

NTDC LTD Quarterly Organisation Progress Report to Council Members – March 2018

2018 has started off busy and the year ahead looks to be exciting, positive and productive. The NTDC has been progressing several key projects, since the last report, on behalf of the northern Tasmanian region, namely:

1. Update on the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP)

a. Regional Modeling

As part of the REDP and agreement by Council Members to fund and support a Regional Model, NTDC launched the Regional Economic Modeling tool as one of the sub-projects to the REDP. It ensures all Council Member officers and the regional communities use one set of data to determine the economic impacts of projects and activities in the North and North East. It also provides economic and social data at the individual LGA level – so it will be useful for us all! To check out this great new tool go to this link: <https://economy.id.com.au/northern-tasmania>

NTDC were excited to launch the Regional Economic Modelling Tool on the 21st of March through a workshop with Ryan James of .id with our councils' members. The roll-out of the Model will continue at the end of April with a second round of workshops for our members announced. [See video](#) on our Facebook page to hear Bruce Williams, City of Launceston and Ryan James .id discuss the benefits of this tool following the recent launch.

b. Website Redevelopment

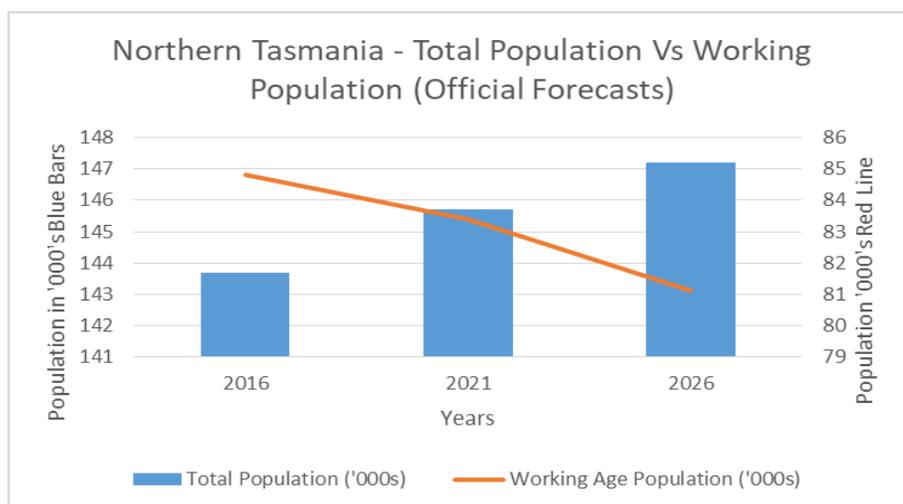
NTDC's website is currently undergoing a revamp to assist in providing more efficient communication and engagement with key stakeholders and the northern region community. The new website will include a separate REDP component that allows any interested parties to provide feedback to NTDC during the consultation phase of this project. The updated website is due to be completed around mid-April and the address will be www.ntdc.org.au

c. Draft Key Directions Report

A major update of REDP project to date has been the drafted Key Directions Report (KDR) in December and further revisions and updates in February and March 2018.

To achieve the regional economic growth targets for the next decade set by our Council Members (50% GRP growth, 8000 net jobs growth and \$100/week increase in average take home pay) the KDR indicate the following changes need to be delivered over the decade:

- Increase net exports by between \$1B-\$1.75B per annum (an increase of at least 25%) from our Business as Usual case (which includes all the projects we know that are currently planned).
- Increase our working population by at least 6,000 (our current population trend is a decline in our working population – see the table below):



- Increasing annual investment in business plant and equipment and public infrastructure by between \$150M-\$250M per annum above current levels
- Increasing the focus on place making outcomes to ensure that the region attracts and retains the entrepreneurs and skilled working age population required to grow our economy.

Whilst challenging, the National Institute of Economics and Industry Research (NIEIR) have indicated these changes are not insurmountable - but will require unified, dynamic regional leadership and governance.

The final component of the KDR involves further defining our industry sectors of the future - considering the sectors where we are nationally competitive, and in what year we are likely to grow our economy by 5%per annum (assuming we can leverage all the opportunities that have been detailed previously).

d. Next Steps

- 1) Investment Attraction Taskforce - a Terms of Reference (TOR) have been development for an Investment Attraction Taskforce to be chaired by ex-banker, NTDC Deputy Chair, Greg Bott. Other members with a background in investment attraction and different types of financing have been invited to join the voluntary taskforce.

The key purpose of the taskforce will be to work with State Government agencies like the Office of the Coordinator General to facilitate projects and business expansion looking for funding with potential investors. These projects may be smaller than the type of projects usually managed by State Government agencies.

- 2) Population Taskforce – a Terms of Reference (TOR) has been completed and the City of Launceston has indicated they will lead this taskforce and potentially invest in it along with the NTDC. Other members are still to be considered – but a smaller Northern LGA to be included. This leverages the work that City of Launceston and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce have already started. It takes into account that Launceston will be the gateway for Northern Tasmania for any initial promotion targeting skilled entrepreneurs and work-age migrants – but once Launceston and the North are on the ‘radar’ (or consideration set) of the target audience, they will then select their residence and potential business location from various LGAs in the region based on their tailored requirements. As previously highlighted we will need to attract at least 6,000 skilled workers within the next 10 years and link with all council members around place-making and infrastructure priorities. Specific work will also be undertaken to determine the skill sets the region will require to grow the economy in line with the NTDC targets.

2. Regional Prioritisation of Projects

NTDC continues to encourage investment initiatives in all sectors of the region. In particular, NTDC have engaged strongly with the high growth sectors to understand what is required to boost business and workforce concentration to increase a competitive advantage relative to other regions.

An important reason of NTDC’s existence is to present a united voice on Regional Priorities. In the lead up to the March State Election, NTDC were able to present an updated list of the Regional Priority Projects, which were endorsed by member councils following the recommendation of the November 2017 Members’ Meeting.

An update on the progress of the Regional Priority Project and the level of support achieved by Council Members and NTDC to date is as follows (over page):

<p>2.1 Launceston Sewerage Improvement program - \$200-\$300M capital project (3 Options currently under study). Impacts future of seven sewerage treatment plants located in West Tamar, Launceston and Meander Valley. The short and long term economic benefits are yet to be quantified – however, clearly a Tier 1 project. Project economics and economic impact will be demonstrated in due course as funding will have to pass the Infrastructure Australia hurdles. (Assume Capital Value-Add of approx. \$600M for region).</p> <p>Update: Funding is still seen as a priority for the LSIP, it is however noted that to assist with the clean-up of the Tamar Estuary, a commitment to Launceston’s combined stormwater system has been made. The projects will include system and catchment upgrades and other measures to improve the river's health. The Federal Government and Tasmanian Governments will commit more than \$47 million each. Total \$95million committed in Feb 2018. The project was identified through the TEMT.</p>	 <p>Partially Funded_ \$95M Federal and State Funding Committed to date.</p>
<p>2.2 Flinders Island Safe Harbour</p> <p>Flinders Island Safe Harbour Project at Lady Barron – requires a \$4.8M capex with approx. \$10M/year economic growth based on the data provided. The project has ramifications for the North and North East maritime sectors as a safe harbour. This project has good economic configuration and is a good model for all project assessments.</p>	 <p>Partially Funded \$900,000 commitment by State Government</p>
<p>2.3 Blue Derby Stage 2 (incl. St Helens Stacked Loops) – The 4.6M capex provides an economic benefit of between \$18M - \$32M per annum on the new infrastructure based on the additional visitors it will bring to northern Tasmania, and the creation of and approximately 154 new jobs for the region. This is a low capital intensity/ high economic impact project that is clearly aligned with the state and regional visitor economy strategies and infrastructure priorities. The opportunity cost to the local economy of not proceeding is estimated to be at least \$20M/year.</p>	 <p>Fully Funded</p>

<p>2.4 Launceston Gateway Precinct – NTDC is supportive of the Gateway Precinct based on the project providing the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). Encourages investment in infrastructure, and attract businesses, which would enable an increase in air freight through the Gateway Precinct – in partnership with Launceston Airport. Greater competitive tension between sea and air freight, and increased modal choice for exporters, is unarguably positive for the region. b). Engaged with the State Roads Burnie to Hobart Freight Corridor Strategy team to determine whether an intermodal rail or road facility at Western Junction makes sense. The focus of this conversation was if rail freight services between Western Junction and Bell Bay, Burnie and Brighton cheaper than the corresponding road freight competitor. c). Attracting additional clean processing businesses to be located at the Gateway Precinct, particularly where this provides them with competitive advantage, such as the proximity of the airport to the northern Tasmania region. 	 <p>Roadwork improvements – committed by State Government (Double carriage-way between Breadalbane and the Airport valued at \$5.5M)</p>
<p>2.5 City Heart Project Stage 2 – The City of Launceston has undertaken an economic analysis for this project that indicates a total capital expenditure of \$20M for works focused on pedestrian access and safety: social and physical connectivity improvements; traffic calming enhancements; and streetscape beautification. A very conservative economic impact currently indicates an additional value-add of over \$21M during the construction phase, and an additional value-add of \$39M per annum after three years. It has been calculated that the construction phase of this project will add an additional 184 FTE's; and a further 500 FTE's based on the operations after a three-year period.</p>	 <p>\$5.5m tied commitment by State – if C'wealth commit \$9M and \$5.5M from Council. Not confirmed.</p>
<p>2.6 Bioenergy Plant at Valley Central - NTDC supports this project at this early prefeasibility stage. The successful delivery of a \$20-\$50 Million (depending on demand) could deliver industrial development clustering at Valley Central worth hundreds of millions to the region.</p>	 <p>Already funded by the State for the Prefeasibility Stage @ \$100,000 and work underway to firm up business case. Funding request for C'wealth Regional Growth underway.</p>

<p>2.7 Industry Cluster Project – Support for NTDC to manage industry-led clusters that focus on growing our tradable sectors through: Food, Forestry and Community and Health Services. NTDC has proposed \$3.4M over 4 years split between all levels of government and industry participants to make this project viable.</p>	 <p>Supported by Council Members but was a late request to State Govt. More socializing and lobbying required.</p>
<p>2.8 George Town Mountain Bike Trails – NTDC has supported the George Town Council to secure the \$2 million for their proposed Mountain Bike Trail development. The trail will offer a range of mountain bike trail opportunities throughout Tasmania, and will be essential in maximising the potential from the Derby and St Helens Mountain Bike Trails. This plan is the logical next step for Northern Tasmania to leverage the mountain 4 trail traveler's experience and support locals with more activity options in the region. The required \$2million construction cost should be supported based on a successful business case. The feasibility of mountain bike trails to date in Tasmania have indicated relatively low capital outlay for good return in visitor attraction and stays, as well as an opportunity to encourage more local options for an active lifestyle.</p>	 <p>Feasibility funded by: Council, grant and BBA. On an 'Approved State Government Trail List'</p>

3. NTDC Board and Staff

The Board of Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new board members following the resignation of Adam Mostogl from the role of Director of Entrepreneurism and Innovation. The two successful candidates are:



Karina Dambergs, Director – Small Business: Karina has significant experience business development roles throughout Australia in a range of business from small, family-owned businesses through to large multinational organisations. Karina's current roles include the Director of Operations of the Van Diemen Project and Director/cofounder of three regional based businesses in the craft fermenting industry.

Karina has a strong focus on growing and building businesses through innovation, collaboration and investment. She believes that regional economic development is not just the responsibility of government and requires active engagement across the local business eco-system and community to achieve common goals.



Adam Poulton, Director – Digital Transformation: Adam is a Businessperson and Entrepreneur with a particular interest in digital futures and how communities can benefit from disruptive technologies. He is an experienced board director who has served with numerous industry and local government organisations, such as Bitcoin Association of Australia, Blockchain, The Future Group and TasICT.

Furthermore, the NTDC board acknowledges the contribution Adam Mostogl has made to the organisation in the role of Director – Digital Transformation. Adam’s business, Illuminate Education & Consulting, is growing from strength to strength and now requires him to spend a substantial amount of time interstate. He departs with our thanks and best wishes.

In late January, Ellie Pardoe stepped down from the Project Officer role with NTDC due to illness. The role is now job-shared between Georgina Brown and Sally Murfet: Georgina has taken on the role of progressing and monitoring the key outputs of the project, and Sally is primarily managing the stakeholder engagement and communication aspects of the REDP.

New Contact Details:

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