

LAUNCESTON

CITY DEAL

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2020



Australian Government

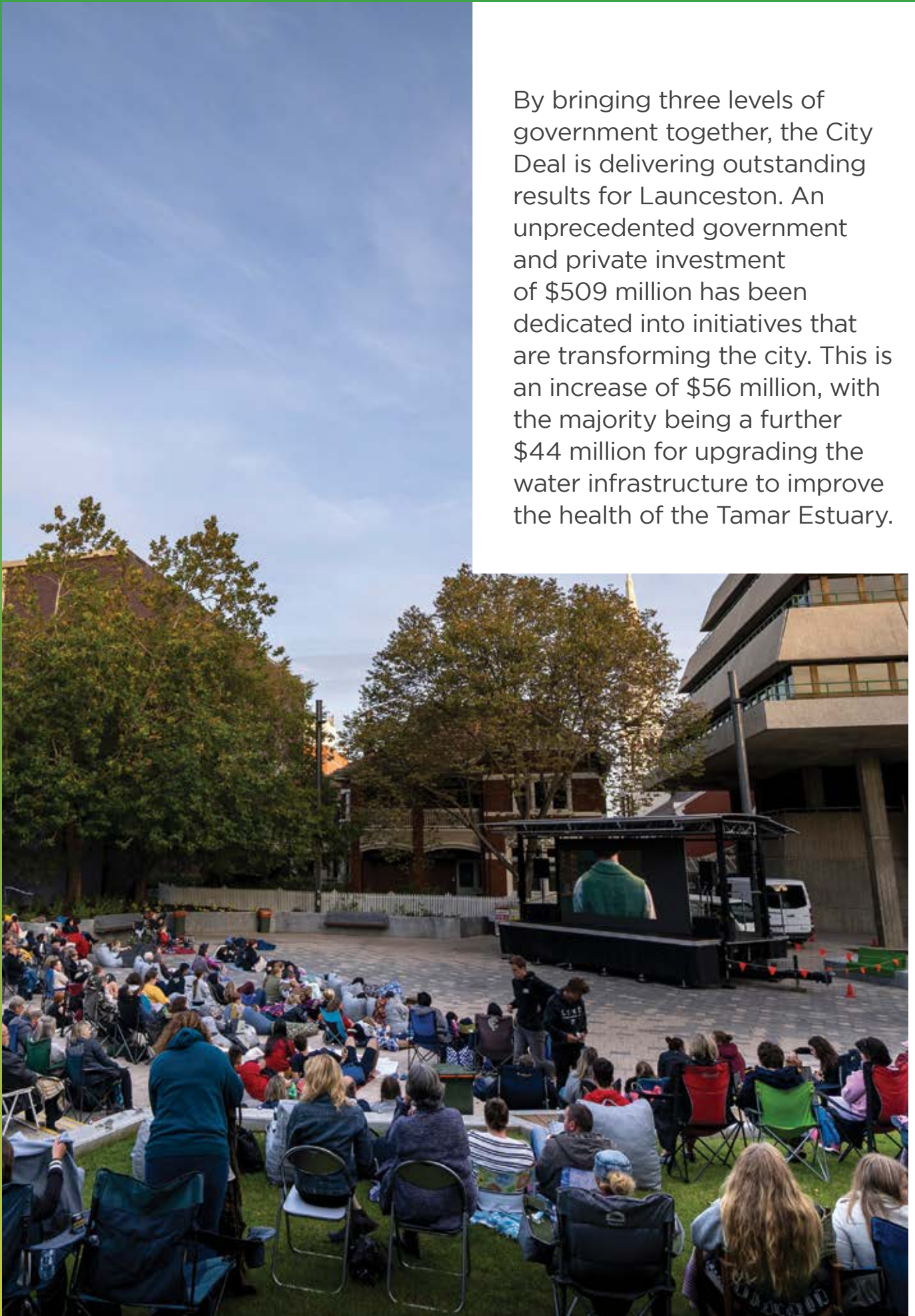


Tasmanian
Government



City of
LAUNCESTON

By bringing three levels of government together, the City Deal is delivering outstanding results for Launceston. An unprecedented government and private investment of \$509 million has been dedicated into initiatives that are transforming the city. This is an increase of \$56 million, with the majority being a further \$44 million for upgrading the water infrastructure to improve the health of the Tamar Estuary.



Against this background, we are pleased to deliver the third Annual Progress Report highlighting achievements throughout 2019-20, including the significant progress made on the new University of Tasmania campus at Inveresk – one of the biggest single infrastructure projects ever in Launceston. Construction of the first campus building commenced and development applications for the next two buildings have been submitted to the City of Launceston. The pedestrian and cycle bridge across the North Esk River is expected to be completed by the end of 2020, providing a strong link between the campus and the city. This once-in-a-generation project is expected to create 430 jobs during construction and 225 jobs (teaching and support staff) at the campus once complete. It will create a much needed economic boost, as the region begins to recover from the pandemic.

The City Deal has delivered real progress in fighting pollution in the Tamar Estuary through the River Health Action Plan. Riparian fencing has been erected as planned to keep stock out of rivers and improve the health of the estuary. In urban areas, we have jointly agreed the best way to upgrade the combined sewerage and stormwater system, with detailed planning and funding now in place. We are very pleased to deliver this game-changing project to improve Launceston's liveability.

Planning for improved economic and social outcomes is a key commitment of the City Deal. This year saw the delivery of My Place My Future – a plan to improve social outcomes in the Northern Suburbs, as well as the launch of the Regional Economic Development Strategy – a plan to set out the economic vision of Northern Tasmania. With the plans set, now is the time for governments to work together, with business and community, to carry out the activities that will drive innovation, business growth and infrastructure improvement.

In 2020-21, construction will continue on building the new University of Tasmania campus in Inveresk, establishing the water infrastructure in urban areas, creating the Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub and refurbishing the Albert Hall.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had major impact on the community and economy of Launceston, Australia more broadly and the rest of the world. At the same time it presents opportunities that we can leverage to boost Launceston's reputation as the most liveable and innovative regional city.



The Hon Alan Tudge MP
Minister for Population, Cities
and Urban Infrastructure



The Hon. Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Infrastructure
and Transport
Minister for State Growth



Mayor Albert van Zetten
City of Launceston

Key achievements of 2019-20

- Construction commenced on one of Launceston's largest single infrastructure projects, the University of Tasmania's new inner city campus at Inveresk. Ground works commenced for the Library and Student Services building in January 2020 followed by the North Esk River pedestrian and cycle bridge in March 2020.
- In just over 12 months since the launch of the Tamar Action Grants, NRM North has contracted with approximately 76 landholders resulting in over 175 km of waterways fenced and 698 hectares of native vegetation managed to improve water quality within the Tamar Estuary.
- The 12-month program of investigations into the urban stormwater system in the Launceston and West Tamar region has successfully led to the identification and remediation of nine sewage intrusions and two broken sewer mains. The success and cost effectiveness of the program has led to it being expanded to include additional stormwater catchments within the Launceston urban area.
- An additional \$44 million was committed to deliver the urban water infrastructure upgrades to Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system.
- My Place My Future was launched in August 2019, providing the vision and strategic actions to improve the economic and social outcomes in the Northern Suburbs of Launceston.
- The Regional Economic Development Strategy was delivered by Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) in December 2019, outlining a vision and the strategic priorities for economic development within Northern Tasmania.
- The \$90 million Launceston Creative Precinct was announced. The new Precinct will encompass world-class education in design and technology, a virtual and augmented reality enterprise, commercial offices, technology and innovation spaces, modern food and retail offerings, as well as student accommodation. The Precinct will also house the city's new bus interchange, which will increase the liveability and vibrancy of the city facilitating the continued roll-out of the City Heart street revitalisation works.



Over the next 12 months

- Construction will commence on upgrading the Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system to improve the health of the Tamar Estuary.
- The new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the North Esk River will be completed by the end of 2020 and the 852-space northern car park will be complete by mid-2021.
- Detailed project planning will commence on establishing the University of Tasmania's Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct at Newnham.
- A further 185 km of waterways will be protected from stock access under the Tamar Action Grants.
- The Launceston Cultural Strategy will be completed, and an implementation plan will be developed which will include the identification of early wins.
- Construction will commence on upgrades to the Albert Hall.
- Construction will commence on the Launceston Creative Precinct and designs will be finalised for the next stage of street revitalisation works as part of the Launceston City Heart Project.
- As part of the Greater Launceston Transformation Project, the nation leading Internet of Things Schools Program will finalise and deliver lesson plans and teaching resources to a number of public, Independent and Catholic schools across the Greater Launceston area.
- The first live smart traffic system will be operational within the city.



○ Governance, City Planning and Regulation

Regional Economic Development Plan

The Regional Economic Development Plan sets out a vision for Northern Tasmania and identifies where future economic growth and jobs are likely to emerge.

Progress

The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) for the Northern Tasmania region was completed in December 2019. The strategy provides a vision for economic development in the region; 'By 2031, Launceston and Northern Tasmania will be Australia's most liveable and innovative region, with growing incomes and falling levels of disadvantage.' REDS identifies six strategic priorities; exports, population, innovation, investment, infrastructure, participation and productivity.

Representing Northern regional councils, the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC) commenced coordination of the REDS Implementation Program (REDSIP) which will provide a set of actions to deliver economic benefits to the region, consistent with the REDS framework. The three-year program is being developed in consultation with key stakeholders and the three tiers of government to ensure a collaborative regional approach to economic development.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions during April 2020, NTDC pivoted to focus on developing 'RecoveryNow', a range of economic programs to assist recovery from the pandemic. A suite of initiatives has been developed to focus on supporting regional economic recovery in the short to long term and build on the key strategic priorities of the REDS.

Key Milestones Achieved

December 2019: Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) endorsed by all member councils (Flinders Island, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, Break O'Day, West Tamar, George Town and City of Launceston councils).

March 2020: Workshops held with Local Government members to commence development of the REDS Implementation Plan.

April 2020: Commenced work on 'RecoveryNow'.

Key Next Steps

July 2020: NTDC's RecoveryNow submitted to Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC).

September 2020: Launch of the Regional Collaboration Framework, a key initiative of the REDS.

December 2020: Completion of the REDS Implementation Plan (REDSIP), with a 12-month Action Plan for delivering key REDS initiatives.

January 2021: Commence delivery of the REDSIP 2021.

Develop agreed metrics to measure progress towards regional targets

Develop an agreed set of metrics and datasets by 2018 to measure economic and educational outcomes and monitor success in implementing the Regional Economic Development Plan.

Progress

A set of metrics to measure economic and educational outcomes associated with the City Deal has been developed and will be updated every five years.



Key Milestones Achieved

May 2019: Baseline metrics report completed and circulated to stakeholders for input.

December 2019: Agreed metrics and baseline report published on City Deal website https://www.launcestoncitydeal.com.au/projects/metrics_for_northern_tasmania.

Key Next Steps

Metrics will be updated at regular intervals to monitor change and measure the benefits the City Deal is delivering for the region.

Deliver a survey of local businesses on economic opportunities and labour market conditions

The Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences will collect information from around 200 local businesses annually from 2017 to 2022.

Progress

The Launceston survey scheduled for April 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment ceased the Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences to conduct a new survey to gather information on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses across Australia.

Key Milestones Achieved

November 2019: a report on recruitment conditions in Launceston, based on interviews with businesses in April 2019, was provided to the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: Launceston businesses will be surveyed toward the end of 2020 or early 2021.

Provide information and facilitation services for major projects

Information and facilitation services will be provided to investors for regional projects that make a significant contribution to the regional economy, including the creation of jobs.

Progress

The Australian Government's Major Projects Facilitation Agency is available to provide advice and guidance on regulatory and approval obligations for major projects – with capital investments over \$20 million – at all stages of development.

Key Next Steps

Ongoing: Delivery of advice and services to major project owners.



Deliver an updated plan for the central city

The City of Launceston will produce an updated integrated plan for the central city area covering the Cataract Gorge, Riverbend, the new university campus at Inveresk, the Esplanade precinct and the CBD.

Progress

The integrated plan for the central city area will be informed by the completion of other key projects, such as the University of Tasmania relocation, City Heart, Cultural Strategy, Greater Launceston Plan review, and Paterson Barracks.

Key Milestones Achieved

Progress on key pre-requisite projects is outlined in this report.

Key Next Steps

The timing and scope for the delivery of this commitment will be considered as part of the Launceston City Deal three year review.

My Place My Future

My Place My Future (previously the Northern Suburbs Revitalisation Plan) will provide an integrated approach to revitalising Northern Suburbs infrastructure, public space, transport (including pedestrian-priority and active transport), land-use and broader environmental needs - supporting improved lifestyle, social and economic outcomes for residents.

Progress

My Place My Future was launched on 26 August 2019 by the Australian Government Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure Hon. Alan Tudge MP, the Tasmanian Minister for State Growth, Michael Ferguson, City of Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten and the Federal member for Bass Bridget Archer MP. The vision outlined in *My Place My Future* is to increase inclusion and connectedness, celebrate community assets and ensure equity in access to services for the community of the Northern Suburbs.

A *My Place My Future* Strategic Working Group across the three levels of government has been established to lead the implementation of priority projects under the plan. This Strategic Working Group signals a clear commitment from all levels of government to continue to work together in a place-based approach that has the potential to have a very real impact on people's lives.

Key Milestones Achieved

May 2019: Australian Government announces \$15 million to establish a Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub.

August 2019: *My Place My Future* launched.

February 2020: *My Place My Future* shared priorities for implementation were drafted however, implementation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Next Steps

July - September 2020: Finalisation of the *My Place My Future* shared priorities for 2020-2021

Ongoing: Implementation of *My Place My Future* shared initiatives.

Divestment of Paterson Barracks

The Paterson Barracks will be divested from the Australian Government Defence portfolio and will be revitalised with public accessibility to the site increased.

Progress

Defence has been working with the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government and the City of Launceston to identify a suitable alternate location for a new cadet facility in the Northern Suburbs of Launceston.

Defence has commenced development of a detailed business case for the new cadet facility as well as the redevelopment of existing facilities at Youngtown.

Key Milestones Achieved

In the past 12 months: Defence has consulted with local community groups with a connection to the Paterson Barracks on its future use. Defence has also consulted with the City of Launceston in relation to planning guidelines to facilitate the delivery outcomes under the Launceston City Deal.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: Defence will:

- work with the City Deal partners to secure a suitable alternate location for the new cadet facility in the Northern Suburbs of Launceston.
- progress the Detailed Business Case to Australian Government for approval.
- collaborate with City Deal partners on the divestment of the Paterson Barracks and the delivery of key outcomes.



Infrastructure and Investment

Improved governance, management and health of the Tamar Estuary

The Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce was established in 2017 to identify investments to improve the health of the Tamar Estuary. The Taskforce released the River Health Action Plan (RHAP) in 2018 that identified priority government investments and policy actions to improve the health of the Tamar Estuary. The RHAP includes projects to improve the management of waterways and upgrade Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system.

Progress

Natural Resource Management (NRM) North successfully delivered the Tamar Action Grants program to support landholders within the Tamar Estuary and Esk River catchments reduce nutrient loads entering waterways. Funding was provided to 76 landholders to fence waterways, install alternate stock watering points and stock crossings, protect and manage riparian vegetation and improve dairy effluent management.

NRM North also worked with local councils to identify and remediate cross connections of urban sewer systems into the stormwater system in the greater Launceston area to address pathogens entering the estuary.

TasWater completed additional investigations and analysis of the combined system upgrades which resulted in a revised project plan and budget to complete the combined sewerage and stormwater system upgrade. TasWater and the City of Launceston have agreed to contribute on additional \$44 million to deliver the revised works program.

Key Milestones Achieved

October 2019: Release of the Trevallyn Flow Releases Study, which was commissioned by the Taskforce to evaluate the impacts of planned releases of water from Lake Trevallyn with and without sediment raking.

May 2020: TasWater and the City of Launceston agreed to provide \$33 million and \$11 million respectively to reduce untreated overflows from the Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system..

June 2020: Project plan to deliver all components of the urban water infrastructure upgrades is completed.

June 2020: 175 km of waterways fenced to exclude stock from waterways, 698 hectares of native vegetation managed for regeneration outcomes and 400 hectares of improved effluent management across dairy farms.

June 2020: Stormwater intrusions identified and remediated in Riverside, Newstead, Punchbowl, Mowbray, Newnham and Youngtown.

Key Next Steps

September 2020: Commence construction of works for the combined system infrastructure upgrades.

June 2021: A further 185 km of waterways will be protected from stock access under the Tamar Action Grants.

June 2021: A further 1,600 hectares of improved effluent management across dairy farms will be achieved under the Tamar Action Grants.

June 2021: Continuation of investigation of urban cross connections with completion of all areas in the greater Launceston municipal areas. Possible extension into surrounding jurisdictions will be investigated.





Relocate the University of Tasmania's main Launceston campus to the heart of the city

Launceston City Deal partners will support the University of Tasmania and the local community to deliver a new university campus connected to the Launceston CBD. This will provide the University of Tasmania with the capacity to grow student numbers to an initial target of 10,000 students at the new campus by 2032, increase student retention rates, strengthen industry engagement and boost the region's economy creating jobs.

Progress

Over the past 12 months, significant progress has been made in the design and development of a new Launceston campus at Inveresk. In this time, the University has designed and commenced construction of the first campus building and the pedestrian and cycle bridge across the North Esk River, developed a precinct parking plan and submitted development applications for the next two campus buildings.

The construction schedule for the campus is on track with a staged approach being implemented as planned to maximise local benefits from the construction phase. There are 25 people working on the bridge and 40 people working on the first building to date, including apprentices and trainees.

Key Milestones Achieved

October 2019: Library and Student Experience building development application approved and detailed design phase completed.

December 2019: Contract awarded for construction of the North Esk River pedestrian and cycle bridge.

January 2020: Construction tender released and early construction works commenced for Library and Student Experience building.

March 2020: Construction commenced on the North Esk River pedestrian and cycle bridge and a collaborative parking solution was developed with City of Launceston for the Inveresk Precinct.

May 2020: Contract awarded for the Library and Student Experience building and a development application submitted for the 852-space northern car park.

June 2020: Development applications submitted for the River's Edge and Willis Street buildings.

Key Next Steps

December 2020: Completion of the North Esk River pedestrian and cycle bridge and establishment of the Launceston Institute of Applied Science and Design.

April 2021: Development Applications approved for the River's Edge and Willis Street buildings.



Deliver a master plan for the University of Tasmania's Newnham Campus

The University of Tasmania will develop a masterplan for its existing Newnham campus site. The masterplan will identify opportunities to support the continued growth of the Australian Maritime College on the site and identify preferred uses of the vacant land and buildings.

Progress

The University has completed an initial concept masterplan that proposes residential and mixed-use precincts, high level capital works to be completed and recreational opportunities for the site.

Key Milestones Achieved

December 2019: A Highest and Best Use Assessment was completed for the Newnham campus site.

February 2020: The draft concept masterplan was circulated to government partners for initial comments.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: The University will release the agreed final draft masterplan to stakeholders. Following consultation and approval of the masterplan, the University will submit a Planning Scheme Amendment.

Implement the Greater Launceston Metropolitan Passenger Transport Plan (GLMPTP)

The GLMPTP is a 10 year strategic document to guide future passenger transport development and investment in Greater Launceston. The Plan considers the increased number of students and staff at the University of Tasmania's Inveresk campus and supports the prioritisation of active transport to create a more 'walkable city'.

Progress

An integrated network of bus services with more consistent departure times, improved reliability, and reduced transfer times has been delivered. These network updates balance making services smarter by providing more direct routes which reduce travel times, ensure accessibility and provide better access to employment, education and other public services.

The City of Launceston has investigated options for alternate arrangements for the current kerbside bus interchange in St John Street, Launceston. The Tasmanian Government has been working with the Council to provide technical support and to ensure the needs of bus operators and passengers will be met under proposals considered.

The development of privately led Launceston Creative Precinct was announced in June 2020 and presents the opportunity for relocation of the bus stops, currently located in St John Street, to a new bus interchange in Paterson Street.

The Department of State Growth has been in consultation with the University of Tasmania during the project to support increases in active transport as a part of the new Inveresk campus.

Key Milestones Achieved

January 2020: rollout of the new Northern Tasmania general access bus network.

January 2020: Implementation of a new simplified fares structure to provide easier ticketing arrangements for passengers.

Key Next Steps

January 2021: The rollout of the North-West Tasmania bus network and new intercity services will bring improved connections for Launceston residents wishing to travel between Launceston and Hobart or Southern Tasmania, or from Launceston to Devonport or North-West Tasmania.

Jobs and Skills

Assisting local job seekers to be competitive for local job opportunities

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) will provide ongoing and targeted employer and job seeker engagement activities that assist local job seekers to be competitive for local employment opportunities.

Progress

DESE has worked with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for engagement including participation in the launch of the Launceston Apprentice Pipeline (LAPP) project in October 2019.

Key Milestones Achieved

April 2020: A jobs fair in Launceston had been planned for April 2020, however was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: As recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic progresses DESE will engage with key stakeholders and, where opportunities and business conditions exist, deliver a jobs fair in the region over the following 12 months. DESE will also promote local opportunities, such as the Launceston Apprentices Pipeline Project through employment program providers and other avenues for jobseekers to be competitive in the local jobs market.

Establish Aboriginal Employment Targets

Establish employment targets for Aboriginal Tasmanians in infrastructure projects and infrastructure-related services under the City Deal.

Progress

Aboriginal employment targets of 3 per cent and Aboriginal supplier use during construction of 3 per cent were established with the University of Tasmania for the construction phase of the Inveresk campus and with TasWater for infrastructure upgrades to the combined stormwater and sewerage system.

The University of Tasmania, City of Launceston, the Tasmanian Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Indigenous Business Australia, Many Rivers, the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, and the National Indigenous Australians Agency are working together to achieve the targets.

Key Milestones Achieved

November 2019: The Australian Governments' Conditions of Grants, with the University of Tasmania for construction of the Inveresk campus included the first Aboriginal employment and procurement targets for Australian Government infrastructure investment in Tasmania.

January 2020: An Indigenous Employment Supply forum was held in Launceston for companies interested in tendering for contracts associated with construction of the Inveresk campus.

May 2020: The National Indigenous Australians Agency and the University of Tasmania committed funds to resource a position that will focus on identifying local Aboriginal owned enterprises, create greater awareness of the opportunity associated with the Launceston City Deal and connect these enterprises with lead contractors associated with construction of the Inveresk campus.

June 2020: Indigenous employment and procurement targets set with TasWater for the combined system (sewerage and stormwater) upgrades under the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: Supply Nation, the leading register of Indigenous businesses, will implement a communication strategy within Tasmania aimed at Tasmanian Aboriginal suppliers and buyers from all industry sectors to increase the visibility of Tasmanian Aboriginal owned enterprises.

Further Aboriginal employment and procurement targets will be set where appropriate for other initiatives under the Launceston City Deal.

Provide work experience for disadvantaged youth

Work experience places will be provided for disadvantaged youth, including Aboriginal Tasmanians, within the City of Launceston.

Progress

Eight high school, college and university students attended work experience placements at the City of Launceston between May 2019 and April 2020. Students from the Big Picture School experienced working life at the University of Tasmania Stadium and the QVMAG. Exeter High School and Launceston College students joined teams in Operational Services and Community Development, and three University students were supported and mentored by team members in Health and Compliance, Community Development and the Natural Sciences division at QVMAG.

The second Work Discovery Program was held at the Launceston Town Hall with support from The Smith Family. The age-relevant work experience program for 10 - 11 year olds was delivered to pupils from East Tamar Primary School located in the Northern Suburbs. Pupils interviewed Council staff to understand the varied roles in local government and learn that not all career pathways are the same.

The City of Launceston received positive feedback from both students and staff on the Work Discovery Program.

Key Milestones Achieved

October 2019: The second Work Discovery Program was held in partnership with East Tamar Primary School, The Smith Family and City of Launceston. Sixteen employees from various work areas within Council talked to 32 grade 5 and 6 pupils.

Key Next Steps

May 2020: The third Work Discovery Program was arranged to take place in May 2020 with a Northern Suburbs primary school but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, this date could not proceed. A future date will be arranged.

Ongoing: The City of Launceston will continue to deliver local work experience places on an annual basis.



Support an Entrepreneurship Facilitator position to 2020

The Entrepreneurship Facilitator promotes self-employment and provides mentoring and support to individuals interested in starting or growing their own business in Launceston.

Progress

The facilitator has supported clients to start or run their own business by providing support to overcome any barriers they may

be experiencing to start a business. The facilitator refers clients to other business and support services such as lawyers, accountants or community organisations.

Since the program started (5 December 2016) to 30 June 2020, the Entrepreneurship Facilitator has assisted 15,755 individuals in Launceston interested in starting or running a business:

- 633 individuals were provided with comprehensive business support through workshops, mentoring or one-on-one help to start or run their business.
- 15,122 people were provided with general assistance via the provision of advice and information about starting or running a business.

Key Milestones Achieved

From 1 July 2019 to 30 March 2020, the Entrepreneurship Facilitator assisted 2,915 individuals in Launceston interested in starting or running a business:

- 168 individuals were provided with comprehensive business support via workshops, mentoring or one-on-one help to start or run their business.
- 2,747 people were provided with general assistance via the provision of advice and information about starting or running a business.

Key Next Steps

The Entrepreneurship Facilitator Services will continue to be delivered in Launceston and North-East Tasmania to 30 June 2022 under a new funding agreement with the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

Establish a Jobs Pathways Framework

Delivery of a project that will drive a step change in employment and education outcomes, particularly among disadvantaged communities. In October 2018, the *Building Launceston's Apprenticeship Pipeline project*

(LAPP) was established to grow the supply of building and construction trade apprentices. The project is focused on creating opportunities for pre-apprenticeship training in the building and construction industry.

Progress

Over the past 12 months the LAPP has developed partnerships that have delivered 26 new apprenticeships within the construction industry in Launceston.

Key Milestones Achieved

October 2019: A forum was held in Launceston in October 2019 to present the program to industry.

January 2020: Tasmanian Building Group Apprenticeship Scheme (TasBGAS) commenced delivery of 18 School Based Apprentices under the LAPP.

March 2020: TBCITB engaged MEGT (Australia) Ltd to achieve 20 job seekers entering into building and construction apprenticeships.

Key Next Steps

2020-21:

- A further 22 school based apprenticeship commencements, and job seeker commencements will be delivered.
- Further promotion of the program to industry to achieve apprenticeships targets numbers.



Support schools to extend to years 11 and 12 by 2024

The extension of high schools to years 11 and 12 will be rolled out in partnership with schools, colleges and the broader community.

Progress

Over the past 12 months Brooks High School, Queechy High School and Riverside High School have progressed their planning to commence delivering Year 11 in 2021 and Year 12 in 2022. This is in addition to Launceston Big Picture School, Prospect High School and Kings Meadows High School who have already extended to Year 11 and Year 12.

The Northern Urban Collective was established for the Launceston region, which includes Exeter High School and Lilydale District School, and has facilitated schools and colleges to work intensively together to devise a combined approach to course offerings.

The Northern Urban Collective collaborates to ensure resources, such as staff and specialised facilities are shared amongst the Collective to meet the learning needs of all students. This 'collective' responsibility aims to ensure that every student has the best opportunity to complete Year 12 or equivalent.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: The Tasmanian Department of Education will continue providing support to Extension Schools as well as the Northern Urban Collective to further harness opportunities for Years 11 and 12 provision in the Launceston region.

Brooks High School, Queechy High School and Riverside High School will commence delivering Year 11 in February 2021, providing more choices and opportunities for young Northern Tasmanians.

Ongoing support will be provided to the Northern Urban Collective to build community connections, engage with industry to improve vocational learning and work collectively to ensure all students experience successful transitions between further learning, training or employment.

Establish a new Defence Force Cadet Facility

A new cadet facility is planned to be established in Launceston's Northern Suburbs to provide young individuals with the opportunity to become a Defence cadet. The cadet program will provide participants with resilience, leadership, team building and practical skills.

Progress

Over the past 12 months, efforts have focused on the selection of an appropriate site to locate the new facility. Ongoing consultation with the City of Launceston, the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government has explored the suitability of available land for the new cadet facility.

Whilst a site has not yet been selected, the Department of Defence is now undertaking a feasibility assessment on a potential site. The Department of Defence is committed to pursuing the acquisition of land for the new facility should the site prove viable.

Key Milestones Achieved

June 2019: A market sweep of the Northern Suburbs of Launceston was completed in June 2019 and revisited in the intervening period to identify any further suitable sites.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: Defence will continue efforts to identify a suitable site, liaising with the City of Launceston, the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

Following identification of an appropriate site, Defence will undertake standard due diligence activities to inform the land acquisition.

Once the site is acquired, Defence's appointed design team will be able to progress the design and costings of the new cadet facility and present these proposals to Government for consideration.

Innovation and Digital Opportunities

Establish a Launceston hub of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation

The Launceston Hub of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) will investigate innovation in areas such as forest management, timber processing, wood fibre recovery, advanced manufacturing and the bio-economy.

Progress

The 17 research projects funded under NIFPI are proceeding with three projects completed in the reporting period:

- Optimising machinery configurations for profitable harvesting operations of small-scale plantations.
- Conceptualise and develop a functioning model for collaborative pest management within the Tasmanian Forest Industry.
- Improve returns to forest owners by exploring the feasibility of a pellet-based industry in Tasmania.

Tasmania's 2019 bushfires have impacted industry participation across some projects. The fires damaged the mills of two major project collaborators, distorted workload in other mills and complicated the timing of related research activity with other collaboration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused further project delays, particularly where interstate collaboration is a key element of the work or where major industry partners have been impacted.

Key Milestones Achieved

2019-20: Three research projects completed.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: A further 10 research projects are scheduled to be completed.



Support delivery of a new Low-Power Wide-Area Network (LoRaWAN)

The roll out of a new Low-Power Wide-Area Network facilitated through Enterprize (an innovation hub designed to support start-ups and maximise collaboration) will enable infrastructure that local developers and businesses can use to create, trial and commercialise new technology solutions for a range of purposes aligned to the Internet of Things.

Progress

The LoRaWAN has been fully deployed in the Greater Launceston region with 35 live gateways now associated with the network. Each of the gateways provides free access for education and research purposes.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: The LoRaWAN will be utilised and expanded if required, during the roll out of the IoT in Schools challenge associated with the Greater Launceston Transformation Project.

The Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation will facilitate trials of IoT sensors with the region's councils.

Data Commitments

The three data commitments in the City Deal are:

- Develop a list of datasets that showcase the maturity of open data release for the region. Make all regional openly-licensed datasets available through a dedicated URL on data.gov.au, and a Launceston-specific catalogue item on NationalMap.
- Progressively release non-sensitive public data in areas such as the environment and waste, welfare, education, employment and infrastructure.
- Northern Tasmanian councils to work together to gradually adopt a consistent approach to data release. This will assist local businesses and community groups that operate across council boundaries.

Progress

46 datasets for the Launceston municipality are available through <https://opendata.launceston.tas.gov.au>. In June 2020, the open data portal received over 400 individual page views per month, each lasting on average three minutes.

Datasets continue to be used by GovHack participants at the annual international event that supports co-creation of community focussed solutions using open data.

Key Milestones Achieved

New datasets have been added and available for public use.

Key Next Steps

December 2020: Smart Movement Launceston a component of the Greater Launceston Transformation Project (GLTP) will develop new open temporal datasets and data streams from traffic monitoring, environmental monitoring and infrastructure monitoring. These datasets will be publicly available once complete, adding to Launceston's datasets.

Improve digital literacy

We will work with local stakeholders, such as the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, to determine the best ways to promote further uptake of the National Broadband Network and deliver programs to improve digital literacy in the community.

Progress

The Australian Small Business Advisory Service (ASBAS) has supported 37 small businesses located in Launceston with its Digital Solutions program since the program started in July 2018.

In response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ASBAS Digital Solutions providers, the Van Diemen's Project are also offering general business advice to further support small businesses through this difficult time.

In addition, to support small businesses to become digitally engaged, the Small Business Digital Champions project commenced in April 2019 and finished in March 2020. As part of this project 100 small businesses from across Australia were selected to receive a digital transformation with assistance from a Digital Transformation Provider, including one Launceston-based business, Cataract on Paterson. All participating small businesses received up to \$18,500 worth of digital goods and services to transform their business, plus additional support offered by Corporate Partners.

Key Milestones Achieved

2019-20: ASBAS providers have delivered digital advisory services to 24 small businesses in Launceston.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: An internal review of the program will be undertaken from July to September 2020. A new funding round for ASBAS Digital Solutions will be undertaken for services from July 2021.



Greater Launceston Transformation Project

The Greater Launceston Transformation Project (GLTP) is a nation-leading \$10.3 million collaborative Smart Cities project that is delivering initiatives to improve service delivery and increase innovation across the Greater Launceston area. Project partners are the Australian Government, Tasmanian Government, City of Launceston, West Tamar Council, Meander Valley Council, George Town Council, the University of Tasmania and Telstra.

Progress

Over the past 12 months the GLTP has focused on delivering initiatives associated with the following projects: Smart Movement Launceston, Internet of Things (IoT) in Schools program, and the Digital Cultural Asset components of the project.

Smart Movement Launceston completed traffic signal upgrades at 80 per cent of the identified sites under the project. Upgrades included fibre optic communication networks, traffic signal controller upgrades, and traffic monitoring networks (via travel-time sensors and CCTV cameras) that will enable high quality monitoring of the network through live travel times, variable signal phasing to manage peak traffic and

live video streaming of intersections to improve traffic and incident management. Work also commenced on the Dynamic Multi Modal Model for Launceston that will provide capability for modelling scenarios to enable decision making on investment in infrastructure and transport services.

The pilot stage of the IoT in Schools program commenced with sessions being held across three schools in Launceston.

Impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that school visits planned for the pilot stage were put on hold in March 2020.

The Digital Cultural Asset component of the project saw digitising of QVMAG, TMAG, State Archives and the University of Tasmania cultural assets commence. Each partner organisation completed audits of the cultural assets to be digitised under the project and work commenced on developing the Collection Management System that will store the digitised assets in an interoperable digital platform.

Key Milestones Achieved

October 2019: IoT in Schools pilot program commenced and smart traffic system upgrades commenced.

January 2020: Work commenced on the digital asset Collection Management System.

March 2020: Tender awarded for the Dynamic Multi Modal Traffic Model and the Launceston Smart City Mobility Project commences.

April 2020: Digitisation of cultural assets commenced.

Key Next Steps

August 2020: Completion of the Multi Modal Traffic Model.

September 2020: Completion of the installation of the smart traffic system.

December 2020:

- Smart bus stop trials completed and initiatives under the Launceston Smart City Mobility Project completed.
- Completion of digitisation of cultural assets.
- Collection Management System completed with digitised content available in an interoperable platform.

April 2021: 600 IoT kits delivered to 42 schools in the Greater Launceston area.

Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct

The new Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct at the University of Tasmania's (UTAS) Australian Maritime College (AMC) will help drive defence-related research and development projects, giving new life to this world-class research precinct, and contributing high-skill jobs to the regional economy. This will create nearly 60 local jobs during construction and over 150 new jobs in the region every year.

Progress

The University of Tasmania has completed work on the Operational Concept Document for the Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct. This will drive and inform the development of infrastructure to support future National Sovereign Capability for Defence in Australia.

Key Milestones Achieved

July 2020: Funding agreement signed between the University of Tasmania and the Department of Defence. This funding provides funding for the next three years to develop and update the precinct to realise and provide further National Sovereign Capability for Defence.

Key Next Steps

In 2020-2021:

- Commencement of detailed project planning by the University of Tasmania.
 - Continued industry engagement with regard to the facilities to be contained within the precinct.
 - Continued engagement with key Defence stakeholders to ensure future Defence needs are met.
-



○ Liveability and sustainability

Implement the City Heart Project

The City Heart Project is repositioning Launceston's CBD as a modern regional retail, cultural and business hub. It aims to make Launceston a more vibrant and energetic place, where people of all ages can socialise, shop, work and play.

The City Heart Project has already redeveloped Launceston's Civic Square and Brisbane Street Mall, and will continue to develop Wi-Fi infrastructure and improve signage and public transport.

Progress

In June 2020, a major development proposal was announced for the CBD. The privately led Launceston Creative Precinct is aligned to the objectives of the City Heart Project and will enable the relocation of bus stops currently located in St John Street to a new bus interchange in Paterson Street.

The City of Launceston is also progressing the development of an undercover arcade in the former Birchalls building, providing connectivity to Brisbane Street Mall. The St John Street redevelopment component of the City Heart Project is now being revisited in consideration of this exciting new development.

The first stage of wayfinding signage has been installed within the Brisbane Street precinct. The remainder of signage for the surrounding central activity areas is expected to be completed by late 2020.

The redeveloped Civic Square is an established home to the vibrant Launceston night markets. Attracting the local community and visitors, the regular markets are a celebration of local food and beverages with entertainment provided by musicians from within the community.



Key Milestones Achieved

2019–20: A location was identified for the Launceston CBD bus interchange which facilitates the continuation of the City Heart Street revitalisation works.

Approximately 80% CBD and Central City areas are covered for free Wi-Fi.

29 wayfinding signs installed in key CBD locations.

47 events were held in the redeveloped Civic Square, Brisbane Street Mall and other CBD locations. Ten events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Next Steps

December 2020: Wayfinding signage installed.

March 2021: Revised concept design and consultation for St John Street and other key public realm projects.





Deliver a Launceston Cultural Strategy

The City of Launceston committed to deliver a Launceston Cultural Strategy in partnership with local cultural organisations and Aboriginal associations.

Progress

In June 2019, the outcomes of consultation and reports commissioned to inform the Cultural Strategy over the previous three years were distilled into a cohesive framework to underpin the strategy.

Between July and October 2019, the City of Launceston met with more than 40 cultural stakeholders, seeking their response to the framework and input into the content of the strategy. Stakeholders included individual artists, arts organisations and a broad spectrum of representatives from cultural organisations, service agencies, not for profit and business sectors.

In March 2020 a draft cultural strategy, informed by stakeholder feedback was presented to the City of Launceston and subsequently released for public comment.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that planned engagement activities were postponed and the strategy remains open for community feedback.

Key Milestones Achieved

March 2020: Draft Cultural Strategy released for public comment.

Key Next Steps

September 2020: Community engagement on the draft strategy ends.

November 2020: Cultural Strategy endorsed by the City of Launceston.

Housing

Increase infill development and assist the private sector to redevelop buildings in Launceston's CBD for residential purposes

Identification of opportunities to make better use of vacant infill land in the city centre and establish a working group to implement actions to assist the private sector to redevelop underutilised buildings in the CBD and to maximise opportunities for infill development.

This initiative will increase commercial activity, increase residential density, support new tourist and student accommodation, increase vibrancy and increase property values.

Progress

A number of significant infill projects were delivered in the past 12 months. The Verge Hotel located on a proportion of a former City of Launceston car park neared completion and development applications were approved for 14 infill sites in the central activities district and several more in the fringe. Private sector investment in residential offerings in and around the city has resulted in the development of over 50 individual residences over the past two years.

The City of Launceston released the *'Investing in the City'* guide which outlines the process for inner city living developments in Launceston. The guide is aimed at assisting potential investors and/or current building owners within the Central Business District to understand and navigate the development process.

A series of workshops was designed to assist the private sector to understand planning requirements of converting CBD buildings into residential accommodation, understand the current residential market in Launceston and to gain an understanding of projects that are underway in the CBD.

Key Milestones Achieved

October 2019: The City of Launceston released the *'Investing in the City'* guide.

February 2020: First workshop delivered to the private sector.

Key Next Steps

2020-21: Identification of key infill sites for development by the City of Launceston.

Delivery of three industry workshops/forums to identify development barriers and progress initiatives to promote inner city development.

Establishment of a mentor network for private developers interested in developing residential accommodation in the CBD.



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Page 4-5: Winter night market held in the re-developed Civic Square, Rob Burnett.

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Page 7: Riverbend Park, Rob Burnett.

Page 8: Development of the My Place My Future plan with community, Chris Crerar

Page 9: Riparian fencing set on Tamar Estuary catchments, Natural Resource Management North

Page 10: University of Tasmania pedestrian and cycle bridge construction, Image captured by installed site camera.

University of Tasmania Inveresk campus sod turn on 20 February 2020, supplied by Chelsea Wingrove.

Page 13: Work Discovery Program, City of Launceston.

Page 14: Launceston Apprenticeship Pipeline Project, Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Training Board

Page 16: Prototype acoustic panels, Michael Lee.

Page 18: Staff at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery registering cultural assets to be stored in digital platform, Lusy Productions.

Page 19: Public art project complemented the smart traffic system project, Lusy Productions.

Page 20: Night market in the redeveloped Civic Square, Rob Burnett.

Mural at Riverbend Park created by Indigenous artists Judith-Rose Thomas and Nannette Shaw with local children, Rob Burnett.

Page 21: 'Aboriginal smoking ceremony. Respect for Aboriginal culture is a priority in the Cultural Strategy,' Rob Burnett.

Page 22: St John Street and the redeveloped Quadrant Mall and Brisbane Street, Rob Burnett.

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