



3 March 2023

Department of State Growth
GPO Box 536
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: consultation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation - Refreshing Tasmania's Population Strategy

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the refreshing of the Tasmanian Population Strategy.

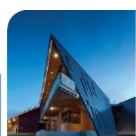
Council notes and supports the Tasmanian State Government's established policy position set out in the current Tasmanian Population Growth Strategy (first released in 2015) which includes the target to grow the population of Tasmania to 650,000 people by the year 2050 to 'drive economic growth, create jobs and improve the standard of living for all Tasmanians'.

Following the significant growth in the Tasmanian population over recent years, it is Council's understanding that the attainment of this population target is on course to occur much sooner than the 2050 timeframe. In this context a refreshed Tasmanian Population Growth Strategy is a timely and welcome initiative.

This also represents a timely opportunity to mention the *Greater Devonport Residential Growth Strategy 2021-2042* which was adopted by the Devonport City Council in 2022. The purpose of this Strategy is to provide an overarching strategic policy direction for residential growth in the greater Devonport area over the next 20 years. This Strategy represents Council's principal strategic policy instrument to direct and promote residential growth into the future, including direction for the provisioning of appropriate residential land supplies to support that growth. Consistent with the established policy context for aspirational growth set by the current *Tasmanian Population Growth Strategy*, the *Greater Devonport Residential Growth Strategy 2021-2042* presents an aspirational vision for population growth to recognise and enhance Devonport's status as the major population centre in the North-West region of Tasmania, and to promote Devonport as an attractive and prominent destination to live, work and invest. It represents a strategy for continued growth that seeks to build upon the economic confidence and positive momentum for growth catalysed by Council's recent Living City urban renewal initiative. Increasing the population base provides an important platform for continued economic growth and investment, increasing employment opportunities, and promoting liveability not only within the greater Devonport area – but also the North West region more generally.

A copy of the *Greater Devonport Residential Growth Strategy 2021-2042* is available on Council's website and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.devonport.tas.gov.au/download/367/plans-strategies/48258/greater-devonport-residential-growth-strategy-2021-2041.pdf>



In refreshing the Tasmanian Population Growth Strategy, it is important to recognise that Devonport and the North-West region will continue to be an important contributor towards growing the Tasmanian population into the future. It is not a reasonable proposition that the majority of Tasmania's future population growth will be or should be confined to the Hobart and Launceston population centres, or otherwise limited to those local government areas currently experiencing strong/rapid growth.

The provisioning of appropriate housing supply, including residential land supplies, represents a major platform towards accommodating future population growth. It is crucial that there is a proper alignment of policy and strategy at a local, regional and state level to deliver this supply.

Council offers the suggestion that a refreshed Tasmanian Population Growth Strategy would benefit from consideration of a more proactive approach which appropriately 'looks ahead' for housing supply into the future. To highlight a challenge of the current population growth environment, reference is made to recent data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as part of the 2021 Census which reported that Tasmania is one of only three states in Australia where population growth is outpacing dwelling growth – with this differential the most pronounced in Tasmania (see Figure 1 below).

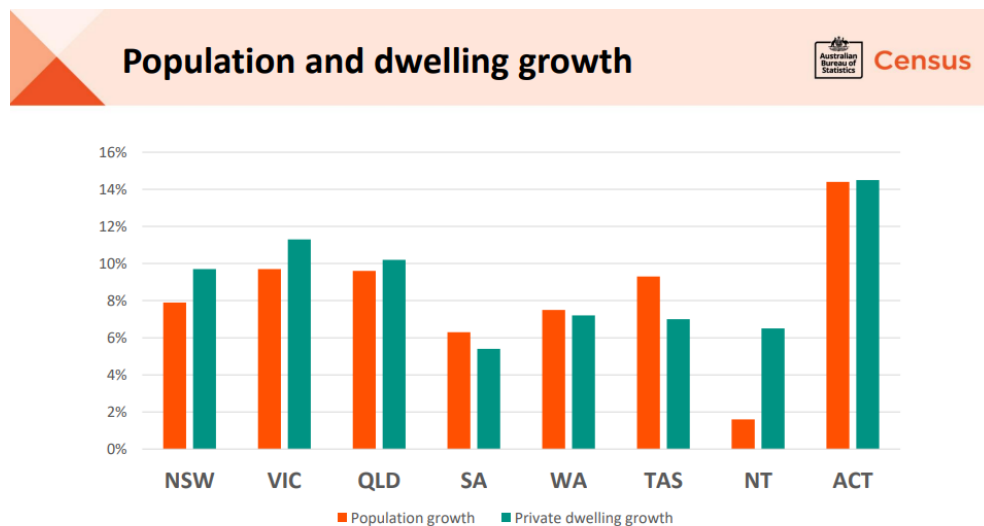


Figure 1 – Population and dwelling growth for Australian states and territories (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022).

In summary Council affirms its support for the continuation of a population growth strategy for Tasmania and one that appropriately encourages growth for all regional centres, and in particular the greater Devonport area which represents a centralised and logical base for growth in the North West region of the State.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Atkins
GENERAL MANAGER