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### **Tasmania *Together* Progress Board meets with community leaders in Smithton**

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board met with local government and community and business leaders in Smithton to encourage closer links between the State plan and local decision making.

Board Chair, Mr Bob Campbell, said that it is important to meet with the community around the State to promote Tasmania *Together's* goals and benchmarks.

“The Board highly values the work of local communities, including councils, in helping achieve the goals and benchmarks in Tasmania *Together*, the State’s 20 year plan.”

The meeting provided an opportunity to meet with Circular Head Council to discuss integration of Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks into the council’s 5 year strategic plan (2008 – 2013).

“Local government works at the grassroots level and knows the community’s priorities.”

“The Progress Board is eager to work with the Circular Head Council in linking benchmarks to strategies in the Council’s draft five year plan currently out for public comment.”

Other councils in the area such as Waratah-Wynyard, Burnie and Central Coast have also been approached to consider incorporating Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks into their strategic planning processes.

“We have met with a positive response when we visit councils to encourage linkages with Tasmania *Together* when strategic plans are next reviewed,” said Mr Campbell.

Another objective of the meeting was to encourage more partnerships with community organisations in the North West. Tasmania *Together* currently has nearly 30 partner organisations, most of which are located in southern Tasmania.

“The Board is keen to expand our partners program in the North West region of the State,” he said.

“After all it is a State plan and we want all regions on board.”

The meeting also provided a chance for community members to discuss local issues with Board members as well as future directions for Tasmania *Together*.

“There is no doubt that maintaining vibrant rural and regional communities is of great concern to many people throughout the State”

“Community, government and businesses will all need to continue to work together to ensure it happens.”

Tasmania *Together* is a long term plan for the State for the year 2020, developed by the community, for the community, focusing on social, environmental and economic issues.

Mr Campbell said Tasmanians are really moving forward with achieving Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks and it is important to keep the momentum going with the entire community working towards achieving the vision.

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