

Tasmania Development and Resources Board

Quarterly Summary Activity Report – 30 September 2024

Report to Minister for Trade and Major Investment (for publication)

The Board continues to provide strategic advice to government regarding key industry and economic growth matters.

The Tasmania Development and Resources [Corporate Plan 2021-2024](#) is available on the State Growth website. The TDR Corporate Plan 2024-2027 is currently being finalised.

The Board's focus areas include:

- administration of programs and assessment of applications for financial assistance to support strategic focus areas for growth agreed by the Tasmanian Government
- supporting industry sectors that have the capacity to accelerate growth in jobs and the Tasmanian economy, through the provision of strategic government support
- supporting the role of the Office of the Coordinator-General to identify opportunities, attract investment and encourage businesses to establish, relocate, diversify and expand in Tasmania
- provision of an advice and advisory role to the Tasmanian Government on matters relating to the policy objectives of the TDR and government.

During the quarter, the Coordinator-General presented on progress with current opportunities, the development of inputs into his Office's work program, briefed the Board on potential future projects and brought forward proposals for the Board's consideration.

The *Tasmanian Development Amendment Bill 2024* was passed through Parliament and passed Royal Assent on 5 September 2024.

The Board were briefed on the status of the COVID-19 Business Support Loan Scheme and supported the referral of three loans to the Tasmanian Collection Service where the borrowers were uncontactable.

The following policies were endorsed:

- the updated *TDR Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure*; and
- the *Financial Assistance Operational Policy*.

The Department of State Growth *Financial Assistance to Business Enterprises – Policy and Decision Making Framework* was noted.

A Case Study

Corumbene Health Hub

The Building Construction Support Loan Scheme (BCSLS) was developed by the OCG and the Board to provide loan finance, supporting private sector development of stalled or delayed projects throughout the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Corumbene Care received a loan under the BCSLS to assist with the development of a Health and Wellbeing Hub in New Norfolk, Tasmania.

Corumbene Care, a longstanding not-for-profit organisation serving the Derwent Valley community in Tasmania, embarked on a transformative project to repurpose heritage buildings at Willow Court, New Norfolk, into a health and wellbeing hub. The initiative aimed to address the unmet and expanding needs of the community and its surrounding regional area by providing comprehensive health services and tenancy opportunities within a multidisciplinary Health Hub. With \$11.7 million of new construction investment making the overall project value over \$15.6 million, and with the creation of 37 FTEs during development and 30 ongoing FTEs, the project significantly contributes to local employment and economic growth in the greater southern region.

The establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Hub will provide significant benefits to the Derwent Valley community, including improved access to health services for elderly residents, reduction in health system costs, and preservation of heritage. The Hub was officially opened in May 2024.

Reporting and Feedback on Board activities

The information provided here relates to any right to information requests and requests for ministerial response that relate to Board activities as well as a summary of any client complaints or stakeholder feedback received within the reported quarter.

Programs and Forthcoming Decisions

The Board activities in the next quarter will include the administration and assessment of key programs.

Regional Tourism Development Loan Scheme

September 2024 Quarter: 1 approval totalling \$400,000

Current Approvals at 30 September 2024: 1 approved loan totalling \$400,000

This \$50 million scheme opened in June 2024 and is available to promote investment in tourism products and experiences that stimulate regional tourism and dispersal in Tasmania. Projects are assessed against priorities of the *2030 Visitor Economy Strategy* including stimulation of year-round visitation, authenticity, sustainability, and accessibility. The minimum loan amount under this scheme is \$100,000 and maximum loan amount is \$3 million, with highly concessional interest rates for the first three years and with commercial rates to apply for the remaining term of up to two years.

AgriGrowth Loan Scheme

September 2024 Quarter: 2 approvals totalling \$2.75M

Current Approvals at 30 September 2024: 48 approved loans totalling \$50.35M

This \$70 million scheme opened in August 2015 and is a longstanding scheme available to support agricultural projects that advance the Tasmanian Government's AgriVision 2050 strategy – a strategy aimed at increasing the farm gate value of agriculture in Tasmania - as well as to support young farmers to pursue farming opportunities in their own right. The minimum loan amount under this scheme is \$100,000 and the maximum loan amount is \$3 million, with loans provided on a concessional basis. Loan applications will continue to be assessed in the coming quarter, with particular interest from young farmers in the dairy, beef and cropping sectors.

Business Growth Loan Scheme

September 2024 Quarter: no new approvals

Current approvals at 30 September 2024: 35 approved loans totalling \$16M

This \$60 million scheme opened in September 2020 and is scheduled to close in December 2024 unless extended. The scheme is available to assist businesses in Tasmania to develop or expand, or undertake new projects, that promotes growth in the Tasmanian economy and align with the Tasmanian Government's strategic objectives. The minimum loan amount under the scheme is \$100,000 and maximum loan amount is \$3 million, with loans provided at a concessional interest rate.

Tourism Development Loan Scheme

The Scheme closed in 2023 (no new approvals)

Current approvals at 30 September 2024: 20 approved loans totalling \$20.4M

The \$50 million scheme opened in August 2021 and closed in February 2023. Loan funds were available to assist the improvement and development of tourism products and experiences that supported Tasmania's position as a sought-after and leading Australian destination, as well as to support the construction of worker accommodation by tourism operators. The minimum loan amount under the Scheme was \$50,000 and the maximum loan amount was \$2 million, with loans provided interest free for the first three years.

Building Construction Loan Scheme

The Scheme closed in 2021 (no new approvals)

The Program provides financial assistance to eligible Tasmanian projects that will engage commercial construction companies to create new, or improve existing, buildings and associated infrastructure and can commence quickly.

The Scheme opened for applications on 29 March 2021 and closed to new applicants on 30 September 2021. A total of \$44.9 million of loans were approved.

The Office of the Coordinator-General undertook the assessment of applications in accordance with guidelines, presenting eligible applications for consideration by the Tasmania Development Board.

While the projects have progressed, due to the later impacts of Covid on the construction industry and the inflationary pressures, some projects have been delayed and/or required to undergo review to work through new tenders and construction delivery schedules.