

Tasmanian Positive Our state's sustainability strategy

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission for the 'Tasmanian Positive Sustainability Strategy'. While I am coordinator of Live Well Tasmania, who are committed to social, economic and environmental sustainability, this submission is a personal submission, based on my over 15 years of intense research (including a PhD with the University of Tasmania) on triple bottom line conceptions of sustainability, culminating in a deep interest in the process of inner transformation driving outer transformation via collective action.

To summarise this submission, two aspects of life crucial to human surviving and thriving (in other words crucial for sustainable societies), is the quality of our social relationships, and having meaningful work for all. Unless people's basic needs for social connectedness and for purpose and meaning are satisfied, we will never be able to work collectively towards a sustainable society due to the severe consequences of not satisfying people's basic needs.

For example, 'disorders of disconnection' have been identified as a key problem of society, leading to a population disempowered and detached from the political engagement required for a connected and enlightened society able to tackle our super wicked problems.

This submission contends that there is one single policy which can begin the process of creating a social, economic and environmentally Sustainable Tasmania. This policy has the triple benefit of motivating, mobilising and coordinating action towards mitigating and adapting to climate change and other environmental problems, while also addressing the determinants of sustainable societies. In particular it can help make progress on a significant number of the Sustainable Development Goals. The policy is of a Community Basic Income, which is a version of the increasingly commonly discussed policy of Universal Basic Income. The latter is income paid to all citizens, regardless of existing assets and income, and does not require any work or any other requirement in return. The Community Basic Income instead pays the income (set at the rate of a living wage). in return for contributing to society in some way, as determined by a Community Based Coalition. A group of us have been working on this policy for the last 12 months, and to date have received very positive feedback from local politicians, and from local government. For example we have met a couple of times with the Waratah-Wynyard Council, who fully agree that the policy would be a game changer for resourcing their Integrated Council Environmental Plan, their Health and Wellbeing Plan, their Youth Plan, and their Age Friendly Plan. In other words, the huge and diverse range of actions identified in these plans can be offered as participation opportunities for people to earn the income.

Intrinsic to this project is beginning the long term human capital and social capital building process towards achieving two objectives: making sure we have a skilled workforce to fill gaps current workforce shortages, ranging from hospitality to care workers. Secondly to address the barriers to people filling those vacancies: for some it is a lack of confidence in their abilities including their capacity to retrain, for others, lack of childcare and/or lack of transport may be an issue.

Our current systems reflect a massive waste of human potential, which manifests in higher health care costs, higher crime rates and higher related costs and so on; most of these lead to higher ecological footprints and hence increase climate change.

Underling this approach is recognition that collective action is key to sustainability. We largely do not have any lack of individual talent, of people with the skills to have an impact in a particular part of the puzzle of creating sustainable societies. The problem is joining together, of uniting our

diversity, when currently there is a widespread ambivalence about cooperating to the level required by or super wicked problems.

Dialogue is the first step to building collective action, of the creating of a common vision. 'It is through dialogue that we grow sensitive to multiple realities and learn to negotiate across diverse relationships and realities. Fostering an ongoing dialogic culture promotes transformative action. A dialogic culture supports attending to what we take for granted, noticing what others notice that would be otherwise invisible to us, and opening pathways exploring new opportunities and possibilities'.

This is another significant strength of a CBI, that it promotes ways for people to engage in dialogue, with all its individual, such as learning new skills, including crucial active listening skills, and collective benefits.

A final strength of the CBI project is that it focuses on wellbeing as a vital pillar of sustainability. It is encouraging that the Tasmanian Government is developing a Wellbeing strategy, and believe implementing the strategy will be vital for sustainability in Tasmania.

We advocate for the definition of wellbeing as 'A state of existence that fulfils various human needs, including material living conditions and quality of life, as well as the ability to pursue one's own goals, to thrive, and feel satisfied with one's life. Ecosystem wellbeing refers to the ability of ecosystems to maintain their diversity and quality'. (IPCC). A CBI can help to value people for all the diverse ways they can contribute to a thriving Tasmania, including as is mentioned in the Positive Tasmania briefing paper, helping 'future Tasmanians to have everything they need to live well – good health and nutrition, a good job or a thriving business, secure housing, and a safe community. We will do this by continuing to take strong action on climate change, investing in education and innovation for sustainable industries, securing our future economic prosperity while making sure Tasmania's natural environment and resources that underpin our health, wellbeing, jobs, and lifestyle, are preserved for future generations. Most importantly, we want to ensure that no Tasmanian is left behind'.

To address the question of aligning with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals, I fully agree with streamlining them as is suggested on page 21 of the 'Discussion Paper – Tasmania's Sustainability Vision and Goals'. The identification of health and wellbeing, education and skills, and fair, equitable and inclusive society is crucial in underpinning the quality of human capital and social capital required for sustainable societies.