

Richmond Regional Community Forum

March
2009

Premier's Message

I am committed to being a Premier that is connected to his public. By this I mean that I want all Tasmanians to feel close to the political process, and to have the opportunity to pitch their ideas directly to the senior decision makers within State Government. A democracy is all about having a voice in government.

It is particularly important for my colleagues and self, to hear the many existing issues that Tasmanian communities encounter. Especially regional communities like Richmond that face tough times ahead with water issues and economic uncertainty in financially harsh times.

The Community Forum was a fantastic opportunity for my ministers and heads of departments to see, first hand, the challenges and opportunities of this wonderful area. All Tasmanians should have the chance to talk to my cabinet members and be able to discuss issues concerning their communities and the State as a whole.

I would like to thank all the people of Richmond who took the time and opportunity to attend the forum to express their concerns and ideas through individual appointments with ministers.

David Bartlett
Premier of Tasmania

Issues Raised

In February this year, the Premier made a commitment to irrigators in the South-East Irrigation Scheme that the State Government would do everything it could to secure additional irrigation water for the coming season.

On 19 June, Minister for Primary Industries and Water met with farmers at Red Knight Orchards to announce that the Government had set aside up to \$3 million to construct additional emergency pipelines for the 2009-10 irrigation season.

Since then, good rains upstream have delivered more than 4500 mega litres of water into the Craighourne dam.

While further emergency works are now on hold, the Irrigation Development Board is full steam ahead in developing the new Wattle Banks dam and pipe works to secure the economic future of the district.

The Premier also announced that changes to the planning and construction standards were being considered, to help protect Tasmanians from the tragedy of bushfire.

At the beginning of April, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments announced that Tasmania will launch the Commonwealth's new super fast National Broadband Network.



The Premier declared that the superfast broadband in Tasmania will revolutionise the State's economy and dramatically improve the lives of all Tasmanians.

Richmond residents welcomed the opportunity to voice their concerns and share their ideas on how to improve the region and of particular importance to

