

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

Industry Sector Representatives and Associations

and

Local Government

and

Tasmanian Government



Background

- A. The parties wish to work together to develop a Strategic Regional Partnership Agreement (SRPA) for the Eastern Region of Tasmania which will focus on practical solutions to address the prioritised needs and growth opportunities for the region and to bring together key decision makers from all levels of government, business, community and industry.
- B. The parties wish to record non-legally binding commitments relevant to the achievement of this stated goal.

1. Parties

Current Parties

The current parties to this document include the following key stakeholders:

Industry

1. Tourism industry represented by – Tourism Industry Council Tasmania (TICT)

Government

1. Local Government represented by – Break O’Day Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
2. State Government

Associations

1. Regional Development Australia – Tasmania (RDA)
2. East Coast Tourism

Future Parties

The parties acknowledge that the purpose and objectives stated in this document may, from time to time, include other parties or stakeholders to be involved in the delivery including representative agencies of the Australian Government.

2. Status of this document

The parties acknowledge and agree that nothing contained in this document is to give rise to:

- (a) legally enforceable rights and obligations as between the parties; and
- (b) any legal liability of any kind as between the parties,

and that to the extent that legally enforceable rights or obligations are to arise in relation to the subject matter of this document, that those rights and obligations will not arise until the parties, or any relevant parties (as the case may be), enter (if at all) into a formal written agreement concerning the subject matter of that agreement.

3. Geographic boundaries for the subject matter of this document

The geographic boundary for the subject matter of this document is anticipated to be predominantly within the Local Government Areas of Break O'Day Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (the Eastern Region) but may also extend to neighbouring councils based on projects and/or where there are regional benefits as and when required.

4. Review of the subject matter of this document

The parties anticipate reviewing this document after 12 months of signing and annually thereafter.

5. Purpose of this document

This document was developed following an initial meeting between the Parties in October 2023 and subsequent engagement. Its purpose is to document each party's expected roles for the next three years and to promote collaboration between the parties with a view to developing an agreed Strategic Regional Partnership Agreement (SRPA) and other required documents to achieve optimum long-term benefits for:

- **Communities** – whereby co-designed solutions based on local context and needs will foster sustainable changes and long-term benefits for East Coast communities.
- **Local Government** – by providing a voice for local communities to contribute resources and ideas to improve the amenity and long-term sustainability of the towns.
- **State Government** – being the development of a long-term strategic regional plan that identifies local challenges, strengthens and opportunities for the Eastern Region to improve planning, investment and land use.
- **Industry** – by working together to support businesses and industries by improving resilience, reducing barriers to productivity and providing targeted investment and services.

6. Outcomes of Joint Working Arrangement

The desired outcomes of the joint working arrangement are:

- Share and expand the available population data, analysis and projections to guide future policy, infrastructure, housing, health and education services planning and decisions.
- Improve accommodation with specific focus on worker accommodation, infrastructure, and amenity of towns to attract and retain workers and families.

- Provide better liveability, including through sustainability, wellbeing and connection for local people and local industries.
- Provide a diversified economy.
- Demonstrate social benefits for residents.
- Cross-sectoral collaboration and partnership.
- Secure the people and skills needed and provide successful settlement supports for new arrivals.
- Improve sustainability for current and future generations.

7. Objectives of this document

The shared objectives of the parties in connection with this MoU are to:

- Ensure there is a clear understanding of and support for the purpose and desired outcomes including the role and responsibilities of the parties.
- Provide mechanisms to facilitate collaboration between the parties, including effective and timely options for progressing action plans, investment, communication and sharing of information.
- State general principles that will apply (including day to day work and decision making) and potential funding arrangements related to delivering the outcomes for Eastern Tasmania.
- Provide principles for the management of disagreements between the parties.

8. High level principles underlying each party's relationship with each other

The parties acknowledge the following high level principles:

- Each party recognises and supports the independent autonomy of each other party and that each party may have responsibilities to their members and/or the discharge of certain statutory roles, functions or obligations.
- All parties are committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for Eastern Tasmania.
- The Parties will work collaboratively to identify any required personnel and funding requirements to implement the SRPA and that there is a desire to work in goodwill and collaboratively toward a shared funding model.
- The funding of initiatives will be dealt with separately to the funding of a Project Leader, if it is determined that a Project Leader is required.

9. Roles of the Parties

The parties acknowledge a shared desire to develop and facilitate actions and associated activities, through a regional SRPA, to progress the desired outcomes for Eastern Tasmania as they relate to:

- Improved and more accessible health services;
- Infrastructure;
- Services;
- Community and industry goodwill; and
- Diversified economy including regional land use planning, sustainability and wellbeing.

The parties commit to the development of specific action plans under the auspices of a Strategic Regional Partnership that identifies the practical

actions to address common issues shared across industry, business or councils that contribute to the outcomes of the joint working arrangements (see Clause 6). The first stream of priorities is outlined in Attachment A and these will be overseen by a steering committee.

10. Specific Roles

- **Project Sponsor:** The State Government commits to identifying and nominating a senior Government Executive within the Department of State Growth to act as Project Sponsor under the Strategic Regional Partnership. If required, the Project Sponsor should be the first point of contact in relation to any issues with any Tasmanian Government department.
- **Steering Committee (SC):** The parties acknowledge:
 - o A local stakeholder steering committee should be established which is made up of representatives of each Party and that a Chair will be elected from amongst the members of the SC.
 - o the SC which will be the forum for strategic intent decision making and facilitating progress on the intent of the MoU.
 - o despite anything in this document to the contrary, the SC:
 - has no legal responsibility or legal status; and
 - does not have any power to:
 - enter into any obligation or accept any liability;
 - make any commitment on behalf of a party;
 - require any party to act, or refrain from acting, in any way;
 - to give any instructions or directions to any person.
 - o the SC should be consulted and be provided with reasonable opportunity to provide input into the recruitment, ongoing employment, the provision of guidance or advice and the monitoring the performance of the Project Leader but noting that the Project Leader will be employed by a separate entity and subject to that entity's control and direction.
- **Project Leader:** A person will be appointed by the State Government to act as Project Leader, if it is determined that a Project Leader is required. The Project Leader will manage operational decisions and have carriage of the day-to-day tasks and actions as required to progress this work and that subject matter experts may be co-opted into a Project Team on a case-by-case basis.

The Project Leader coordinate across government and the Parties to:

- o Work with the Project Sponsor on the SRPA.
- o Develop and propose strategic recommendations for consideration by the SC.
- o Progress any advice or guidance provided by the SC.
- o Collaborate on other actions being progressed by relevant stakeholders where there is alignment and shared purpose with the objectives stated in this document.
- o Provide documented and verbal status updates to the SC and other funding entities.
- o Establish effective communication channels between the SC – Project Leader and the stakeholder groups.

- **Public comments and announcements:** The parties acknowledge that public comments regarding this work should be restricted to State Growth, Chair of the Steering Committee and the Project Leader. It is expected that the Steering Committee will consider any requirements for public comment within 24 hours.

11. Implementation

In accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference, the parties should:

- Ensure attendance at Steering Committee meetings, initially monthly but expected to move to no less than quarterly once the establishment phase is finalised.
- Work together to implement the action plan once approved by the SC
- Use their best reasonable endeavours to meet any agreed timelines for actions and authorisations.
- Establish and maintain agreed policies for ongoing information exchange between the parties.
- Provide equal opportunity for representation across the various industries, government agencies, local government, and designated community groups.
- Establish a funding model to progress delivery of the priorities
- Raise any concerns, issues, or disputes at Steering Committee meetings initially and if appropriate escalate to the Project Sponsor for resolution.
- Resolve any outstanding issues, or establish a pathway for resolution, within two weeks of the issue being raised.