

It is difficult to understand why a state Government would expend resources on this strategy when for as long as we can remember real government services have been in decline without regard to the population number of the day or week or year. Population growth, stagnation or decline are problematic. There are costs and benefits to each. Successive Tasmanian Governments Liberal or Labor continue to be weak and ineffective. The State Bureaucracy is weak and ineffective. Studies and changing administrative arrangements do not constitute or replace effective actions. For at least the last twenty years the health system has been broken. For at least the last twenty years the road system in the south of the state has been in decline and congestion has got worse each year. There have been no improvements to speak of in education for the same period. The State cannot manage a sewerage system for this population. The State can embark on irrigation projects for farmers but cannot provide potable water for the whole community. The State can support large businesses with power deals but meanwhile power costs rise for the community. The State can provide certainty for salmon companies but does not protect our coastal waters. The State can form a Department of Communities and the State can close it down. The real community does not even notice the difference. In the same way The State can form a housing agency but no more houses will result than the affordable housing strategy of twenty years ago. We are in the unenviable position of compulsory voting that results in either a Liberal or Labor Government with outmoded thinking that changes nothing. Until this is changed nothing changes.

My suggestions for strategy are as follows.

A strategy suggests action.

Put in the strategy:

A number next to how many beds will be increased at hospitals each year.

A number as to how many students will reach year twelve each year

A number as to how many tunnels or bridges will be built to ease Hobart traffic

A number as to how many people will be provided with potable water

A number as to acceptable sewerage discharge

If the target is not met the Minister resigns the head of agency resigns and pay is docked from the members of the department involved.

Improvements will be dramatic despite growing stagnant or declining population.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to the implementation of the suggestions.

Chris Wells