

9 February 2023

Department of State Growth
Population Strategy Consultation
By email: consultation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: TASMANIAN'S POPULATION STRATEGY

1. Enable planning arrangements that improve liveability

- 1.1 In the next five to 30 years, what liveability related issues do you see impacting your sector, or the community you live in?

Answer:

- **Climate Change projections** e.g. more intense weather events, developments in high risk areas, particularly where planning laws are not able to prevent developments
- **Housing Shortage** – more innovative and creative ways to build should be considered, using existing infrastructure.
- **Access to Health Care** – a public information campaign should be considered to discourage people to attend hospital for general practice
- **Poor digital literacy**, particularly among older people e.g. due to poor literacy and numeracy, lack of access due to social issues or too little computer education. This will lead to community members being unable to access government support and information.

- 1.2 What in your view are the top two opportunities which have the potential to increase liveability? (Please share potential partnerships and other approaches that could assist in progressing these opportunities)

Answer:

1. An integrated transportation system would assist with access to work, shopping and services (Straatemeier, 2019)
2. Provision of affordable housing by utilising innovative materials and designs, such as prefabricated buildings for smaller households, e.g. 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom (Khan, Yu, Liu, Guan & Oh, 2022)

- 1.3 How could all levels of government, business and community organisations work together to design and plan services to improve liveability?

Answer:

The creation of an organisation which acts as a facilitator to implement the population strategies

2. Reduce unnecessary barriers to those wishing to have and raise children.

- 2.1 To increase workforce participation, how can workplaces in Tasmania become more adaptable as the future of work changes?

Answer:

- Allowing parents to work part-time (on a permanent basis)
- Allowing grandparents to work part-time to be able to provide care for children
- Provide childcare at the workplace (this is a particular problem for shift workers)
- Providing access to healthy food choices at the workplace
- Allowing workers to take time off to attend Doctors' and vaccination appointments

- 2.2 Given the scope of the Population Strategy, what is critical for all levels of government to do to a) attract and retain families and b) support those looking to start a family, to create a life in Tasmania?

Answer:

- (a) Providing access to affordable housing and an integrated transport system so that people can live in an area where they can access transport to work and services.
- (b) In addition to (a), having a stable economy where the cost of health food choices is available; providing a platform for different voices to create a more multicultural and welcoming environment.

3. **Align emerging employment opportunities, changing workforce needs and overseas and interstate migration.**

3.1 When we consider the next generation of 15 to 18 year old Tasmanians, what is needed to help support them to thrive and choose to live in their home state?

Answer:

- Creating more pathways for work and study, using career counsellors at school, engaging with disadvantaged youths, providing affordable housing with access to an integrated transport system. (This would allow people to live away from major centres but still be able to access study and work opportunities.)
- By creating a supportive environment with opportunities for study and work, where youth can access affordable housing, they would feel more inclined to stay in their home state.

3.2 What can be done to attract and retain more 18 to 44 year olds from interstate and overseas to address labour and/or skills shortages over the next five to 30 years?

Answer:

- Creating and maintaining a platform for workers to be able to access information about Tasmania
- Frequent advertising campaigns in different states/countries to attract workers
- Visiting different states/countries to promote Tasmania as a destination for short and long term migration

3.3 What is needed to support successful settlement for skilled migrants and newly arrived community members in different parts of Tasmania?

Answer:

A needs assessment should be completed to ensure new migrants are provided with access to the equivalent of an orientation program, to include local community events and service information, as well as language classes (if needed).

- 3.4 How might emerging workforce needs across a range of sectors and industries be met through joined up efforts?

Answer:

Many sectors and industries have overlapping skills and knowledge. It would be helpful if those sectors worked together to create a more streamlined education program, e.g.

4. Manage a structurally ageing population

- 4.1 What are the most significant innovation opportunities you see which have the potential to improve (one or all of) health, food security, ageing in place, and aged care?

Answer:

Health: A community wide campaign to encourage preventive medicine and health literacy so that people may be more resilient and able to take better care of themselves and their loved ones.

Food security: a. A community wide campaign to encourage people to learn how to grow their own food and to cook nutritious food.

b. A home preparedness kit such as the program in Sweden which gives information for how to be more resilient in case of emergency or disaster - <https://www.krisinformation.se/en/hazards-and-risks/home-preparedness>

Ageing in place: Continue with the practice of home based support with an emphasis on preventive medicine

Aged care: People should be required to make contributions for their place in aged care facilities in cases where home based support is not available

- 4.2 How might we redesign mechanisms and services for smaller scale and declining communities to increase wellbeing outcomes?

Answer:

Encourage group homes for men and women (separately) so that there can be economies of scale and encouraging social contact.

- 4.3 Do you see potential to redesign current initiatives or use existing facilities in a new way to engage intergenerational participation? (Please outline ideas that could be scaled up for broad application)

Answer:

In order to encourage intergenerational participation, there would should be a need filled eg. an aged care facility in north-west Tasmania is currently working with UTAS to allow student nurses to live at their facility. This means the student

nurses are able to access accommodation but also creating a relationship with the aged care facility. The current housing crisis is statewide, so where possible this may be scaled up across major cities in Tasmania. This also facilitates easy access for younger people to socialise with the members of the nursing home. Perhaps a canteen would encourage this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'BVanDam' in a cursive, stylized font.

Mrs Bronwyn Van Dam

References

Khan, A., Yu, R., Liu, T., Guan, H., & Oh, E. (2022). Drivers towards Adopting Modular Integrated Construction for Affordable Sustainable Housing: A Total Interpretive Structural Modelling (TISM) Method. *Buildings*, 12(5), 637. MDPI AG. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/buildings12050637>

Straatemeier, T. (2019). Joint Accessibility Design: A framework to improve integrated transport and land use strategy making, viewed 1 February 2023
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