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### NEW INFORMATION REVEALS HOW TASMANIANS FEEL ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY

Nearly three-quarters of all Tasmanians are satisfied with their quality of life and feel part of their local community. At the same time only 17% of Tasmanians believe the State Government listens to and acts on the wishes of the community.

These are some of the results of a community survey released by the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board addressing issues such as quality of life, social inclusion and government accountability.

The results form the basis for a number of draft benchmarks released by the Board for public comment today.

Deputy Chair of the Progress Board, Mr Michael Lynch said the Board had undertaken to develop benchmarks around issues of importance to the community identified during the 2005-06 review of Tasmania *Together*.

The community survey of over 2000 Tasmanians from all major regions of the State provided information for five new Tasmania *Together* benchmarks, which relate to:

- Quality of life
- Support from family, friends and local community
- Opportunities to socialise outside the home
- Perceptions of tolerance within the community
- Government accountability.

Mr Lynch said the issues had been identified by the community as being very important and needed to be measured.

“Some of the results will be of concern to the Government and the broader community.”

“There will be concern that only 39% of Tasmanians view other Tasmanians as tolerant of other ethnic groups, religions and people’s sexual orientation.”

“Equally only 17% of Tasmanians believe the State Government is listening and acting on their wishes.”

“Yet nearly 70% of Tasmanians are satisfied with their quality of life, over 70% get enough support from their families and social networks, and over 80% are happy with their social lives”.

Mr Lynch said that now that baseline data is available from the community survey, the Board is seeking public comment on the targets created.

“The Board has set challenging but realistic targets for all of us to aim for. We want to know what the community think.”

The Board also released new and revised baselines and targets for four benchmarks currently in Tasmania *Together*. These include:

- Teacher training in discrimination
- Schools who integrate multicultural perspectives in the curriculum
- Performance of students in civics and citizenship
- Levels of greenhouse gas emissions

Changes to the greenhouse gas emissions baseline have occurred due to refinement of the emission estimate methodologies used for the National Greenhouse Accounts.

A paper detailing the new and revised benchmarks for public comment is available on the Tasmania *Together* website: [www.tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au) , or on request.

Comments close by October 31.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TELEPHONE:**

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