Summit for Councillors of the eight regional Councils (C8 Summit)

Building the regional relationship

October 2013

C8 Summit

Background

Councillors from across Northern Tasmania have been canvassing a C-8 Summit (C8 = Councillors of the eight northern LGA's) as an opportunity for the creation of an informal network of elected members – an 'Assembly' of Councillors. There are existing networks for General Managers and Mayors (e.g. the NTD Local Government Committee), but no regular forums for Councillors to meet.

The goal of the C8 Summit is to give elected members an opportunity to better understand local challenges and opportunities faced by Councils in a regional context by aiming to:

- Share challenges and opportunities experienced in each Local Government Area;
- Increase awareness of the key regional challenges and the evidence behind them;
- Identify and discuss key regional challenges that have the most significant local impacts;
- Build trust and respect amongst councillors;
- Recognise each areas' particular opportunities and challenges;
- Focus on areas of agreement rather than areas of conflict;
- Invigorate and inspire Councillors to work together, and;
- Gain consensus on a path to regional understanding and cooperation.

There are wider questions that are worth considering in the lead up to the C8 Summit. Some of these are outlined below:

Is it time for the region's Councillors to be working together?

- *Our region lacks agreement on future priorities (over 30 visions so far)*
- *Vision and hope needs to come from grass roots*
- *Need to be more alert to risk and challenges and supported in managing them*
- *The 'no change' option will most likely see Launceston grow slowly and the rest of the region decline*

How do we create our own initiatives to build our regional economy?

- *What sort of industries do we want to thrive?*
- *Should we develop an investment and liveability prospectus for each council?*
- *Should we develop our own regional/community procurement policies?*
- *Should we have a regional buy local campaign?*
- *How do we build long term capability e.g. 'smart region' actions around education/skills etc*

What does the Greater Launceston Plan (GLP) mean for the wider region and how will that conversation take place?

- *Do we need a similar project for the remainder of the region?*

How can we achieve much more political 'clout' as a region? Do we just rely on NTD or individual Mayors to lobby on issues?

- *How could a stronger and more united regional voice help the 8 councils in the NTD region? What are the pros and cons?*
- *Should we build the capacity of NTD or try something else?*
- *Who are our 'friends' in the region and how do we better engage them?*
- *How do we give more voice to groups such as young people and the elderly?*

Are there threats to parts of our region that need to be identified and dealt with? What are they?

- *Lack of agreement on economic futures and therefore public/private investment actions*
- *Loss of Bell Bay*
- *Loss of small regional settlements and loss of regional services*
- *City's impact on the region and the region's impact on the city.*
- *……*

If we want to work together as Councillors what is an efficient a sustainable model?

- *Do we need to have a regular 'bulletin' and social media connectivity on what's happening in the region around those matters of importance to us?*
- *Do we want to be a network or something more forma*
- *Who else should be collaborating with us?*
- *Should we consider an annual conference with guest speakers who showcase successful projects from around regional Australia?*

This Paper considers these types of questions by outlining three key challenges facing the region and some of the key evidence about what is happening in the region.

The three challenges are (1) what will drive our future regional and local economies? (2) is local government still relevant? and (3) how will we make the most of changing demographics?

Councillors and Councils are prompted to consider these challenges prior to the C8 Summit.

An additional challenge is the Greater Launceston Plan (GLP) which identifies a vision and pathway for the future of the greater Launceston area. Understanding the GLP is therefore crucial to deciding whether and how the greater Launceston area and the Northern Tasmanian region can mitigate the risks of and take up opportunities presented by the three challenges.

However, there is a separate process underway to consult and engage on the GLP and the C8 Summit does not seek to do this.

Why bother developing a C8 Summit?

- Northern Tasmania by international standards has many assets and great potential but…
- Many of the social and economic trends for Northern Tasmania are worrying – more for some areas than for others;
- Whilst Northern Tasmania's economic future remains uncertain and many industries are in decline there are many clues out there about emerging industries;
- Despite many strategies and plans in recent years none have serious traction and as a result the Northern Region has lost out on investment, population growth and government funding.

So whilst…….

The region's strategic advantages encompass:

Heritage and history; physical setting and environment; temperate climate, water resources and soils; amenity, liveability and lifestyle opportunities; nature and natural products; craftsmanship and creativity; strong sense of community and place; compact and connected region; proximity and connection to the Australian heartland.

…….there are some concerning tends underlying the challenges: - here are 10 of them:

i. An ageing population with many young people leaving the region and relatively low levels of population increase
ii. Most all the population increase forecast for the next 20 years is in the greater Launceston area
iii. Some of the highest areas of disadvantage in Australia
iv. Impacts of the global financial crisis and changes to the economy still trickling through the system (for example the future of Bell Bay)
v. Declining manufacturing industries (-6.5% between 2006 and 2011)
vi. Decline in the agriculture and forestry sectors (- 13.5% between 2006 and 2011)
vii. Decline in Wholesale (-16.5% between 2006 and 2011)
viii. Growth in public services especially health and community care (19.7%)
ix. High exposure to global markets increasing the sense of nervousness around future economic prospects.
x. Lack of agreement across the region has contributed to loss of government funding compared to other regions in Tasmania.

Appendix 1 has more detail on these figures.

Challenge 1: What will drive our future regional and local economies?

Why we care:

Many industries in the region are in decline and it is not that clear which new industries and older transitioning industries will create the basis for sustainable local economies into the future. We are more concerned now that local economies are subject to global shocks and therefore how to be smarter about being innovative and resilient at the same time.

Appendix 1 shows the many changes to our industries in the region since 2006.

Often the choices about the region's economic futures are contrasted as:

- Mass commodity industry vs the knowledge economy
- Established industries vs emerging industries
- Diversification vs consolidation of major industries
- Brown vs green industries
- Small vs large enterprises

This isn't always helpful and the focus should initially be on where there are local and regional advantages that we can build on. Often the best way to build local economic advantage is to connect it into a regional approach. There are many opportunities around networks in the region for example around tourism trails and regional branding.

Both on a local and regional basis there are many types of local economic activities that are emerging:

Practical examples:

Many Councils in Tasmania have/ are:

i. Setting up community banks to ensure finance is available for investors where established banks and financiers won't lend.
ii. Promoting social enterprises where ownership and profits are returned into the local community
iii. Using attraction strategies for both small and large enterprises
iv. Implementing 'buy local' campaigns and local procurement policies
v. Setting up processes to help developers obtain a 'social license'

How important is this challenge?

What could it mean for your local community?

How could a better understanding help address the key questions?

Challenge 2: Is Local Government still relevant?

Why we care:

Local government boundaries are largely historical and no longer always represent communities of like interest, identity or drivers of economic growth, sustainability and wellbeing.

The most basic logic of local government is around the value of retaining local identity and representation and the desire to organise around communities of interest.
Internationally local governments are now organising around:

- City vs rural communities of interest
- Bio-catchments
- Economic clusters
- Resource sharing

The financial viability of many Councils is likely to deteriorate especially if economic activity does not increase. This will inevitably reignite amalgamation debates.

What is missing is the focus on the key value propositions that Councils have for their communities for current and future roles around planning, community economic and environmental issues.

Practical Examples of 'new' boundaries:

The GLP; Forestry Grouping of Councils; MOU between Launceston and Hobart cities.

Practical examples of new roles:

i. LGA based sustainable energy strategies
ii. Councils as brokers for social licenses to align investment with community expectations
iii. Councils as regional planning bodies determining matters of regional significance

How important is this challenge?

What could it mean for your local community?

How could a better understanding help address the key questions?

Challenge 3: How will we make the most of changing demographics?

Why we care:

Our population in many LGA's is ageing by one year per year. Young people leave Tasmania and older people move back. Northern Tasmania could well become a very large retirement village in the future. Many places around the world focus their local economies and population strategies to leverage a social, economic and environmental virtue of ageing. The loss of younger people remains a concern as does the low levels of educational participation retention and completion rates in education.

Increased economic activity is important to population growth but we need to be clear where the growth will occur. For example all the evidence points to a reduction in population in agricultural areas even if they boom because

- The growth of FIFO (fly-in-fly-out) and DIDO (drive-in-drive-out) workforce
- Offshore processing
- Farm consolidation
- Technology replacing people and use of remote technology

Within the region many small settlements have come to expect a basic level of service around for example retail activity, health services and education services. In recent years the closure of many corner stores and prospective school closures have thrown into stark relief the importance of better understanding the impact of demographics and economic changes on the viability of settlements.

Key Challenges:

Northern Tasmania as one big retirement village?

What futures do we want for each of our settlements?

Practical examples:

i. Targeted attraction of particular demographics to work, play, visit or invest (e.g. think RV friendly towns; family friendly towns etc)
ii. Subsidies to attract residents and businesses.
iii. Pride of place activities
iv. Migration strategies (e.g. the GLP)

How important is this challenge?

What could it mean for your local community?

How could a better understanding help address the key questions?

Challenge 4: The Greater Launceston Plan

Why we care:

The evidence is that the performance of cities will drive future regional prosperity but cities need planning to ensure liveability, sustainability, wellbeing etc **and** to manage the interface with regional areas.

In effect this issue can be distilled as 'The City needs the region and the Region needs the City' and developing a mature understanding of how this plays out in northern Tasmania is key to the short, medium and long term prosperity of our region.

How important is this challenge?

What could it mean for your local community?

How could a better understanding help address the key questions?

Appendix 1. Selected data about Northern Tasmania

Table 1

Northern Tas Estimated Resident Population 2006-2036

Why this matters:

Growth in the region will be slow and 90% of it will be in the greater Launceston area. The non GLP areas are only projected to grow by 440 persons between now and 2036.

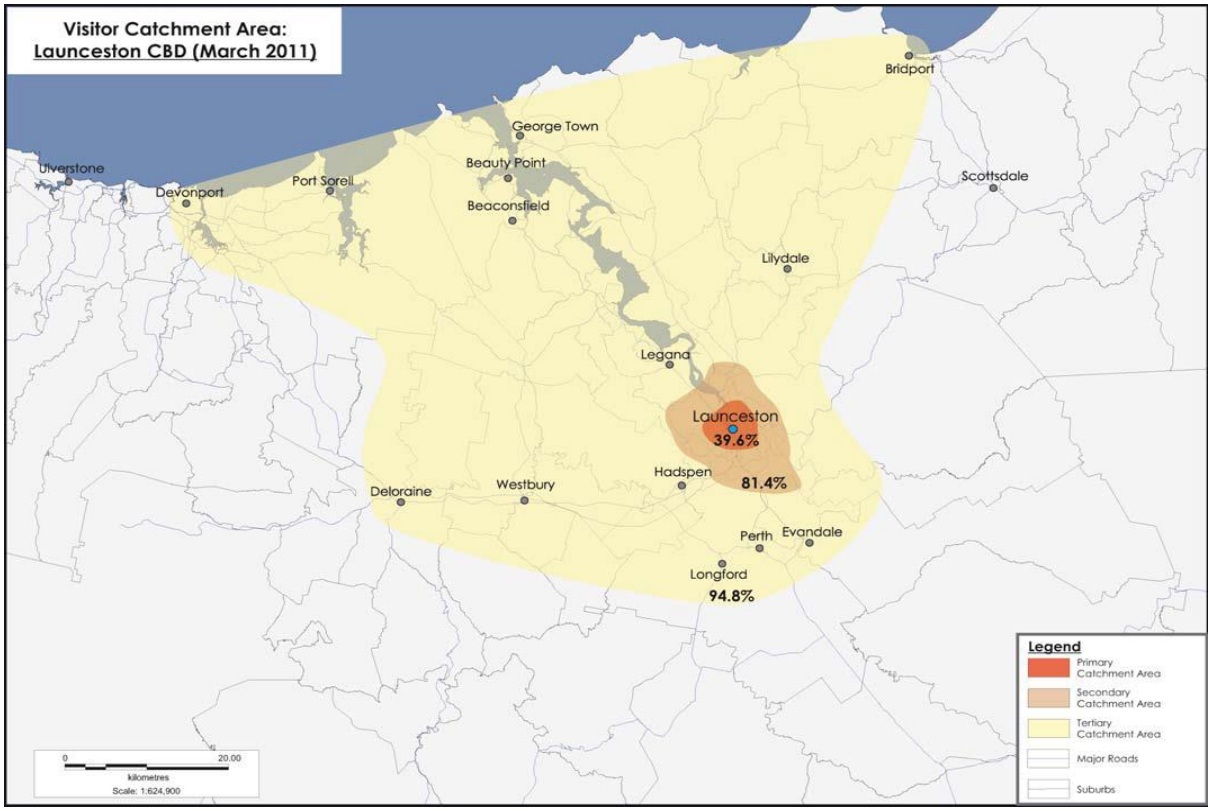
Tasmanian North Region	Estimated Resident Population (ERP)							
	Historic (ABS ERP)		Forecast ERP*					
	2006	2010	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036**
Greater Launceston								
City of Launceston (Inner & Part B)	61,670	62,980	63,370	65,220	67,030	68,760	70,480	72,240
George Town (Part A)	5,680	5,830	5,850	5,880	5,870	5,830	5,800	5,770
Meander Valley (Part A)	8,510	8,920	9,050	9,580	10,110	10,610	11,100	11,620
Northern Midlands (Part A)	7,860	8,010	8,080	8,350	8,580	8,750	8,890	9,030
West Tamar (Part A)	19,650	20,410	20,620	21,480	22,280	22,980	23,660	24,360
Total Greater Launceston Urban Area	**103,370**	**106,150**	**106,970**	**110,510**	**113,870**	**116,930**	**119,930**	**123,020**
North Region Balance								
City of Launceston (Balance)	2,860	2,840	2,840	2,790	2,710	2,610	2,560	2,440
George Town (Balance)	1,050	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,070	1,070
Meander Valley (Balance)	10,460	10,770	10,790	10,880	10,890	10,820	10,720	10,620
Northern Midlands (Balance)	4,650	4,650	4,640	4,550	4,420	4,270	4,160	3,960
West Tamar (Balance)	1,960	2,070	2,120	2,330	2,540	2,750	2,890	3,230
Break O'Day	6,250	6,510	6,590	6,880	7,150	7,390	7,550	7,880
Dorset	7,210	7,360	7,350	7,240	7,110	6,930	6,860	6,600
Flinders	890	900	910	920	920	930	930	940
Total North Region Balance	**35,330**	**36,160**	**36,300**	**36,650**	**36,800**	**36,760**	**36,740**	**36,740**
Total Tasmanian North Region	138,700	142,310	143,270	147,160	150,670	153,690	156,670	159,760

Table 2

Growth of the influence of Launceston

Why this matters:

The ever increasing reach of cities means that the role of regional settlements is rapidly changing. How the settlements are connected and for what goals become the big issues.



Tables 3-7

Economic and Workforce Trends 2006 -2011

Why this matters:

Many industries continue to decline and whilst some may transition others will continue to decline as new industries emerge. The impacts of the global financial downturn are still trickling through the economy.

Table 3 Workforce – number of jobs and proportion of regional and Tasmanian employment, 2006-2011

	Workforce 2006			*Workforce 2011*			*Net change*	*% change*
	Number	*% region*	*% Tas*	*Number*	*% region*	*% Tas*		
Launceston	32,498	63.38%	16.62%	32,066	62.31%	16.04%	-432	-1.33%
Hobart	44,703	47.69%	22.86%	46,103	46.82%	23.05%	1,400	3.13%
Southern Cities	73,565	78.49%	37.62%	76,919	78.11%	38.47%	3,354	4.56%
Northern region (without Launceston)	18,780	36.62%	9.60%	19,392	37.69%	9.70%	612	3.26%
Southern region (without Hobart)	49,024	52.31%	25.07%	52,367	53.18%	26.19%	3,343	6.82%
Southern region (without Southern Cities)	20,162	21.51%	10.31%	21,551	21.89%	10.78%	1,389	6.89%
Northern region	51,278	100%	26.23%	51,458	100%	25.73%	180	0.35%
Southern region	93,727	100%	47.94%	98,470	100%	49.24%	4,743	5.06%
Tasmania	195,526*	-	100%	199,971*	-	100%	4,445	2.27%

Data source: ABS Census 2006, 2011 (Includes people's 'main job' for those who indicated a Place of Work)

*Tasmanian total includes POW No fixed address

Table 4 Employment by industry (% of employment in that area), 2011

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	*Mining*	*Manufacturing*	*Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services*	*Construction*	*Wholesale Trade*	*Retail Trade*	*Accommodation and Food Services*	*Transport, Postal and Warehousing*	*Information Media and Telecommunications*	*Financial and Insurance Services*	*Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services*	*Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	*Administrative and Support Services*	*Public Administration and Safety*	*Education and Training*	*Health Care and Social Assistance*	*Arts and Recreation Services*	*Other Services*	*Inadequately described*	***ALL INDUSTRIES***
Launceston	0.9%	0.1%	8.1%	1.6%	5.4%	4.2%	**13.5%**	7.6%	3.5%	1.9%	4.5%	1.5%	4.9%	2.6%	7.4%	10.7%	**15.2%**	1.1%	4.3%	1.0%	***100%***
Hobart	0.7%	0.1%	2.1%	2.3%	2.9%	1.9%	9.0%	7.8%	1.2%	2.6%	4.6%	1.5%	8.9%	2.0%	**19.7%**	9.9%	**16.2%**	2.3%	3.8%	0.6%	***100%***
Southern Cities	0.9%	0.1%	6.1%	2.5%	5.4%	2.8%	11.3%	7.0%	3.2%	1.9%	3.3%	1.5%	6.7%	2.2%	**14.5%**	9.8%	**13.8%**	2.3%	3.9%	0.8%	***100%***
Northern region (without Launceston)	**13.0%**	1.4%	**15.3%**	1.2%	6.7%	3.6%	10.4%	8.2%	5.4%	0.4%	0.9%	1.4%	2.4%	2.0%	5.1%	8.2%	7.9%	2.2%	3.1%	1.3%	***100%***
Southern region (without Hobart)	5.3%	0.3%	**10.7%**	2.0%	8.7%	3.6%	**14.0%**	7.0%	5.3%	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	4.0%	2.2%	6.1%	9.9%	10.0%	2.1%	3.6%	1.0%	***100%***
Southern region (without Southern Cities)	**11.1%**	0.3%	8.8%	0.8%	7.9%	2.9%	**12.9%**	8.6%	3.9%	2.7%	0.9%	1.3%	4.7%	1.7%	5.3%	10.4%	9.6%	1.9%	3.2%	0.9%	***100%***
Northern region	5.5%	0.6%	10.8%	1.5%	5.9%	4.0%	**12.4%**	7.8%	4.2%	1.3%	3.1%	1.4%	4.0%	2.4%	6.6%	9.7%	**12.5%**	1.5%	3.9%	1.1%	***100%***
Southern region	3.1%	0.2%	6.7%	2.1%	6.0%	2.8%	11.6%	7.4%	3.4%	2.1%	2.8%	1.5%	6.3%	2.1%	**12.5%**	9.9%	**12.9%**	2.2%	3.7%	0.8%	***100%***
Tasmania	***4.6%***	***1.0%***	***9.0%***	***1.7%***	***6.0%***	***3.4%***	***12.0%***	***7.5%***	***4.0%***	***1.6%***	***2.6%***	***1.4%***	***5.0%***	***2.3%***	***9.6%***	***9.6%***	***12.4%***	***1.7%***	***3.8%***	***0.8%***	***100%***

Data source: ABS Census 2011

Table 5 Employment by industry (employed persons – main job), 2011

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	*Mining*	*Manufacturing*	*Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services*	*Construction*	*Wholesale Trade*	*Retail Trade*	*Accommodation and Food Services*	*Transport, Postal and Warehousing*	*Information Media and Telecommunications*	*Financial and Insurance Services*	*Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services*	*Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	*Administrative and Support Services*	*Public Administration and Safety*	*Education and Training*	*Health Care and Social Assistance*	*Arts and Recreation Services*	*Other Services*	*Inadequately described*	***ALL INDUSTRIES***
Launceston	303	35	2592	521	**1,726**	**1,354**	**4,344**	2,437	1,112	602	1,435	466	1,568	828	2,386	3,418	4,884	358	1,391	306	***32,066***
Hobart	315	28	960	**1,051**	1,328	856	4,145	**3,599**	555	**1,209**	**2,118**	**689**	**4,083**	**916**	**9,082**	**4,575**	**7,472**	**1063**	**1,773**	286	***46,103***
Southern Cities	699	89	4,674	1,894	4,169	2,121	8,,675	5,422	2,475	1,462	2,565	1,176	5,137	1,720	11,129	7,516	10,617	1,776	2,990	613	***76,919***
Northern region (without Launceston)	2,526	263	2,967	238	1,298	696	2,018	1,582	1,050	71	165	268	474	383	989	1,597	1,533	427	593	255	***19,393***
Southern region (without Hobart)	2,781	132	5,610	1,022	4,538	1,890	7,314	3,679	2,770	833	645	775	2,076	1,171	3,197	5,181	5,221	1,117	1,900	515	***52,367***
Southern region (without Southern Cities)	2,397	71	1,896	179	1,697	625	2,784	1,856	850	580	198	288	1,022	367	1,150	2,240	2,076	404	683	188	***21,551***
Northern region	2,829	298	5,559	759	3,024	2,050	6,362	4,019	2,162	673	1,600	734	2,042	1,211	3,375	5,015	6,417	785	1,984	561	***51,459***
Southern region	3,096	160	6,570	2,073	5,866	2,746	11,459	7,278	3,325	2,042	2,763	1,464	6,159	2,087	12,279	9,756	12,693	2,180	3,673	801	***98,470***
Tasmania	***8,747***	***1,962***	***17,208***	***3,261***	***11,458***	***6,455***	***22,774***	***14,246***	***7,676***	***2,999***	***4,992***	***2,648***	***9,427***	***4,424***	***18,190***	***18,211***	***23,615***	***3,231***	***7,311***	***1,542***	***190,377***

Data source: ABS Census 2011 *(only includes those who nominated an LGA of work)*

Change in employment by industry (number of employed persons), 2006-2011

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	Construction	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Accommodation and Food Services	Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Information Media and Telecommunications	Financial and Insurance Services	Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	Administrative and Support Services	Public Administration and Safety	Education and Training	Health Care and Social Assistance	Arts and Recreation Services	Other Services	Inadequately described	**ALL INDUSTRIES**
Launceston	-149	2	-197	143	225	-442	-362	115	-82	-138	-217	-57	28	-83	255	263	133	36	88	7	***-432***
Hobart	-9	-13	-270	104	178	-172	-514	72	-169	-94	-41	-31	302	-68	984	562	434	236	-23	-68	***1,400***
Southern Cities	31	10	-1,077	199	647	-220	-342	248	-259	-98	-21	-103	684	49	1,187	1,125	813	459	81	-59	***3,354***
Northern region (without Launceston)	-292	29	-190	49	165	36	100	219	-14	-32	7	10	55	87	81	133	97	24	64	-10	***618***
Southern region (without Hobart)	-294	51	-1,086	128	831	64	221	399	14	212	38	-43	600	116	229	818	619	265	251	-90	***3,343***
Southern region (without Southern Cities)	-334	28	-279	33	362	112	49	223	104	216	18	29	218	-1	26	255	240	42	147	-99	***1,389***
Northern region	-441	31	-387	192	390	-406	-262	334	-96	-170	-210	-47	83	4	336	396	230	60	152	-3	***186***
Southern region	-303	38	-1,356	232	1,009	-108	-293	471	-155	118	-3	-74	902	48	1,213	1,380	1,053	501	228	-158	***4,743***
Tasmania	***-1,139***	***601***	***-2,600***	***479***	***1,824***	***-446***	***-583***	***952***	***-462***	***-115***	***-182***	***-122***	***1,035***	***-132***	***1,753***	***2,081***	***1,659***	***563***	***643***	***-421***	***5,388***

Data source: ABS Census 2011 *(only includes those who nominated an LGA of work)*

Change in employment by industry (% change), 2006-2011

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	Construction	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Accommodation and Food Services	Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Information Media and Telecommunications	Financial and Insurance Services	Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	Administrative and Support Services	Public Administration and Safety	Education and Training	Health Care and Social Assistance	Arts and Recreation Services	Other Services	Inadequately described	**ALL INDUSTRIES**
Launceston	-33.0%	6.1%	-7.1%	37.8%	15.0%	-24.6%	-7.7%	5.0%	-6.9%	-18.6%	-13.1%	-10.9%	1.8%	-9.1%	12.0%	8.3%	2.8%	11.2%	6.8%	2.3%	**-1.3%**
Hobart	-2.8%	-31.7%	-22.0%	11.0%	15.5%	-16.7%	-11.0%	2.0%	-23.3%	-7.2%	-1.9%	-4.3%	8.0%	-6.9%	12.2%	14.0%	6.2%	28.5%	-1.3%	-19.2%	**3.1%**
Southern Cities	4.6%	12.7%	-18.7%	11.7%	18.4%	-9.4%	-3.8%	4.8%	-9.5%	-6.3%	-0.8%	-8.1%	15.4%	2.9%	11.9%	17.6%	8.3%	34.9%	2.8%	-8.8%	**4.6%**
Northern region (without Launceston)	-10.4%	12.4%	-6.0%	25.9%	14.6%	5.5%	5.2%	16.1%	-1.3%	-31.1%	4.4%	3.9%	13.1%	29.4%	8.9%	9.1%	6.8%	6.0%	12.1%	-3.8%	**3.3%**
Southern region (without Hobart)	-9.6%	63.0%	-16.2%	14.3%	22.4%	3.5%	3.1%	12.2%	0.5%	34.1%	6.3%	-5.3%	40.7%	11.0%	7.7%	18.7%	13.5%	31.1%	15.2%	-14.9%	**6.8%**
Southern region (without Southern Cities)	-12.2%	65.1%	-12.8%	22.6%	27.1%	21.8%	1.8%	13.7%	13.9%	59.3%	10.0%	11.2%	27.1%	-0.3%	2.3%	12.8%	13.1%	11.6%	27.4%	-34.5%	**6.9%**
Northern region	-13.5%	11.6%	-6.5%	33.9%	14.8%	-16.5%	-4.0%	9.1%	-4.3%	-20.2%	-11.6%	-6.0%	4.2%	0.3%	11.1%	8.6%	3.7%	8.3%	8.3%	-0.5%	**0.4%**
Southern region	-8.9%	31.1%	-17.1%	12.6%	20.8%	-3.8%	-2.5%	6.9%	-4.5%	6.1%	-0.1%	-4.8%	17.2%	2.4%	11.0%	16.5%	9.0%	29.8%	6.6%	-16.5%	**5.1%**
Tasmania	***-11.5%***	***44.2%***	***-13.1%***	***17.2%***	***18.9%***	***-6.5%***	***-2.5%***	***7.2%***	***-5.7%***	***-3.7%***	***-3.5%***	***-4.4%***	***12.3%***	***-2.9%***	***10.7%***	***12.9%***	***7.6%***	***21.1%***	***9.6%***	***-21.4%***	***2.9%***

Data source: ABS Census 2011 *(only includes those who nominated an LGA of work)*