, better teachers (not just more of them) and improved access to the basics of life."

"Support for at risk youth in the hope of increasing engagement in education, leading to better employment prospects and decreasing addictive tendencies and interactions with the Juvenile Justice System."

"Having access to education, health, and housing (which, in turn, would be likely to result in greatly reduced imprisonment rates)."

2.10 Work

Several responses referenced work as part of the ideal Tasmania for future generations, most commonly the presence of enough jobs for all. Additionally, several respondents mentioned that an ideal Tasmania would have meaningful job opportunities, competitive wages, job security, and work-life balance.

2.10.1 JOBS

Jobs were mentioned by many respondents, often listed alongside other parts of the economy and society, such as the health and education systems. People described an ideal Tasmania as 'one with jobs', 'a place where it is easy to find work', with a 'high employment rate', and 'low unemployment rate'. Common throughout responses was that jobs should be available 'for all', 'those who need it', 'all who want to work', and 'all who are able to work', with references to a range and diversity of employment opportunities, particularly for youth but also across the age spectrum.

"...health services to meet community needs, job availability across all ages, a happy community which is proud of Tasmania and keen to be here".

"...an economy that supports a range of employment opportunities and a natural environment that is not under threat".

The availability and quality of jobs was linked to both individual wellbeing and the retention of people in Tasmania.

"A Tasmania where everyone has access to high quality healthcare and education, and decent jobs. These are key to being happy and healthy."

"Everyone has a place to live, plenty of jobs. We can all access health care when needed including mental health and we have enough skilled people and aged people are not ignored."

2.10.2 MEANINGFUL WORK

The availability of meaningful work and career development opportunities was a feature of many people's ideal Tasmania for future generations. This was articulated with words such as 'meaningful', 'stimulating', 'quality', and 'excellent' jobs and job opportunities. This was also strongly linked to keeping people in Tasmania:

"A place you don't have to leave to have a great life and career".

"Somewhere people can feel safe, with good social connections, and opportunities to develop skills without leaving the state."

"...choices of career and job opportunities within the state."

In particular, respondents linked meaningful job opportunities with the retention of young people:

"High employment, lower rents, safer roads and more opportunities for the youth to stay in Tasmania to further their career."

"A State that young people do not have to leave to have a successful career, or where those of us who do leave (for specific opportunities) want to return to (as I have)."

"For the future I would like to see increasing opportunities for work for young people, so that they stay or return to Hobart."

2.10.3 COMPETITIVE WAGES

Another aspect of work was the provision of competitive wages. Discussing income generally, responses suggested 'universal basic income', 'universal wage', and a 'living wage for everyone', and several talked about the need for increases to income support to 'bring people above the poverty line', ensure 'everyone can live comfortably' and 'achieve quality of life'. In relation to work, people mentioned 'reasonable', 'equal' and 'fair' pay for work and the absence of 'wage theft'. A particularly common thread through comments about wages was the need for Tasmanian wages to be comparable to those of the mainland:

"Wages are the same as those on the mainland."

"Wages need to be on par with mainland Australia, why work in Tasmania with more stress, less money, a failing health system and nowhere to live?"

"An ideal Tasmania ensures its workers are not under such financial stress that they cannot keep up with inflation (matching mainland wages in many areas would be a start)."

2.10.4 JOB SECURITY AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE

An important quality of jobs in many people's ideal Tasmania was job security, most often referred to as 'secure employment', 'safe employment', 'secure work', 'stable employment' and 'job security'. Some contrasted this with current employment conditions:

"Less casual jobs so there are more permanent jobs so people can rely on a guaranteed income."

"1 in 2 Tasmanians are functionally illiterate, we have casualised our workforce to insecure work in tourism and hospitality, and aged care, and eroded pathways to higher education."

Similar to responses about work in relation to wellbeing, several people talked about the importance of work-life balance. There were several mentions of shorter work weeks and/or the four day working week, and emphasis on the importance of spending time with friends and family and giving back to the community which is offered by work-life balance. Some respondents suggested that the offer of work-life balance could be a unique selling point of Tasmania:

"Opportunities for a work life balance that surpasses all other states."

"Tasmania is a place where you can have a good work/life balance without sacrificing income or connections"

2.11 What does an ideal Tasmania for future generations look like?

There were 36 images and videos uploaded by 25 respondents in response to “what does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations?”

The vast majority of images identified proximity/access to nature/natural beauty.

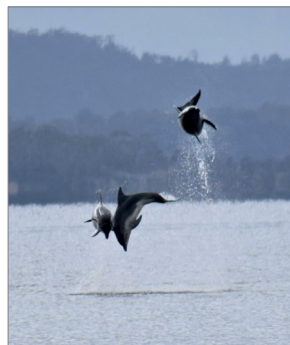
Other connotations/sub-themes within these ‘natural environment’ images were:

- Productivity/diversity of food resources
- Peaceful lifestyles
- Satisfaction in model lifestyles
- Sharing experiences in nature with friends and family
- Importance of protecting the environment

Many of the environments depicted were close to urban centres such as walking along the Derwent, the Mersey Bluff at Devonport, as well as images of Cradle, Freycinet, mountain lakes and creeks. For example, one respondent uploaded a movie of two smiling, peaceful babies playing with sticks by still water, and group of women walking, including one with a baby in a pouch, walking together on a coastal track.

A small number of images focused on the importance of designing and living in sustainable green urban landscapes, and decarbonisation of the economy. For example, one image depicted a berry farm, with ute, a basic farm house, good windbreak in background, and fruiting apple trees in foreground, connoting productivity, a modest lifestyle, self-reliance plus small-scale commercial cropping.

Only 4 respondents did not provide images associated with nature/the environment. These focused on care of babies and elderly people, access to healthy food, the importance of community and neighbours, and work-life balance (e.g., work makes you unhappy).



2.12 What do other consultations tell us about Tasmanians' sustainability goals?

Acknowledging that respondents to the Wellbeing Consultation survey were not representative of the Tasmanian population, DPAC provided the research team with some materials from other consultations with various cohorts. These materials are subject to many limitations, including that the topics of the consultations were not wellbeing nor sustainability and that the materials came in various formats and quantities (e.g., survey data from consultation respondents was available for older Tasmanians and multicultural Tasmanians, while an executive summary of a third-party report was available for carers). The list below describes the data, in descending order of quantity of data:

- **Older Tasmanians:** responses to 15 open-ended questions from a survey conducted by COTA Tasmania in 2022 (sample sizes ranging from <30 and >500), consultation report produced by COTA in 2022, and a state government discussion paper from October 2023.
- **Multicultural Tasmanians:** survey data from 2023 state government consultation (n~950), report of descriptive statistics of the survey, and 2023 ministerial brief of issues pertinent to the Multicultural Strategy identified through analysis of the survey.
- **Young Tasmanians:** documentation relating to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework (launched in 2021).
- **Tasmanians on low incomes:** TasCOSS Good Life report, which presents results of consultations with 338 Tasmanians on low incomes in 2018 on what they need for a good life.
- **Tasmanians living with a disability:** 2022 state government report on consultation for the Disability Services Act review. Consultation processes included submissions in response to a government-released Discussion Paper, engagement with the Minister's Disability Consultative Group, and a range of one-on-one and group consultations organised through community outreach.
- **Tasmanians who identify as LGBTIQ+:** 2021 consultation report by researchers at University of Tasmania, based on responses to a survey (n=852), online interviews (n=62), and focus groups (n=9).
- **Tasmanian veterans:** 2019 research report presenting results of a survey of RSL Tasmania members (n=802).
- **Tasmanian carers:** Executive summary of a 2023 consultation report by Carers Tasmania reporting on results from 19 engagement sessions across Tasmania with 25 informal kinship carers participating and employees from child and family centres and kinship groups and a survey (n=52).

As mentioned, no consultations specifically asked about sustainability. However, each consultation asked the respective cohorts, albeit in various ways, about their needs which is relevant given that sustainability is about meeting current needs without sacrificing future generations' ability to meet their needs. In this regard, some themes were present across the cohorts:

Inclusivity: inclusivity was a strong theme, such that people wanted to be included and also wanted to live in an inclusive environment (i.e., wanted everyone to be and feel included). Cohorts had slightly varied visions of inclusivity.

For example, being included for older Tasmanians was about having control over one's life and not being 'cast aside' in the workforce or society generally. Younger Tasmanians sought belonging, both in their social relationships and in educational institutions and workplaces. For multicultural Tasmanians, inclusivity at the individual level was about having real and equal opportunities in the workforce and general society, as well as representation in the form of elected representatives and, for some, a Minister or Commissioner for multiculturalism.

Tasmanians who identified as LGBTIQ+ were appreciative of the formal steps to inclusion that Tasmania had taken (moving from some of the least to some of the most inclusive legislation in Australia) but felt there was still stigma, discrimination and a lack of understanding of LGBTIQ+ issues among the general community and service providers, particularly healthcare service providers. Tasmanians on low incomes sought inclusion through the absence of stigmatisation and discrimination, removal of barriers to participation in society, and involvement in decision making.

Inclusivity for carers was largely about having their roles and the value of the work they do respected and recognised, and for informal kinship care (family members caring for children without a formal care order) to not be stigmatised. Similarly, Tasmanians living with disability wanted the community to understand the contributions people living with disability make to society and for formal structures like legislation and employment strategies to better support disability inclusion.

Equity: Related to inclusivity was equity, such that many respondents to the various consultations sought for everybody to have a positive experience in Tasmanian society. Naturally, the desire for equity was often articulated from the perspective of the cohort in question. For example, the need to eliminate discrimination (e.g., racism, ageism, ableism) was highlighted by most cohorts.

Additionally, the pathway to equity was often through improvement of the quality of core services such as housing, healthcare, and education. For example, when describing the challenges to ageing in Tasmania, several older Tasmanians referenced access to healthcare, housing, education and transport as challenges in Tasmania and many suggested solutions that would benefit entire cohort or the entire population. For example, free public transport for over 60s, investment in cohousing, investment in education so young people can shape a better Tasmania, and attracting more doctors. Several noted that their cohort was affected by intergenerational inequity:

"Our population is consistently noted as undereducated and not very literate, which is disheartening as we need bright young people to help make good policies and decisions. The poverty and lack of social housing is a disaster unaddressed."

"Housing affordability for our younger generation means they have to leave the state as it is too expensive. This has a flow on effect to the parents and grandparents as they are not nearby to provide support or remain as connected"

Similarly, many submissions from young people to the consultation for the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework expressed a desire for 'everyone' or 'every child' to have a home and feel safe.

In the context of service access and improvement, multicultural Tasmanians commonly discussed the need for increased health accessibility of services and cultural appropriateness within services, a desire for better education systems particularly for their children, and a need for better employment pathways and treatment in employment for multicultural Tasmanians. Additionally, in discussing satisfaction with living in Tasmania, the housing crisis and Tasmania's education system were commonly discussed as barriers to satisfaction and living in Tasmania long term.

There was also a sociocultural aspect of equity, such that respondents sought for everyone to feel like they belonged and had access to opportunities regardless of their background. For example, answering 'how will we know when we have achieved a truly multicultural community?', several multicultural Tasmanians invoked ideas of equity:

"All feel free to live life their way, as long as they follow the law."

"When migrants experience the Tasmanian community the same as people born in Tasmania"

Tasmanians living on low income also highlighted the need for decision making to be informed by different voices in order to facilitate 'good lives' for all Tasmanians.

Natural environment: The natural environment arose as a theme across extant consultations. For example, many young people's submissions to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework consultation spoke of the need to protect animals, waterways, and the environment generally so that young people could connect with nature, partake in activities in nature, and feel safe and secure about the planet's future. Tasmanians on low income discussed climate change as a challenge for theirs and their children's futures.

In discussing the positives of ageing in Tasmania, older people commonly mentioned the natural environment, such as beautiful beaches, natural parks, and walking trails (though hills and cold winters were challenges to ageing in Tasmania). Many multicultural Tasmanians also talked about Tasmania's 'abundance' of 'amazing' nature 'all around' as positives to living in Tasmania. Similarly, LGBTIQ+ surveys and interviewees spoke of Tasmania's natural beauty and accompanying peace and quiet as positives to living in Tasmania.

In sum, extant consultations are limited in what they can tell us about cohorts' views on sustainability as the consultations were not focused on the topic. However, examining the consultation materials, particularly responses to questions about positives and negatives to living in Tasmania, themes of inclusivity, equity, and the natural environment arise. These themes were also present in the analysis of responses to 'what does an ideal Tasmania look like for future generations'.

3. Sustainability discussion paper consultation

This chapter presents analysis of responses to the Tasmanian Government's Sustainability Strategy discussion paper consultation questions. The consultation was open from 28 August to 6 October 2023, on www.sustainability.tas.gov.au. Tasmanians were alerted to the consultation and directed to the questions via an advertising campaign across newspaper, radio, social media, digital advertising, emails to agencies, peak bodies and their networks, and presentations to stakeholders.

The consultation asked seven open-ended questions across two papers, a short consultation paper and a longer discussion paper. The short consultation paper provided a brief overview of sustainability, its importance, and the intent of the consultation which was to inform vision, goals, and targets for the Strategy. Participants were then asked the first three questions. The discussion paper provided a more detailed view of the Strategy principles, an introduction to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and examples of sustainability initiatives. The remaining four sustainability questions were then presented, two focused on informing Tasmania's sustainability vision and two focusing on developing Tasmania's sustainability goals. Participants were able to opt in (or out) of answering any of the questions. In addition to basic demographic questions, the questions asked in the survey were:

1. *What words would you use to describe an ideal Tasmania in 2050? (with participants asked to enter up to 5 words)*
2. *What are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania?*
3. *What do you plan to do by 2030, 2040 and 2050, to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania in 2050?*
4. *What do you hope Tasmania looks like in 2050 – our society, economy, and natural environment?*
5. *What are the most important challenges we need to overcome to achieve your vision for Tasmania in 2050?*
6. *If we streamline the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to around six sustainability topics or focus areas for Tasmania's sustainability goals, what would they be, or do you think we should simply align with the SDGs?*
7. *In what areas of sustainability do you think Tasmania is doing well, and are there other priorities where we could do better?*

Each question is analysed separately. Where possible, differences between different groups are explored, but the relatively small sample sizes and limited information about responses does limit this exploration.

3.0.1 SURVEY SAMPLE

As participants could choose which questions to provide answers to, the number of usable responses for each question varied. Usable responses were those where the participant's response was not blank nor "don't know", "unsure" or equivalent.

Question number	N
1	76
2	77
3	77
4	43
5	44
6	47
7	51

Table 2: Sample sizes for each Sustainability Survey question.

Although sample sizes and therefore demographics vary very slightly for each question, for ease of reading, we present a demographic breakdown for each 'section' of the survey: Q1-3, Q4 and 5, and Q6 and 7. Respondents to the first section of the survey, Questions 1-3, were majority female, while both section 2 and 3 (Questions 4 through 7) had a slightly male majority sample. Respondents to all questions skewed older than the Tasmanian general population, with over 70% of respondents to each section aged over 45. Most respondents (57%-65%) resided in the Greater Hobart area (defined as postcodes up to 7173). One respondent to section 3 identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Each question varied. Usable responses were those where the participant's response was not blank nor "don't know", "unsure" or equivalent.

	Questions 1-3		Questions 4 and 5		Questions 6 and 7	
	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Gender						
Female	43	60.1	18	45.0	19	43.2
Male	25	35.2	19	47.5	23	52.3
Prefer not to say	3	4.2	3	7.5	2	4.5
Age						
18-24	2	2.8	0	0	0	0
25-34	8	11.1	2	2.4	4	4.3
35-44	13	18.1	9	22.0	9	19.1
45-54	21	29.2	16	39.0	20	42.6
55-65	17	23.6	9	22.0	9	19.1
65+	11	15.3	6	14.6	7	14.9
Region						
Greater Hobart	45	62.5	21	56.8	28	65.1
Rest of Tasmania	23	37.5	16	43.2	15	34.9

*among those who provided demographic information.

Table 3: Demographics of Sustainability Survey respondents.

3.1 What words would you use to describe an ideal Tasmania in 2050?

Participants were asked to provide up to five words that described their ideal Tasmania in 2050. The word cloud below depicts the most commonly used words, with larger font and more central placement indicating how frequently the word was used. Reflecting the context of the survey as informing the Sustainability Strategy, sustainable was the most commonly used word, used a total of 20 times across 76 responses. Clean was the second most common word (14 mentions), followed by equitable (12), then healthy (10), and resilient (10).



Presented below are word clouds and frequencies of the top five words used in responses, by selected demographics. Care must be taken not to overinterpret given the small and uneven sizes of groups. While there are slight differences in the words used or how prominently certain words features, there are no major differences in the words that arose between different demographic groups, such that the key themes of sustainability, equity, resilience, health, and clean were present across all demographics. The word 'community' was in the top five words used only among women; the word 'safe' was in the top five words used among young people and those residing outside of Greater Hobart; and for women and over 45's, the word 'innovative' was in the top five.

Female



Sustainable (11), clean (10), community (6), healthy (6), innovative (6)

Male



Sustainable (9), equitable (7), resilient (5), healthy (4), inclusive (4)

Under 45



Clean (9), wild (5), green (4), safe (4), local (3)

45 and over



Sustainable (17), equitable (10), healthy (8), resilient (8), innovative (6)

Greater Hobart



Sustainable (12), equitable (9), clean (7), resilient (7), green (6)

Rest of Tasmania



Clean (7), sustainable (5), safe (4), natural (3), resilient (3)

3.2 What are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania?

The second question asked respondents to share their perspectives as to what are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania. Responses were broad, encompassing actions across many sectors and stakeholders, focused in a range of different areas. These have been thematically analysed and the themes of government actions, social wellbeing, wildlife, wilderness and biodiversity protection, attitudinal changes, climate action, and changes to systems emerged. These themes intersect greatly, and most responses referred to more than one theme.

3.2.1 GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Perhaps once again reflecting the context of the survey as informing the Tasmanian Government's Sustainability Strategy, the most prominent theme in responses to What are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania? was about government actions. Several people raised transparency and inclusivity around decision making and direction setting as critical to achieving a sustainable future for Tasmania:

"Increase transparency within state government to ensure that corporate wants aren't placed before our environment or what communities want. Introduce a mechanism to ensure community consultations can't be ignored."

"We need to take the politics out of sustainability and climate change. Climate change is happening and we need to ensure that all our representatives are working together to make positive changes in these areas."

"Take money out of politics such that govt is truly representative of the people. Remove the problem of state capture by removing donations and lobbyists. Candidates for elections to be funded equally from the public purse."

Many people outlined policy and legislative reforms as necessary to achieve a sustainable future. Specific suggestions varied and included planning reforms, housing policy, electrification schemes, levies on environmentally harmful behaviour, and bans (e.g., on habitat destruction, single use plastics). Some responses referred to broader reforms that ensured consideration of sustainability and climate in every decision.

"The most important thing is that every level of government should have to consider the impacts of their decisions on climate change and sustainability. It should be legislated that climate impacts are always considered when making decisions. The government has a duty of care to future generations."

"Sustainable planning policy that considers the needs of the environment with investment to create jobs and create targeted opportunities to attract manufacturing and business investment. Not a blanket approach or a block of approvals to meet a KPI, but something which is sustainable over the long-term, which recognises that no single policy is going to receive the support of everyone i.e., the government needs to make the tough decisions that constitute balance and not show bias towards one single demographic or form of advocacy."

Closely related to policy and legislation were the provision of funding and incentives (or disincentives) to support more sustainable choices by individuals and industries. Sustainability in this context referred largely to environmental sustainability.

"The government should sponsor home retrofitting, particularly for disadvantaged groups, to help lower emissions and improve people's lives!"

"Create secure funding opportunities for people and organisations to take steps towards more sustainable practices, support businesses to know about how to reduce impact, for example knowing resource recovery options. Supporting resource recovery to run projects to tackle hard to recycle products through accessible grants (\$1000-100,000 grants, not more as many SMEs can't compete in bigger grants)."

"Start calculating the environment cost of different products and introduce levies on goods to reflect their actual cost to sustainability, the environment and society. That would quickly change behaviours and force businesses to act more sustainably and ethically."

"Provide for transparent allocation of resources based on intergenerational priorities."

As well as actions such as policy, legislation and funding to facilitate others to be more sustainable, many respondents articulated a desire for the government to display leadership and take responsibility for Tasmania's sustainable future.

"Government - set the policies and frameworks and lead by example; create self-funding incentives (e.g. waste levy ploughed back into resource recovery)."

"Government is lagging industry on sustainability and more needs to be done to incentivise and to provide certainty and confidence."

One respondent communicated how leadership at the top could be paired with and support bottom-up action:

"Understand that bottom up and top-down working cohesively is where sustainable ideals can become realities. Top-down initiatives via levels of government driven by legislations and funding sources are critical, but community need to own the decisions for how, where and why sustainable practices are implemented. This also needs to be driven by community leaders being informed and supported by all levels of government."

3.2.3 SOCIAL WELLBEING

The intrinsic link between social wellbeing and sustainability was recognised by several respondents. Particular concerns that required addressing to achieve a sustainable future from respondents' perspectives included housing affordability, inequity and inequality, health care, and education. Naturally, addressing many of these concerns the remit of the state government, thus this aspect intersected strongly with the government actions theme above.

"Housing is a basic human need. It should not be a money-making scheme. Too many houses are being used as income earners through AirBnB or private rentals, and more and more people are not able to find a safe and stable place to live, let alone buy a house."

"Housing. Allow for demountable, portable housing built in Tasmania to be a temporary solution for risk of homelessness. Ageing in place - support older Tasmanians to age in place but also downsize (current stamp duty rebate cutoff at \$600k which is ridiculous in many areas)."

Some participants espoused principles or a vision for the future of essential service provision.

"In our vision of a sustainable Tasmania, we celebrate equity. Essential services like healthcare and education aren't commodities but fundamental rights, accessible to every person."

"State government: Forward planning for health needs of ageing population. Training of Allied Health in Tasmania of OT/physio/speech therapists"

The ways in which social disadvantage affects the sustainability of society generally and an individual's ability to participate in it were articulated by some respondents:

"Recognise that a world class education and health system are fundamental to building a sustainable future for Tasmania – remove the barriers i.e. access, participation, disability – as part of a systemic response that recognises and celebrates difference and diversity."

"Recognise that social exclusion is a real and pressing break on our chances to become more sustainable. It not only leaves some in our society less well equipped to respond to future challenges but diminishes us all by denying those so disadvantaged with the opportunities to participate in and contribute to community life."

"A more literate and informed community:

- Will be cohesive and focussed community probably having the highest productivity in human history.*
- Will be a much healthier and well population because of increased activity and more balanced nutrition.*
- Will have a reduction in dysfunctional and dependant behaviours that often are a result of role model limitations, poverty and/or other stressful situations.*
- Will embrace sustainability.*

One proposition TasPositive might consider is this; that poverty could be interpreted as a lack of community support and cohesion. So.....if we had a literate, educated, supportive and prosperous community we might have a reasonable chance to move toward sustainability."

As well as addressing current shortcomings across social service systems, many respondents emphasised the importance of developing other social infrastructure such as public or shared transport and community facilities and leveraging Tasmania's lifestyle to attract and retain the talent required to sustain and transform the economy.

"Ensuring that we have clean, safe, usable park spaces and walking paths is a great start in this space. Perhaps promoting some community sports that people can casually join (for those that cannot commit to a 'professional' team)."

"This needs to balance economic progress with the basic needs of our community. By balance, I'm referring to the achievement of compromise with issues such as the AFL licence, stadium build and other areas such as the Macquarie Point development. Perhaps invest a smaller sum in improvements to the Bellerive Ground to meet initial requirements and the remainder into housing and public transport to reduce cars on our roads."

"Community - build understanding of how this delivers long term and broad benefits. Build community sustainability through local gatherings and community gardens."

3.2.4 WILDLIFE, WILDERNESS AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Many responses talked about the importance of protecting wildlife, wilderness and biodiversity for a sustainable future for Tasmania. People's concerns varied and included animals, plants and vegetation, soil, air, ocean, and forests. Required actions identified by respondents included elimination of invasive plant and animal species, protection of natural habitats, prevention of pollution of land and waterways, ending native forestry, and maintenance and, in some cases, expansion of conservation areas.

Some respondents pointed to specific actions the government needs to take, such as introducing, reintroducing or repealing legislation (e.g., conservation covenants), incentivising or disincentivising certain activities (e.g., offshore salmon farming, plastics use, regeneration, and waste management), and developing more sustainable infrastructure (e.g., wildlife corridors, shared transport instead of road expansion, climate proof housing).

"Support to maintain the biodiversity of Tasmania's land and marine ecosystems. The state government must repeal legislation that allows landholders to clear 40 hectares of land annually without a permit. We are losing too much biodiversity in the Midlands Biodiversity Hot Spot that cannot be replicated by restoration with the challenges of introduced pests such as deer and rabbits and the challenges of climate change. We need to restrict wide scale clearing of this fragile area."

"Divert much greater efforts to reverse the near extinction of the giant kelp forests, including a ban on any harvesting and greater research and conservation efforts."

While the aesthetic and moral value of protecting nature was mentioned and recognised, several respondents noted the importance of the natural environment for the human species. As one participant simply stated, we need to:

"Recognise the importance of environment and biodiversity to our survival."

Others were concerned about the impacts of pollution and climate change on food systems and human health and wellbeing (e.g., heat stress and costs associated with keeping cool).

3.2.5 ATTITUDINAL CHANGES

Many participants identified the need for individual and collective attitudinal changes towards consumption, climate change, and general operation of human society (e.g., goal of growth, the industries that make up our society, how we work, the dwellings in which we live) in order to have a sustainable future for Tasmania.

"We need a way for everyone to deal with their rubbish so that it can be recycled appropriately. We need better roads and paths to encourage the use of bikes and scooters and for people to walk."

"The buy and toss economy wastes resources and buries the problem. A dirty, toxic time capsule for future generations."

"Develop a clear plan for the circular economy, as we need to get beyond using the language and actually enact change: to legislation, encouraging best practice across all sectors to increase resource recovery; and to design, so that there is an incentive for people to buy second hand, get products that can be repaired affordably."

Several respondents suggested that ideas and innovation should be a focus, particularly to leverage Tasmania's relatively small size:

"Use our opportunities as a small place to be more innovative and agile. We can attract knowledge workers to Tasmania as a great place to live and (remote) work. We can do things others can't because of the short lines to decision makers."

"We are fostering a culture of innovation. Our universities and research centres are hotbeds of creativity, especially in sustainable technology. Education is the bridge to a sustainable future, and we're ensuring our children grow up with a deep-rooted love for the environment and culture."

Several people advocated for adopting global best practice, both as a general principle, but also drawing on particular examples such as Europe's walkable cities and right to repair. Many respondents advocated for a community focus, shifting away from goals of growth and top-down strategy and decision making, in favour of localised economies and systems of decision making.

"Economic growth systems need a serious rethink - it's about our future - not about consumerism - closed loop - circular economics."

"Provide for community development based on wellness, transparency, inclusiveness and shared wealth and the principal of subsidiarity."

"We're weaving a future where every perspective counts. We engage, discuss, and decide collectively, ensuring our unique insights shape policies. Transparency is our foundation - we believe in open dialogue and accountable governance."

"Improve the systems for community and regional planning that reflects a commitment to human security as defined by the UN, encompassing not just safety but secure and adequate food, education, housing and economic opportunities and the rule of law".

3.2.6 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate action was a strong theme. While, as reflected in the other themes, some respondents had specific actions, ideas and suggestions, they viewed as necessary for a sustainable future, others just mentioned *"climate action"*, *"decarbonising"*, and moving towards *"net zero"*. For some, climate action was about mitigation of and preparation for the effects of climate change:

"Acknowledge that climate change is the critical issue of our time and that we must act rapidly and decisively to minimise our impact and create resilience in communities to deal with increases in natural disasters."

In terms of specific areas for climate action, transport was by far the most commonly mentioned, with suggestions of incentives for electric vehicle uptake, changing of state government and business fleets to electric vehicles, development of shared and active transport infrastructure, development of housing closer to work and essential services to reduce commutes and car dependence.

Other suggestions around climate action included electrification of houses (with public housing and support for lower income Tasmanians to electrify particularly mentioned), moving away from and/or regulating polluting industries, cultural change around consumption and waste, and transforming industries (e.g., introducing regenerative agriculture).

3.2.7 CHANGES TO SYSTEMS

Changes to many of our societal systems were mentioned by respondents as critical to a sustainable future for Tasmania. Several of these have already been mentioned in other themes, such as the development of more sustainable food systems, better waste management and broader recycling programs, reorienting the economy to focus less on growth and more on communities and their wellbeing, transforming industries to be more environmentally sustainable and/or abandoning heavy polluting industries, and developing and using more sustainable physical infrastructure (e.g., transport, housing).

Several respondents raised the importance of respect of Tasmanian Aboriginal people for a sustainable future. This respect variously included acknowledgement of past hurts, treaties, use and empowerment of Indigenous knowledges, adoption of cultural practices particularly around land management, and reparations including returning of land.

"Acknowledgement of traditional ownership of the land and treaty with our First Nations People."

"Honour and respect the First Nations people of Tasmania history and culture by protecting living sites, telling the truth about the history of genocide and learning ways to care for country from them."

"Work towards a Treaty with Palawa, Pakana and First Nations groups. Meaningful handback now of lands."

"Embracing the wisdom of our First Nations, we're shifting towards land management rooted in the deep understanding of this land."

"Supporting SMEs (especially NFPs) to engage with our aboriginal community to better understand and then better support them."

3.3 What do you plan to do by 2030, 2040 and 2050, to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania in 2050?

It is well established that collective action is required for a sustainable future and, indeed, several responses to Question 2 above identified that individuals and communities are responsible for implementing top-down sustainability strategies. Therefore, it is important to understand individuals' intentions to identify and potentially integrate and leverage individual actions into statewide strategies and initiatives.

This question asked individuals what they planned to do by 2030, 2040 and 2050 to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania by 2050. Most answers did not delineate by these time points and instead provided a general overview of planned actions or only answered for 2030. Additionally, though the question asked about individual actions, many responses referred to collective actions and necessary supports for individual actions.

The themes that arose around individuals' intended actions to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania in 2050 were sustainable consumption, advocacy, education and civic engagement, conscious energy decisions, and sustainable food systems.

3.3.1 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

The most common theme in which individuals' intended sustainability contributions laid was sustainable consumption. It is interesting to note that many respondents talked about continuing or expanding actions that they are currently undertaking, indicating that the sample is likely skewed towards those who are actively pro-sustainability (which, in turn, has implications for designing and communicating the eventual Strategy and its initiatives.

For many, sustainable consumption included purchasing an electric vehicle, though cost was noted as a limitation.

"Purchasing an EV ute when I can afford to replace my ICE farm ute."

"I would love to own an EV by this point if it's economically viable!"

Several respondents talked about reducing shopping and plastic waste, reducing consumption of meat, and buying in bulk:

"Personally, waste management is a challenge and I will endeavour to reduce my consumption - particularly plastics."

"Continuing to purchase as much as possible from bulk shops using our own containers."

"Refuse all disposable plastics - esp from retail and supermarkets."

Some mentioned being generally more conscious in their consumption:

"Think hard before I buy new things (e.g. what's the likelihood of this being in landfill within the next few years, will be a reuse product meet my needs)."

"Actively seek areas of behavioural change that enhance sustainability and share my experiences with others e.g. by minimising the waste of resources and unnecessary consumption."

Some talked about making their own things, reusing things, and growing their own food.

"Continuing to make whatever I can to avoid excess packaging such as moisturiser, bread, deodorant, biscuits, chocolate etc."

"Personally I can continue to compost food waste, having chooks, carbon offset any travel, eventually have an Ecar. currently have an ebike, use non plastic shopping bags, eat seasonally and use local produce, maintain my veggie garden, plant natives and plants that thrive in our environment."

3.3.2 ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Several respondents indicated that they would engage in advocacy, education (of themselves and others) and protest to contribute to a sustainable Tasmania in 2050. A number of people mentioned transferring knowledge and instilling values in younger generations:

"Teach the next generation to grow their own food and encourage recycling of food waste."

"Instil a sustainability/conservation mindset into my children, so that future generations will benefit from their pro-sustainability decisions and actions. Take every opportunity to enhance their appreciation of Tasmania as a unique and special place."

"I am already working as an educator in science and sustainability to educate my students on sustainability, regenerative agriculture and indigenous knowledge systems."

Several people also expressed an interest in participating in 'communities of practice' focused on sustainability issues:

"It would also be great to be involved in community initiatives such as Repair Cafes, Tool Libraries, produce and seed swaps, etc."

"By 2040, 2050 and beyond it would really just be building on this to ensure we are personally as low impact as possible, but also involved in community initiatives to do the same thing more widely in the community."

Lobbying, advocacy and public participation were on the cards for several people, about a range of issues:

"I am protesting against logging of native forest. I am protesting against salmon farms in our inshore water. I am protesting to ensure Lake Pedder is returned to its natural state. I want a democratic right to have a say in govt, the ability to protest without getting arrested just bc of politicking/. I want free access to information and also take govt to court ensuring that politicians aren't just towing the party line."

Some indicated that they were going to lobby workplaces for electric vehicle charging stations:

"Upgrade my electric car and lobby my workplace to have a charger for EVs."

"Campaign for provision of EV charging infrastructure within workplaces to encourage greater uptake of electric vehicles."

Others indicated that their lobbying would be of government and would variously focus on climate action, renewable energy, increasing preventive health budgets, transitioning of the state's light vehicles to electric and heavy vehicles to hydrogen, and increasing literacy of all types.

"Lobby for government to address literacy of all types (numerical, alphabetical, digital, food, hygiene etc)."

One person talked about pressuring businesses to reduce plastic packaging, and another talked about advocacy efforts to increase sustainability more generally:

"I plan to work with my community to help find leaders that will listen to the science and make the changes that are necessary. We need politicians who will listen to the people and the science, and we need politicians who will work together."

"I'll encourage my community to put pressure on decision-makers to start taking sustainability more seriously."

3.3.4 CONSCIOUS ENERGY DECISIONS

As well as the abovementioned purchase of electric vehicles and advocacy around sustainability issues, a number of people talked about making conscious decisions about their energy use to contribute to a more sustainable Tasmania by 2050. These ranged from reducing car travel and unnecessary journeys to electrifying homes, in particular installing solar panels, switching from gas to induction cooking and from wood burning to electric heat pumps for heating, installing rainwater tanks. Cost was mentioned as a barrier with one person identifying initiatives that had helped them on their electrification journey:

"I would have electrified ages ago if I could have afforded it. As it is, I can now only achieve these things because of the Tas Govt no interest loan for solar panels, and because I can novate lease an electric vehicle through my workplace."

Another barrier to increasing energy efficiency in homes was renting rather than owning:

"By 2030 I would like to own my own home rather than rent, and be able to make improvements such as improved energy efficiency (insulation, passive heating and cooling, solar), rainwater capture and WSUD retrofits, produce more of my own food, etc."

"I am currently renting but trying to purchase my own home, when I do I will be getting solar installed as well as a water tank."

3.3.5 SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

A number of responses made reference to supporting and participating in sustainable food systems through actions such as buying local, reducing food waste, growing one's own food, participating in community gardens (mostly school-based), composting and worm farms.

"My workplace recycles and reuses where possible, we have a veggie patch at my school and home, with thriving composting systems."

"Increase amount of organic food grown at home that we consume and share with others."

"Strive to reduce food waste through more careful choices and meal planning; increase home food production and sharing with local community; reduce food miles through purchasing more local produce."

3.3.6 SUPPORTS AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

Although the question asked about individual actions that people planned to take, several responses discussed the supports and collective efforts needed to achieve a sustainable Tasmania by 2050. These included funding support, legislation, education, changes to planning regulations, and improved infrastructure (particularly public transport infrastructure). Additionally, several people mentioned the need for leadership and collaboration:

"Having worked in the environment sector for over 20 years I see that coordinated governance at the Federal, State and local level is critical for effecting change for positive environmental management."

"If we want a sustainable future for the future generations, we have to work together. We need to move the miners, the loggers, and all these destructive industries into jobs that are sustainable. We need to think conservation, preservation and have foresight. We need to re-educate society on what it means to live together. This is no easy task but if we leave our egos, our political affiliations, and put all our energy and focus we can do it as Tasmanians."

Many respondents were wary of the placement of responsibility on individuals:

"The amount of change an individual can make at individual levels is minuscule compared to the change that legislation and policy changes can ensure. It is disingenuous to push changes on individuals when governments and corporations who can actually make a difference are not required to do so."

"People first and foremost need a roof over their heads. If we as communities and governments can't get this basic thing right, there is no foundation from which to build a sustainable Tasmania."

"As an individual there is little for one person to do that will make an impact. Me not driving a petrol car will not be a great impact, but businesses making greener choices will. My power comes as a consumer and being as sustainable with using Tasmanian produce."

"I plan to continue to add value where I can. But many of the issues of our sustainability exist at a systems/structural level which individuals and community have little influence on. The barriers at a structural or systems level, include but are not limited to, an absence of a strategic vision, a narrow view of problems and rare investment in longer term systems based approaches to change. The new Tasmanian Wellbeing and Sustainability Strategies will hopefully provide the vision and priorities for all to focus on."

3.4 What do you hope Tasmania looks like in 2050 - our society, economy, and natural environment?

People's responses to what they hope Tasmania looks like in 2050 were expansive, comprising expressed values (e.g., care, compassion), various aspects of life (e.g., housing, work), restoration and regeneration of all parts of the natural environment, and ways of thinking (e.g., for future generations). The themes that emerged from the analysis of responses were valued and protected nature, fair, transparent and inclusive society, happy, healthy and cohesive people, and forward thinking and world leading. Importantly, most responses referenced the interconnection between these things.

3.4.1 VALUED AND PROTECTED NATURE

A common theme across respondents' vision for an ideal Tasmania in 2050 was a strong natural environment. This was sometimes expressed as things that the state was and was not doing (e.g., expanding heritage areas, not salmon farming), sometimes as an underlying value (e.g., "we care about the environment"). Some described how the natural environment fits in to their broader, optimistic vision:

"A place with an abundance of natural spaces, a resilient local food system, a constant population size and a culture that embraces social connections, creativity and learning over commercial consumerism."

"A thriving, environmentally sustainable state that holds fairness, indigenous knowledge and wellbeing at its heart. A state that has enacted a treaty for its First Nations People."

"A natural environment that is protected for future generations and children are empowered to take part in being the critical thinkers of tomorrow."

Others hoped that in 2050, we would have been able to avert the worst impacts of climate change:

"Not burnt by a wrecked atmosphere, not trashed and not part of a global resources war. A community focussed on people and not desiccated by roads and highways. Maybe we can all read and write, we're all fairly healthy and caring and keep our addictive and impulsive behaviours under check."

"I hope Tasmania is not too battered by climate change impacts and mass migration and that by 2050, we have escaped the ridiculous pursuit of economic growth on a finite planet. I hope Tasmania becomes a society that is based around donut economics, as written by Kate Raworth, instead of winner takes all at everyone (including the natural world) else's expense economics, that we have now."

Several responses advocated for balancing of economic and social objectives with environmental. Several of these responses also noted that a movement among individuals, businesses and government from a growth mindset would be required.

"I think we are fooling ourselves if we think adopting anti forestry anti mining policies are somehow going to save us! We have to have enough backbone and commonsense to say no to every anti industry movement going. Creating more national parks and locking everything up is not the answer."

"Tasmanians are efficient in the use of their resources to ensure that their activities maintain a sustainable balance between the economic output of the State and the wellbeing of human communities and the natural ecosystem."

"Again, these are very big questions that are being asked and short answers don't really do them justice if we are to be thorough or are aiming for meaningful change. I say 'change' here because if we acknowledge that our practices and economic mindsets are unsustainable in their current form then change is required to achieve a positive answer to the question."

3.4.2 FAIR, TRANSPARENT AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Fairness and equity were prominent components of people's ideal Tasmania in 2050. This included that all people had access to core services such as education, health, and housing. Several respondents were concerned that lower income or otherwise disadvantaged Tasmanians had equal opportunities to participate in society.

"No kid left behind in a world-class education system and no ramping in primary care and hospitals which are the envy of other states."

"More public housing so that no-one is homeless. Intergenerational housing and other opportunities will be normalised and easily available."

Several people advocated for transparency across society, including supply chains for products and decision making by government:

"Products are labelled and priced to reveal their impacts on the environment and the social injustices in their supply chains."

"Tasmania will be an example of gold standard sustainability practices with a functioning circular economy. Every level of government will consistently include sustainability in their decision making."

Many people espoused holistic visions for society (people, business and government).

"We are a healthy, inclusive and equitable society that embraces diversity, values our unique and precious natural environment, and meets the needs of its most vulnerable citizens."

"A society that makes compassionate choices to support people and the environment above all else. An economy that is informed and guided by honesty, creative thinking about sustainability and wellbeing."

"In 2050, it first debt-free generation will be coming of age, with children raised in inclusive communities with economic, housing and food security, resulting in substantial reductions in mental illness and youth crime issues. Tasmania will be a recognised 'Blue Zone' (longevity hotspot) with increasing number of centenarians built on communities that encourage active transport, healthy eating, a sense of purpose and engagement long past traditional retirement ages, active participation in community, family and religious groups, and lives filled with purpose."

3.4.3 HAPPY, HEALTHY AND COHESIVE PEOPLE

Several people described their ideal Tasmania in 2050 in terms of what Tasmanians – the people – would feel and be. Happy and healthy were the two most common things that respondents wanted Tasmanians to be.

"A happy, healthy creative and skilled population leading meaningful and purposeful lives."

"A clean environment for future generations and overall a place where people are not just happy to live but proud to be a member of the community."

The happiness and the health of Tasmanians in 2050 was, in respondents' views, variously supported by strong core services, social supports, and a healthy natural environment. It was also supported by strong community values, kindness and therefore social cohesion:

"Tasmania is a kind community filled with compassion for each other, where overarching everything else is a care for each other to see people thrive, be confident and fulfilled. Everyone looks out for each other, so in the same way we look after each other we then look after the environment."

"The small population means that there is very little social problems alongside a high level of social cohesion, and the state evidences incredible metrics such as a high family formation, very high rates of social inclusion such as involvement in sporting clubs and volunteering as well as a local service provision. This has impacts of low levels of crime, a lower level of regulations as people tend to get along and a lower level of stress. Tasmania is renowned for its low cost of living, access to local amenities and a great standard of living."

3.4.4 FORWARD THINKING AND WORLD LEADING

An interesting theme that arose was respondents' desires for Tasmanian to be 'world leading', 'a global leader', and 'leading global best practice'.

"Tasmania 2050 should be a world leader in sustainable business practice, leveraging the resources of hydro to support industries with true net zero emissions."

"Tasmania in 2050 is a world-leader in climate resilience, with a healthy and equitable society that embraces diversity, values our unique and precious natural environment, and meets the needs of its most vulnerable citizens."

"A Tasmania that is World leading in clean technologies, farming practices (on and off shore), regenerative tourism, public health facilities and a circular economy."

A number of responses also talked about their ideal Tasmania as forward looking and thinking:

"We plan further ahead and look not just at what we need immediately for today or this week, but are looking at what we can do for generations ahead in terms of education, health, wellbeing, our natural world and so much more."

"That Tasmanians realise they have a responsibility to their whole community, to the environment, and to future generations of humanity."

3.5 What are the most important challenges we need to overcome to achieve your vision for Tasmania in 2050?

When asked about the most important challenges to be overcome towards a sustainable future Tasmania, respondents highlighted several interdependent challenges related to governance, policy and legislation, social well-being, and societal perceptions. Through thematic analysis the following themes arose: meaningful government action, overcoming perceptions and attitudes that limit sustainability action, improving the liveability of Tasmania (e.g. addressing the housing crisis, transitioning away from car-centric cities, improving education), improved cooperation across all levels of society, enabling a just transition, implementing stricter regulations for harmful industries, ensuring truth-telling, and prioritizing nature conservation and biodiversity protection.

3.5.1 MEANINGFUL GOVERNMENT ACTION

One common challenge highlighted by respondents was the need for governance that is representative of people and science, rather than powerful lobbyists and industry. Many raised concerns over vested political interests, lack of transparency, and inadequate community consultation and environmental assessment processes. Respondents described these concerns as barriers to meaningful change and their vision for a sustainable Tasmania in 2050.

"There is a lot of money being spent by big business arguing against the need for a quick transition away from fossil fuels. Tasmania needs to break free from this state capture and find a way to make its institutions more independent and less susceptible to corrupt practices. We need decision makers that listen to the people and to science."

"Increasing transparency within State Government is crucial to ensure that policy decisions and decisions on projects and planning prioritise protection of our environment and the needs of communities above corporate interests. Current community consultation and environmental assessment processes are woefully inadequate."

"We need stronger political donations reform to stop the influence of powerful vested interests that keep the greenwashing strong."

Many highlighted the need for leaders and governments to be future-oriented and make difficult decisions towards Tasmania's vision for the future. This included the need for clear and decisive government action and strong leadership. Additionally, some raised the challenge of a political system poorly structured for long-term thinking.

"We need more long-term thinkers in power who are willing to take the best way not the easiest way."

"We need Government to take clear and decisive action to push business and communities in the right direction around all areas of sustainability, particularly in the area of resource recovery, as much of the remaining materials going to landfill are dominated by major industries, such as construction and demolition and Commercial & Industrial (C&I)."

"A political system which is not equipped to adequately address and plan for long-term issues and solutions."

The need for stricter government regulation of harmful industries, or bans where necessary, was also raised as a challenge towards meaningful government action.

"Either an end or much tighter regulation of fish-farming. These industries are very damaging to our natural environment, threaten our (sustainable) tourist industry through damage to Tasmania's brand. We must help workers in these industries to transition."

"Proper regulation so that industries cannot fudge their emissions data, and are held to account. We need to have laws against logging native forests in line with some of the other progressive states, and ban offshore aquaculture, moving it onshore as other countries have shown to be effective."

3.5.2 TRUTH-TELLING

Strongly related to the above theme and challenges discussed within, is the need for truth-telling. Many raised concerns over greenwashing, colonial legacy, perceived constraints on protests, and media representation as barriers to sustainability action.

"We also need to start making real change now. Tasmania has largely relied on land use changes to claim its net zero position but carbon emissions are still climbing in many areas. We need to focus on key areas like transportation, housing and native forest logging to start reducing actual emissions. We claim to be "clean and green" but are not living up to it. This greenwashing needs to come to an end."

"Honesty about genocide that has occurred and the ecocide that currently exists."

"The anti protest law - peaceful protests are a way for us to have our voices heard."

3.5.3 LIMITING ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS

Another theme encompassed the attitudes and perceptions toward aspects of sustainability, or the concept as a whole, that limit immediate and meaningful action at all levels of society. The challenge being the need to overcome such beliefs to attain the desired vision of a sustainable future.

Respondents emphasized the need to overcome attitudes and perceptions associated with specific sustainability actions, for example, to address the housing crisis or effectively shift away from car-centric transportation systems.

"Break the perception that housing is primarily a financial investment and instead to see it as a need and a right."

"Break the assumed link between parking and successful town centres."

Some discussed this challenge more generally in reference to cultural norms, values, or socio-economic systems.

"Acknowledging that our greatest enemy is greed - the rich wanting more - when instead we should be embracing the spirit of sufficiency - 'I have enough' - as the hallmark of individual economic success."

"A change in culture away from consumerism towards societal self-reliance and a focus on the circular economy. This requires a rejection of the idea of economic growth as being a solution to social problems."

"We need to ensure that sustainability becomes, and stays, a central part of daily life. This may be difficult to maintain at times as we've been conditioned to think that efficiency and profit are always to be optimised. Instead, we need to think long-term and think of the benefits that come with staying on a sustainable path."

Others highlighted the role of education in overcoming this challenge.

"Education in schools and communities to build an understanding of our unique flora, fauna and geography."

"Make hope realistic rather than despair inevitable, to borrow the words of Raymond Williams. Improve 'ecological literacy' to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Tasmania's natural values and ecosystem services. Change hearts and minds to enrol more people in facing and overcoming the challenges of building greater resilience."

Others still highlighted the need for increased cooperation, coordination, adaptability and learning from others as a means of redefining what is possible and creating innovative solutions towards a sustainable future Tasmania. Many identified the opportunity to learn from other nations and from those closer to home, including Indigenous knowledge holders.

"We need to look at how we unite Tasmanians to work together in the first place. We cannot have a small island state like ours continuously divided along lines for situations as big as this. As a united population, we could achieve anything."

"We need to have more open collaborative spaces for stakeholders of all levels to meet and create solutions to our challenges, particularly as we are a small geographically isolated state, we need some novel solutions to the problem that require us to think outside the box."

"Support and funding for Indigenous Knowledge systems to be reinstated, such as Cultural Burning practices to mitigate fire risk."

3.5.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

Respondents highlighted many socio-economic challenges that must be overcome to achieve a sustainable future Tasmania, while ensuring a just transition towards this vision.

Many emphasized the link between socio-economic status and our ability to prioritize sustainability. As such, respondents acknowledged that all dimensions of sustainability – social, economic, and environmental – are required for a positive future. For example, many highlighted the importance of overcoming liveability challenges such as the housing crisis, the lack of public transportation, education and literacy, and waste management.

"Economic and social issues are currently worsening, not improving, which puts sustainability at a lower priority."

"Waste management. Trends in 2023 are away from repairability of equipment, and an astonishing percentage of foodstuffs is never consumed."

"It is important that Tasmania ensures diversity of dwellings to residents, from single detached, to multiple density and other housing types that respond to any locational variances in sustainable materials and structures for quality housing types and anticipated flexible demand for the types of housing in the future. There needs to be a conscious balance in the proportion of residential dwellings used for visitor accommodation (including holiday homes or short-term rental) and anticipated demand for this visitor and student housing segment in the future."

"We also need to attract visionary urban planners to develop and remodel light industrial areas in close proximity to the CBD. Adoption of the '20-minute neighbourhood' as an exemplar of sustainable urban growth needed to accommodate a growing population and a changing climate (O'Byrne, Interaction Vol 51, No.2). An example where this could be applied locally would be in North Hobart, using rezoning to incentivise replacement of light industry and car showrooms with sustainable medium density housing in close proximity to the CBD."

Linked to these concerns are further socio-economic challenges that must be addressed to ensure a just transition for all Tasmanians. These challenges include education and training for transitioning industry workers, rapid action, and preparedness for novel climate variations due to climate change.

"We need a just transition that allows everyone the opportunity to take part and feel empowered/responsible to do more."

"Over the short to medium term we must also recruit and train skilled workers to accelerate the energy transition (e.g. in trades required for electrification of homes and other energy efficiency measures, specialised knowledge for servicing electric vehicles)"

"There is no more time for discussion, many in the public and private sector have demonstrated better outcomes can be achieved across all sectors of government, business, community and environment"

"Go hard, go carbon free, Now. The best time to phase out carbon emissions was 20 years ago, the second-best time is right now. Tasmania has the incredible advantage of almost 100% hydro power, and bountiful renewable resources through wind and sun."

"People have never experienced the current and projected climate variations caused by excessive carbon emissions. Currently the Australia security services are being briefed on what to expect and how to respond."

3.6 If we streamline the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to around six sustainability topics or focus areas for Tasmania's sustainability goals, what would they be, or do you think we should simply align with the SDGs?

Approaches to answering this question varied greatly, with some interpreting it as an exercise in reducing or prioritising among the 17 SDGs (and either strongly disagreeing or providing their six priority SDGs), some saying that we should align but not specifying how, and others saying we should align and providing great detail. The most common opinion was to align a set of Tasmanian sustainability goals with the SDGs, but the specifics of those Tasmanian goals varied. Each of these perspectives are covered below.

3.6.1 DEVELOP TASMANIAN PRIORITIES ALIGNED WITH SDGS

By far the most common response category was to develop a Tasmanian approach that was aligned with the SDGs. For some, the rationale for alignment was the broad acceptance of the SDGs around the world and the reputational risk of not aligning. One participant remarked *"Best to align, particularly to continue trading with EU"*.

"I think we should align to the Sustainable Development Goals as it is widely recognised as a global framework for action, but we should then review how this can be translated or converted into Tasmanian relevant language. This could see specific targets to be drawn out for focus for our state, but these are still based on the original targets and goals for the SDGs, allowing for this accepted framework to guide our entire state. There is power in aligning to the framework, and could easily see how Tasmania is leading the world."

Some advocated for alignment or streamlining because the scope of the SDGs was too large:

"There is value in having fewer goals to allow for us to focus."

"Streamlining the SDGs to fit Tasmania's unique context can provide clarity and direct efforts more efficiently."

"I think they should be streamlined or at least grouped, as I think the strategy should focus on where Tasmania can make the greatest contribution - even if most or all are relevant, 17 focus areas is too many."

While others questioned the relevance of the SDGs to Tasmania:

"The SDGs were designed primarily to influence government policy and civil society action, and most particularly in developing countries. At the level of detail of indicators (of which there are many in the SDGs), very few are apposite to Tasmania. Putting it plainly, Tasmania faces almost none of the challenges that the SDGs seek to specifically address, such as child mortality rates and education for all to children to primary level."

"We need to remember that the UN Sustainable Development Goals were really made for the developing world and hence include some items that are not strictly about sustainability, but more about human welfare that should not be ignored when striving for sustainability."

It is important to note that some were wary of the parameters of alignment or streamlining:

"It depends on whether the smaller number of goals allows some others to be sidelined so it depends on who chooses. Also there is no specific goal that addresses the underlying barrier of corrupt influence that is the biggest barrier to achieving any of the SDGs."

In terms of how alignment should occur and the priority areas around that should occur, there was no consensus. Many people mentioned the need for *"climate action"*, *"climate adaptation"*, *"environmental sustainability"* or similar terms to overarch or underpin all focus areas, because *"we can't continue with business as usual"*. Some people proposed *"consolidating"* the SDGs under 6 broader goals. For example:

"Instead of striving for 'perfect' alignment with all 17 SDGs, I propose a refined approach. By consolidating related goals and objectives, we can streamline the SDGs into six core sustainability topics that resonate with Tasmanians' priorities and aspirations. This approach ensures a holistic perspective while maintaining a localised context for more effective community engagement and change."

The proposed six core sustainability topics, amalgamating relevant SDGs, are as follows:

1. Environmental Stewardship and Biodiversity (SDG #6, #7, #12, #13, #14, #15)
2. Sustainable Economy and Innovation (SDG #1, #2, #5, #8, #9)
3. Social Equity and Well-being (SDG #3, #4, #5, #10, #16)
4. Community and Culture (SDG #11, #17)
5. Natural Resource Management (SDG #6, #7, #12, #13)
6. Resilience and Infrastructure (SDG #9, #11)"

Some people expressed general approval of the proposed Tasmanian goals in the Discussion Paper; a couple of people drew on the Hawai'i case study (both as a 'case' for alignment and an example of alignment done well). Some did both:

"Streamlining is more useful for targeted action."

1. climate and renewable energy (as per the Tas example above)
2. local food (as per the Aloha+ Challenge)
3. circular economy and waste (as per the Tas example above)
4. Natural environment (as per the Tas example above)
5. Health and wellbeing (as per the Tas example above)
6. Education and skills (as per the Tas example above)".

3.6.2 FOCUS ON A NARROWER SET OF SDGS

Several respondents interpreted the question as asking them to pick 6 of the SDGs as the focus areas for Tasmania's sustainability strategy. It's important to note that, even among those who did this, several remarked that they did not think it was the correct approach (generally they advocated for an alignment of Tasmania's goals and activities with the SDGs). For example:

"I don't know why it is necessary to "streamline" the United Nations sustainability goals when your own Discussion Paper points out that the "17 SDGs recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability". How can you streamline these goals without impacting on others? I think a simple alignment makes more sense."

Among those who provided their six (or sometimes more) priority SDGs, the most common were:

- #13: Climate action
- #3: Good health and wellbeing
- #12: Sustainable cities and communities
- #14: Life below water
- #7: Affordable and clean energy

3.6.3 CREATE TASMANIAN FOCUSED PRIORITY AREAS

Some respondents recommended Tasmanian-focused priority areas without mention of the SDGs (though, given the breadth of the SDGs, there was intersection). These tended to focus on Tasmania's current 'problem areas', such as housing, education, and healthcare.

"Stable population (i.e. no population growth). Social cohesion. Lower public burden (lower taxation). Improved law and order (ease of going about life). Better access to land (allow for building of housing, reduce cost). More competition for education (Nordic model of school vouchers etc)."

1. *Protect and regenerate our precious wild spaces, their value is measurable.*
2. *Enforce strong environmental laws. No company or political interest is exempt.*
3. *Provide a just transition for Tasmanian workers away from unsustainable industries.*
4. *Improve access to affordable housing for all Tasmanians.*
5. *Improve access to quality education for all Tasmanians.*
6. *Improve access to quality healthcare for all Tasmanians."*

"Logging of native forests - we have some of the biggest trees in the world, we only have a portion of the last temperate rainforest left. These trees lower the carbon emissions. Lets set a goal to be the most Sustainable Island in the World."

"Social justice

Zero waste

No extinctions

Zero pollution

Sub net-zero GHG emissions

Self-sufficiency."

3.6.4 KEEP ALL SDGS AS THEY ARE

A small number of participants advocated for maintaining the full set of 17 SDGs. This was generally out of recognition of the interdependence of the different goals, for example:

"Don't separate them! It will dilute the nuance and detail in the original 17, where are themselves made up of dozens of sub-categories. Prioritise the 17 properly, let them change our approach to our political management. E.g. because we are not a 'developing nation', it would be easy to not prioritise SDG 1 - No poverty in favour of others. But there is poverty in Tasmania and it is important it is acknowledged and addressed and not overlooked in favour of, say, SGD 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure which is much more politically palatable."

"The SDGs should be considered together and all are essential to respect the inherent dignity of all people. We are of the view they should all be considered and not streamlined or treated as if any one of them is more important than another."

Some even felt that the SDGs were not enough:

"The SDGs don't go far enough because they still promote economic growth on a finite planet. We need to be downshifting and moving into degrowth to adequately meet the coming crises. Apart from that, concentrate on food security and regenerating the environment."

3.7 In what areas of sustainability do you think Tasmania is doing well, and are there other priorities where we could do better?

The final question posed to Tasmanians asked respondents to identify areas where Tasmania is doing well with regards to sustainability and where improvements could be made.

3.7.1 WHAT SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS IS TASMANIA DOING WELL?

Survey respondents identified several aspects of sustainability in which Tasmania is succeeding. Renewable energy, notably hydroelectricity production, was identified most often as an area of sustainability where Tasmania is perceived to perform well.

"Renewable Energy: Tasmania boasts a significant portion of its energy generated from renewable sources, particularly hydropower. This is a crucial foundation for a sustainable energy future."

"Tasmania has shown leadership through early adoption of renewable energy generation with hydroelectricity"

Nature protection was also cited often, especially with regards to world heritage designation, biodiversity conservation, and the preservation of natural values.

"Biodiversity Conservation: Tasmania's commitment to protecting its diverse range of flora and fauna is evident in initiatives like the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, showcasing a dedication to preserving the environment."

"Natural Beauty Preservation: Tasmania has made substantial efforts to conserve its unique ecosystems, with a strong focus on protecting its World Heritage-listed areas and wildlife reserves."

"In terms of what we do well, many Tasmanians greatly value and are proud of our exceptional natural values. This provides the foundational emotional capital that will be essential if the wider community is to act to achieve greater sustainability."

Ecotourism was also mentioned as a relatively sustainable economic sector.

"Tasmania has shown leadership through early adoption of renewable energy generation with hydroelectricity, and by promoting eco-tourism that prioritises conservation of Tasmania's outstanding natural environment and rich heritage of indigenous culture."

Others highlighted positive societal shifts, engaged and concerned citizens, and unique opportunities as factors beneficial to sustainability in the state.

"Community Engagement: Tasmanians are well networked and keen to engage in sustainability initiatives, with significant volunteer support hours from 300 member strong landcare groups, neighbourhood houses, community gardens, multicultural groups and men's sheds. Support for these groups will add to community wellbeing, connectedness and local empowerment of the community."

"We are a creative state with inspiration for creatives everywhere, we should harness this more. Our unique 'left behind, backward' image is working well for us now as we have the natural values that many other places in the world have lost. This is not necessarily because of good management but because we have been thought of as being at the end of the earth. We have opportunities that other places don't have because greater damage has been done."

3.7.2 PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

Respondents highlighted several priority areas for improvement with regard to sustainability. Thematic analysis identified these priorities as encompassing improvements to socio-economic wellbeing, industry related improvements, adaptation, mitigation and risk management, sustainability priorities at the level of government (including truth-telling), and greater nature protection.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Priority actions related to socio-economic wellbeing were most often discussed. These priorities included actions to increase sustainability in everyday life, such as by creating cities and communities that integrate sustainable design through active transport options, public transit, trains between major centres, bike lanes, electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives for uptake, affordable, available, and quality housing, access to public housing, plastic recycling, and green infrastructure.

"For the medium and longer term we need attention to transport - electrification, more flexible public transport including access to eScooters and other options, bike lanes, ferries and park and ride options around the perimeter of urban centres for those of our highly distributed population for whom there will not be adequate public transport."

"Incentives to reduce the use of our imported fossil fuels, and reduce carbon emissions, should include, as a priority, investment more in public transportation, electric vehicle infrastructure, comprehensive bicycle lanes and promotion of sustainable transportation options."

"Another area requiring prompt action is the mismatch between housing needs and housing stock. Inadequate and insecure housing diminishes lives and runs counter to our commitments as outlined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25) and the Sustainable Development Goals SDG 11, Target 11.1."

"Urban Sustainability: There's an opportunity to further develop sustainable urban planning, including initiatives like green infrastructure, cool roofs, and promoting permeable surfaces to combat urban heat islands and enhance air quality."

Home retrofitting towards sustainability was also mentioned often, including incentives and updated regulations and building codes to improve housing and building standards.

"Frank Lloyd Wright famously said 'A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines'. Our urban areas take a long time to change. It has been estimated that 80% of the buildings we will be occupying in 2050 have already been built. The built mistakes we make last a long time. It is imperative that we change the planning system now to ensure that we hardwire our towns and cities to make sustainable in the future."

"Building codes and legislation to ensure developments are as sustainable as possible (meeting WSUD and ESD principles - rainwater tanks, light roofs, orientation and basic passive heating and cooling, etc)"

"Right now we could mandate energy efficient house design including double or triple glazing or other products that reduce heat transfer."

Other societal level priorities towards sustainability included improvements to education, community engagement, and addressing inequality.

"Tasmania's education system is falling behind where it needs to go to build an equitable society in line with the SDG goals. We have allowed our education system to form postcode apartheid, richer parents can move to better post codes, accessing better schools or sending their children to private schools. Instead we need a model that gives every child the best opportunity in life, and that is tailored to their circumstances. We don't need private schools at primary level, and instead every child should go to their local primary, which should be properly resourced and a community focus point. At high school, every child should have the opportunity to go to the high school that is right for them, and every school should have a point of excellence that allows it students to graduate with pride."

"Community Engagement: Fostering greater community involvement and awareness in sustainable practices, including composting, recycling, and local food production, can have a substantial positive impact on Tasmania's carbon footprint."

"Social Equity: Addressing income inequality, affordable housing, and support for vulnerable populations like the homeless and domestic violence victims should be areas of increased focus to ensure social equity."

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

Sustainability priorities at the level of industry focused on specific sectors, namely forestry, tourism, agriculture, and energy-related industries (renewables and high-carbon emitters). Priority actions ranged from outright bans on environmentally damaging activities to stricter regulations. Several priorities highlight the interdependency of different sectors, for example, the potential negative impact of unsustainable forestry practices on tourism.

"We should urgently move away from seeing our forests as woodchip to seeing their value as carbon sinks, biodiversity hubs, and world-class tourism drawcards."

"Publicly subsidised native forest logging. This should stop immediately for both economic and carbon emission reasons."

"If Tasmania is to continue to claim to be Net Zero, it needs to decrease buying of non-renewable energy, and change several forestry practices."

"Tasmania has not done well with

- native forest logging with high carbon emissions, public subsidies and high bushfire risk (https://www.bushfirefacts.org/uploads/1/3/2/1/132188020/f_bushfire_science_report_no_3_-_bushfires_and_logging.pdf)*
- Excessive influence of industries that benefit from unsustainable practices, Gunns, salmon, corporate tourism.*
- Regulation of industries with poor environmental practices."*

Many highlight the urgency of industry changes in the context of emissions reductions and climate change. This included an emphasis on priority actions to reduce emissions and make wise energy decisions.

"Ban all new fossil fuel projects immediately."

"Right now we could be exploring shared micro-grid local production and storage of renewable power not requiring major network infrastructure."

"We should be working with the high emitting industries here not with special exemptions e.g. for more coal mining but towards serious modifications towards a safer future. To this end we should be phasing in real sectoral reductions in emissions. Cement manufacture for example can be done much better than it is here."

ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Adaptation and disaster planning that takes a forward-looking approach was often discussed to ensure Tasmania is well-placed to overcome such future challenges. This included climate adaptation and mitigation as means of building resilience to a changing climate.

"Climate Change: Given the challenges posed by climate change, Tasmania will need to further invest in strategies and infrastructure to enhance its resilience to extreme weather events and sea-level rise. Expanding investments in research and innovation in green technologies, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy will drive long-term sustainability and economic growth."

Respondents highlighted the need for immediate action towards a robust sustainability strategy, including steps towards building future resilience such as investments in green infrastructure, harnessing human capital and expertise, and innovation, research, and development. Many saw Tasmania's unique context as an opportunity to become leaders in sustainability.

"Whilst it is true that not everything can be done at once, it is imperative that 'incremental' is not a cover for nice words with no immediate action. There is no place for prioritising vested interests, with short term gains for a few. We are out of time. Most Tasmanians have been directly impacted by one or more natural disasters. Many Tasmanians are concerned or very concerned about climate change, higher rates in young people. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution have brought us right to the tipping points that are a direct survival threat to us all. Tasmanians are wanting more action - let's get on with it. We need a strong sustainability strategy with robust, legislated targets."

"If we don't act immediately, we will miss this great opportunity to really be world-leaders in renewable energy, sustainability, and climate action."

"Innovation and Research: Encouraging and investing in research and development for green technologies and sustainable practices can lead to breakthroughs that accelerate Tasmania's progress towards a more sustainable future."

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED GOVERNANCE

The role of government in driving many sustainability changes was commonly highlighted. Clear and decisive action moving forward through sustainability focused policy, legislative and regulatory changes was emphasized.

"There are no doubt many other areas to work on. I want to make a comment on legislating change, After over 30 years in general practice, and countless hours counselling patients about the risks of smoking and supporting attempts to quit I know that each step down in rates of smoking has not been related to my efforts at all. It has been related to price increases of tobacco products and legislated restrictions in advertising including plain packets with warnings. Education programs must be accompanied by policy with robust legislation with teeth."

"I think Tasmania is complacent, as we've had hydro for so long and a small population. If we don't act immediately, we will miss this great opportunity to really be world-leaders in renewable energy, sustainability, and climate action."

"Strengthening policies and incentives for carbon sequestration, particularly in forestry and land management."

"Cracking down on unsustainable industries that pollute without repercussions."

Additionally, many highlighted the need to limit the influence of environmentally harmful industry lobby groups on government decision making.

"Tasmania should do better when it comes to the influence of big business, native forest logging"

"Short-term goals include: Implement political donation and lobbying reforms"

GREATER NATURE PROTECTION

Finally, nature protection was both identified as a strength of sustainability in Tasmania and as a priority for further development. Many cited the need for the allocation of more funding to the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Others highlighted a need to cease destructive practices towards habitat protection as a means of reaching other sustainability goals. For example, stopping deforestation to increase carbon sinks and address the biodiversity crisis.

"Deforestation needs to be stopped to protect habitat, a breathable atmosphere and allow the small water cycle to continue as global heating mounts."

"Increased funding of the Dept of Parks and Wildlife should be supported as soon as possible."

"Protection of old-growth forests and wilderness areas, as important carbon sinks and unique and valuable ecosystems"

4. Submissions to Sustainability Strategy discussion paper consultation

The other format with which Tasmanians could contribute to the Sustainability Strategy consultation was via written submission. A total of 37 written submissions were received:

- 9 from public sector organisations such as government departments, local government authorities, and government business enterprises;
- 5 from private sector organisations, all of which were industry peak bodies;
- 12 from not-for-profit organisations, including community services, peak bodies, advocacy organisations, and grassroots community organisations;
- 10 from private individuals;
- 1 from a Member of the Legislative Council.

In terms of geography, almost half of submissions (18) came from organisations operating in or representing the whole of Tasmania, 2 were Australia-wide, 3 Hobart, 6 North and North West, and, for the remainder, location was unclear.

Each submission was read in its entirety, summarised, then analysed for key themes. Most submissions did not respond directly to the consultation questions and thus formats and content of the submissions varied greatly. Organisations of all sectors generally tended to describe their sustainability activities and visions and/or how they saw their role in Tasmania's sustainable future. For example, the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council noted the role of the revenue generated by its activities as an important source of economic resources for sustainability initiatives while Kingborough Council presented their vision for their region as clean, vibrant, and supportive of economic, recreational and social activities and outlined how their efforts towards the vision related to sustainability.

Naturally, submissions focused on areas in which the organisation had expertise (e.g., Australian Institute of Architects Tasmania focused on built environment and liveability), where they and their stakeholders were likely to be affected (e.g., Wine Tasmania talked about climate threats to growing conditions and opportunities to reduce the sector's emissions), and the ways in which current conditions for their stakeholders were not sustainable (e.g., Carer's Tasmania identified that many carers' needs are not currently met).

As each submission was written from different perspectives and with different scopes, there was no consensus on how the sustainability strategy should move forward. However, there were recurring themes and these are discussed below.

4.1 Broad support, but concerns about implementation

Almost all submissions expressed strong support of the state government's endeavour to develop a sustainability strategy. Several (e.g., Tasmanian Independent Science Council, Hydro Tasmania, Wine Tasmania, Carers Tasmania, Australian Institute of Architects Tasmania, South Hobart Sustainable Community) articulated broad support of the focus areas proposed in the Discussion Papers. However, perspectives varied on how each of the sustainability domains (economy, environment, social) and therefore focus areas should be prioritised, which is discussed in the next section.

A thread that ran through many submissions were concerns about the implementation of the Strategy. The Discussion Papers communicated an intent to set ambitious goals, targets and actions for each sustainability focus area. Submissions did not reference this, but many emphasised a need for the Strategy to have strong and clear targets. While they didn't express opposition to the focus areas put forward in the Discussion Papers, two submissions (Hon Meg Webb MLC and the Australia Institute) advocated for first identifying the sustainability issues facing Tasmania, then setting clear goals and targets and pathways to achieving them.

Reporting and accountability were common implementation concerns. For example, TasCOSS emphasised the need for the Sustainability Strategy to drive action that is in line with what Tasmanians want for the future of themselves, their families and their communities (as opposed to merely a rhetorical device). The Australia Institute expressed that the Strategy can't just be about celebrating wins and must identify shortfalls/shortcomings, develop implementation plans to address them, and institute a monitoring and reporting strategy that includes transparent and regular reporting. The Tasmanian Independent Science Council suggested focus/prioritisation of goals and a robust governance framework including legislated mandates, ongoing monitoring and reporting, and independent oversight.

As well as the abovementioned suggestions for monitoring and reporting (with annual reporting periods usually suggested), some submissions called for a legislated mechanism such as a Commissioner for Future Generations to ensure decisions are made with a duty of care to future generations.

4.2 Varying perspectives on the domains of sustainability

All submissions, implicitly or explicitly, acknowledged that sustainability comprises economic, environmental, and social dimensions. Where they diverged was how each dimension should be treated and prioritised. For example, Hon Meg Webb MLC put forward that the Strategy should place natural environment at its centre as it is fundamental to human wellbeing. Similarly, Sustainable Living Tasmania emphasised that we must recognise that sustainability is not optional as our survival is contingent on it and thus restoring and regenerating should be core principles because humanity has already gone beyond the earth's capacity for 'sustaining' us.

On the other hand, several submissions (e.g., Carers Tasmania; TasCOSS) identified the social dimension and most often addressing poverty and inequality as the primary sustainability priority. One individual submission linked the addressing of inequality as key to sustainability, such that it allows increases in shared prosperity without the need for growth. Others, from individuals and grassroots organisations, emphasised the social dimension as important as action towards sustainability is undertaken by people. Other submissions (e.g., Department for Education, Children and Young People; Australian Association for Environmental Education – Tasmania) specify education as key to sustainability, such that it informs, enables and empowers young people to engage with sustainability and climate issues which builds opportunities for long-term change and, further, provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn and be equipped with resources to live more sustainably.

Others still (e.g., Hydro Tasmania; UTAS Tasmanian Policy Exchange) advocate for balance of the three dimensions, in recognition of their interconnectedness.

4.3 The SDGs

Many submissions did not mention the SDGs. Those that did generally supported alignment of the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy with the SDGs, and most were supportive of mapping the SDGs to Tasmanian-specific sustainability goals (i.e., streamlining). Some caveated their support for alignment with the requirement that all 17 SDGs are included because of their interconnectedness and importance and/or to promote systems thinking approaches to sustainability.

Much like responses to the Sustainability Consultation Survey, some other submissions interpreted 'streamlining' as reduction and identified a narrower set of SDGs that they believed the Sustainability Strategy should focus on, while others identified the SDGs that the work of their organisation and/or stakeholders were most aligned with. While it is difficult to identify from analysis of the submissions which SDGs were most important to those submitting (because not everyone referenced the SDGs and those that did listed different numbers and in different contexts), SDGs 4 – Quality education, 7 – Affordable and clean energy, 11 – Sustainable Cities, 12 – Responsible production and consumption, 13 – Climate Action, and 15 – Life on land, were listed by organisations across sectors. Additionally, though they did not reference SDG 14 – Life below water, several submissions raised Tasmania's weak protection of the marine environment as a significant sustainability issue.

Overall, there was support for the goals of the Sustainability Strategy to align with, integrate, and/or map against the SDGs. It was not clear how this would occur in practice; indeed, one submission asked how the Sustainability Strategy goals proposed on p.22 of the second discussion paper would report against the SDGs they were mapped against. Additionally, there was significant variation across submissions as to how the SDGs should be integrated into the Sustainability Strategy. For example, the SDGs that were recommended for prioritisation varied (with several submissions not recommending prioritisation), and whether by aligning with the SDGs, the Strategy should report against each indicator of the SDGs or whether the SDGs should serve as a 'checklist' to ensure Tasmania is considering all aspects considered relevant to global sustainable development but chart its own course towards achieving it.

4.4 Sustainability concerns, topics and suggestions

As noted above, a range of sustainability topics, concerns and suggestions were raised in submissions, informed by the expertise, activities, and region of each submitter. These are categorised and described below.

- **Education.** Education was a strong topic in many submissions, both in relation to formal education and mechanisms for general knowledge sharing and learning about sustainability. Submissions from the education sector, such as Department for Education, Children and Young People Sustainability Learning Centre and Australian Association for Environmental Education – Tasmania emphasised the role of formal education institutions (early childhood through to early adulthood) to educate young people about sustainability, empower them to act sustainably now, and pursue further educational and employment pathways that advance sustainability. Educational sites were noted by these submissions and others as important venues for demonstrating sustainability and emphasised the opportunities for buildings to demonstrate sustainable construction materials and principles, high quality recycling programs and practices, and sustainable initiatives such as community gardens.

For several other submissions, both community services and individuals, education was seen as key to addressing inequality such that it enables people to participate more fully in employment and society. Some private sector submissions noted education and training as important to workforce sustainability. Several grassroots organisations saw a primary facet of their contribution to sustainability as education, both providing information about the importance of sustainability but also practical knowledge and advice that enables individuals and communities to make more sustainable decisions. Additionally, several submissions advocated for increases to 'sustainability literacy' among the general community.

Therefore, education was viewed as key to advancing sustainability in Tasmania by providing people of all ages with the knowledge and tools they need to participate in society and choose more sustainable behaviours.

- **Addressing of inequity and inequality.** Addressing inequity and inequality was raised, particularly in submissions from not-for-profit organisations (grassroots and larger) as fundamental to sustainability. Some approached it from the perspective that current levels of inequality were inherently unsustainable because current needs are not being met, while others noted that sustainability requires collective effort and that inequity and inequality present barriers to that.

Much like in responses to the Sustainability Consultation and the Wellbeing Consultation surveys, housing, health, and education systems were frequently cited as systems where inequalities were present and needed addressing. Additionally, the undervaluing of people contributing to addressing needs arising from inequality, such as carers, volunteers, and the community sector more broadly, was noted as a barrier to sustainability in several submissions.

- **Circular economy.** Unsurprisingly, given it was put forward as a goal area and several submissions were from organisations operating in the circular economy/ waste reduction and management space, circular economy was a common theme in submissions. Several submissions expressed hope and approval of the Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 and accompanying regulations, Board, and Strategy.

Submissions were clear and unified in approval of a shift to a circular economy and focused largely on the facilitators and removal of barriers needed to advance it. Many submissions, particularly those from local councils and grassroots organisations, identified community education, empowerment, and mindset changes as necessary to get people and communities 'on board' with circular economy principles and action. Others, particularly private sector organisations, noted that recycled materials and other options more in line with circular economy principles are more expensive than non-circular ones, thus incentives and disincentives are required for the viability of transitions to a more circular economy. Not-for-profit community service organisations also noted that the same was true at the individual level.

The Australian Council of Recycling suggested that, to advance a circular economy, the state government play a role in driving demand for recycled content (e.g., through procurement policies and project requirements); removing regulatory hurdles in the recycling industry; in particular around classifying recovered/recycled materials as waste; ensuring effective product stewardship schemes that place responsibilities for product life cycles on consumers, and consumer education (including uptake/endorsement of Recycle Mate app).

- **Industry transitions.** As well as the abovementioned cost-related challenges to moving to a circular economy, some submissions identified specific requirements to industrial transitions towards greater sustainability. For example, Wine Tasmania recommended investment in biofuel, a feasibility study of a glass reuse program in Tasmania, sector-specific research, and resources for producers to calculate the cost/benefit of investments in sustainability changes for their business (e.g., EV tractors, when these become available). Much like in responses to the Sustainability Consultation survey, a number of submissions called for an end to salmon farming and native forestry, implicitly suggesting major transitions for those industries and its employees.

More generally, several submissions noted the scale and pace of change required to ensure that sustainability is achievable and the need for processes to manage it. Concerns included greenwashing, a lack of robust examination of the sustainability credentials and outcomes of projects, lack of mechanism to consider future generations, and the scale of change required entrenching industries in their less sustainable mindsets and activities because they do not see a feasible path towards sustainability.

- **Structural barriers to sustainability.** Several submissions alluded to or mentioned structural barriers to sustainability. Several of these, such as education and inequality and inequity, have been outlined above. Others included conflicting or unclear regulations, a lack of coordination and governance, and lack of clear information about what individuals, communities and businesses can do to be more sustainable.

4.5 Sustainability

Strategy suggestions

A range of suggestions for the Sustainability Strategy were presented in submissions. Most of these pertained to implementation. These are categorised and described below.

- **Energy.** Many submissions called for expansion of the Strategy's consideration of energy to include reduction of consumption as well as increase in renewable energy generation. Hydro Tasmania called for the Climate and Renewable Energy focus area to be changed to Climate and Industry, acknowledging the role of industry as energy consumers and emitters. Several other submissions called for a particular focus on energy and emissions associated with transport and reducing these by promoting active transport through infrastructure and education investments, electrifying public transport and other fleets, investing in biofuels, and, where private transport is necessary, incentivising EV use among individuals.
- **Monitoring and reporting.** As noted in 4.1, monitoring and reporting was a significant concern for implementing the Sustainability Strategy. Many submissions advocated for annual public reporting against clear targets and goals. Some submissions made specific suggestions with regard to monitoring and reporting, such as using the Australian Government's template for reporting against the SDGs, using the Genuine Progress Indicator as well as the SDGs, and integrating the Australian Government's Measuring What Matters framework.
- **Coordination, leadership, governance, and accountability.** A strong theme across submissions was the need for coordination, governance and accountability. This pertained to the role of government in implementing the strategy. For example, several local councils and local council sustainability working groups invited the state government to provide a unifying definition and framework for sustainability, and resources to support collaboration for and implementation of changes. Similarly, several grassroots organisations identified the benefit of a statewide sustainability strategy to align efforts and provide resources for community-level knowledge sharing and action. Educational, environmental and sustainability organisations viewed part of state government's role in sustainability as investing in and promoting reliable sustainability information (e.g., apps, practical guidance, learning materials, communication about current sustainability initiatives, and opportunities to get involved) and coordinating action.

The role of state government leadership was implicitly referenced through suggestions such as procurement policy reforms to ensure sustainability was baked into all state government procurement, bans of fossil fuel advertising and sponsorship of any government event or facility (extending to local government), and ensuring that state owned infrastructure was constructed and renovated sustainably.

Additionally, the need for governance was mentioned to identify and eliminate confusion, duplication and lack of clarity across policies, legislation, and strategies relating to sustainability. Further, governance was identified as important to ensure broad awareness of sustainability opportunities and activities happening across the state so that they can be aligned and leveraged towards common goals. Finally, some submissions noted that sustainability concerns and therefore required actions would change over time and solid governance mechanisms would ensure that the Sustainability Strategy adapted to these changes to ensure long-term sustainability for Tasmania.

This theme also pertained to oversight of the state government and the state more generally, with mechanisms such as public reporting, legally required reporting (with several submissions noting the government's current violation of the legal requirement to produce a 5-yearly State of the Environment report), and independent positions such as Sustainability Commissioner and Future Generations Commissioner were suggested to ensure accountability.

- **Investments, incentives and disincentives.** Support for individuals, communities and organisations to make more sustainable decisions was identified as a need. Several ways of providing this support were suggested, including subsidies, grants, funding and loans, brokerage/coordination, policy reforms, levies, and taxes.

