
MEDIA RELEASE: TASMANIA TOGETHER

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LAUNCH - 2007 SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS

Tasmania's first annual report card paints a mixed picture.

Launching the *Snapshot of Progress for 2007*, the Chair of the Tasmania Together Progress Board, Mr Bob Campbell, said Tasmania was doing well in some areas and not so well in others.

"The costs of essential living expenses has increased dramatically for low-income families and there has been no improvement in greenhouse gas emissions or the reading and writing skills of young students," said Mr Campbell.

"At the same time, we have much less people dieing from preventable causes and Tasmanians do feel safer at home and in public places," he said.

The Tasmania Together Progress Board intends to release a report card on Tasmania's progress every year. The *Snapshot of Progress* brochure will report progress across a range of social, economic and environmental areas and be widely distributed throughout the State.

Mr Campbell said twelve high level indicators of progress had been chosen to reflect each of the twelve goals in Tasmania Together, the State's community-based vision for 2020.

"The Tasmanian community need to know how we are tracking in terms of achieving their vision of where they want the State to be by 2020," said Mr Campbell.

"The *Snapshot of Progress* provides that report and complements the more detailed Progress Reports the Board produces every two years," he said.

Compared to last year:

- The costs of essentials for low-income families have increased substantially;
- Tasmanians feel safer at night both at home and in public places;
- Student literacy and numeracy for Years 3, 5 and 7 have remained unchanged;
- There has been a large reduction in the number of avoidable deaths;

- Our regional population remains stable;
- Attendance at cultural heritage sites has increased;
- The number of visitor centres with Aboriginal cultural interpretation has not increased;
- The percentage of people voting in local government elections has gone down slightly;
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of people participating in the workforce;
- Tasmania has experienced strong investment growth;
- Land protected in conservation reserves has increased; and,
- The State's greenhouse gas emissions have not been reduced.

"It's a mixed report card, with some important gains in health and investment growth, for example, but we clearly need to make better progress in some areas such as reducing our carbon footprint and the cost pressure being felt by low-income families," said Mr Campbell.

Mr Campbell said the *Snapshot of Progress for 2007* would be distributed to all Service Tasmania outlets, On-line Access Centres and State Libraries. At the same time a one-page 'flyer' would go to households throughout the State providing a summary of the Snapshot brochure.

The launch will also be accompanied by a media advertising campaign promoting the Snapshot and where to obtain a copy.

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