Rebuilding Tasmania

Infrastructure Investment

June 2020
Housing

1,000 Social Housing Dwellings - $100 million
The Government will invest an additional $100 million under new agreements with Community Housing Providers to deliver up to an additional 1,000 new social houses.
This investment complements, but is additional to, targets and actions in the Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019 – 2023.

Construction Value (est) $300 million

Fast-tracking 220 Affordable Houses - $24 million
The Government will bring forward funding of $14 million and provide new funding of $10 million to deliver 220 new social houses by 2022 – a year earlier than planned.
These homes are part of a 300 home Community Housing Grants program funded by savings from the Commonwealth Housing Debt Waiver Agreement, with additional funds to enable early delivery.
This investment complements, but is additional to, targets and actions in the Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019 – 2023.

Construction Value (est) $66 million

Expanded HomeShare Program - $9.3 million
HomeShare reduces the initial cost of buying a house and the monthly cost of owning it. The Scheme opens the door to home ownership for those who have enough income to make the step but need a helping hand.
Eligibility for HomeShare is based on income and asset limits and includes all existing Housing Tasmanian tenants. To stimulate a greater take-up of HomeShare, the Government will revise the eligibility thresholds for HomeShare.
Income eligibility limits will be increased by up to 15 per cent and the maximum financial asset limit will also be increased to $100,000 to increase the number of households who can use HomeShare.
The Government equity contribution has been increased to a maximum of $100,000 per house.
It is estimated uptake would result in 150 home purchases including 75 new builds over two years. The estimated cost of this initiative is $9.3 million over two years.

Construction Value (est) $26 million

Home Builder Grant of $20,000 - $20 million
The Government currently offers $20,000 to first home owners who build their own home or buy a house and land package. To support the building and construction sector the Government will make a $20,000 grant available to all owner occupier new home builds for contracts entered into from today until the end of 2020 and the build completed with eighteen months.
This will provide new owner-occupier home builders with $20,000 towards the cost of a new build or the purchase of new house and land package. Detailed guidelines and eligibility criteria will be available on Tuesday 9 June 2020.

Construction Value (est) $400 million
Essential Services Infrastructure

**Regional Health and Ambulance Facilities Fund - $10 million**

Funding of $10 million will be provided to upgrade regional health and ambulance facilities. These upgrades will provide better facilities for patients and staff in Tasmania’s regional health facilities, and better facilities for paramedics and volunteers at rural stations.

**Construction Value (est) $10 million**

**Burnie Court – Bringing Forward $5.9 million**

The Government will bring forward $5.9 million of the $15 million investment in improving access to court services in Burnie. The investment will provide better access to justice for those in the North West by enabling the long-term continuation of Magistrate and Supreme Court services in Burnie in fit-for-purpose premises.

**Construction Value (est) $5.9 million**

**Child and Family Learning Centres – Additional $7 million**

The Government will provide an additional $7 million for Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs) for a total investment of $28 million. This means that $17.6 million will be spent on the Centres in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

CFLCs are a proven way of supporting families and carers in the early years of a child’s life in communities where we can make the most difference. The Government will fast-track five of the promised six CFLCs, across all parts of the State.

The design and construction process will begin now on two CFLCs – one at East Tamar and another at Wynyard – with these Centres completed in the 2021-22 financial year. There has been strong community engagement in these communities.

Community engagement and consultation will begin immediately on a further three CFLCs – in Glenorchy, Kingborough and West Ulverstone – with construction to now substantially begin in the 2021-22 financial year. A further CLFC in Sorell will begin construction in 2022-23 in line with the $25 million redevelopment of the Sorell School.

**Construction Value (est) $7 million**

**Launceston Police Station Refurbishment - $7 million**

Funding of $7 million will be provided to undertake urgent infrastructure upgrades and accommodation renovations to the Launceston Police Station.

The refurbishment will provide Police Officers and the community with modern, fit for purpose premises well into the future. Improvements to the Police Station include amenities upgrades, asbestos removal, security upgrades, structural repairs, and internal redevelopment.

**Construction Value (est) $7 million**

**Emergency Services State Operation Centre - $3.5 million**

The Government will provide $3.5 million to establish a new State Operations Centre in a central location from which all our emergency services may coordinate our response to emergencies.

**Construction Value (est) $3.5 million**
Police Housing Upgrades - $8.7 million

Funding of $8.7 million will be provided to complete the upgrade of all police housing by June 2022. The Department has been progressing with the upgrade of police housing in line with the Government’s budget and Capital Investment Program (CIP) initiatives since 2014.

The Department will complete the upgrade of the final 29 police houses over the next two years with this additional funding. These houses are located in various regional areas around the state and will provide a significant economic stimulus to a number of regional Tasmanian communities.

Construction Value (est) $8.7 million

Total Essential Services Construction Value (est) $42.1 million

Community Infrastructure

Derwent Entertainment Centre –$68.5 million

The Government is well advanced with discussions with both the NBL and LK Group with regard to the establishment of a Tasmanian NBL franchise, development of the DEC and Wilkinson’s Point precinct and the establishment of a community multi-sport venue.

To realise this initiative, the Government will provide $68.5 million for the upgrade of the Derwent Entertainment Centre as a world class entertainment and sporting facility including $20 million for a community four court multisport facility.

Subject to final agreement on terms being reached, the upgraded DEC will host a Tasmanian National Basketball League team and NBL games as well as being available for major community events and entertainment.

Construction Value (est) $68.5 million

Cooee – Wynyard Coastal Pathway - $12 million

The Government will provide an extra $12 million over two years to the Burnie City and Waratah-Wynyard Councils to complete the coastal pathway between Cooee and Wynyard along the disused rail corridor.

The funding will enable works to repair existing damage threatening the rail embankment and further works necessary to protect the corridor from future erosion risks over the next 20 years.

Construction Value (est) $12 million

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens – Additional $4 million

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) is the only botanical gardens in Tasmania and is the second oldest in Australia. In the last four years the Gardens have experienced a 40 per cent increase in visitation to 525,000 visitors annually. This has placed pressure on existing infrastructure and demonstrated the need for significant upgrades and modernisation to meet expectations of visitors. The Government has already provided $3.6 million for a new visitors centre.
This additional funding of $4 million will be used to fund a major capital works program, to build new infrastructure and upgrade existing ageing infrastructure in order to meet the additional demands of the Botanical Gardens’ rapidly growing visitor numbers. A focus will be on developing a new visitor centre along with improved disability access into and around the gardens.

Construction Value (est) $4 million

**Cascades Female Factory - $3 million**

The Cascades Female Factory in South Hobart is a significant site managed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. It is one of very few surviving female factories and has been deemed of international heritage significance due to its ability to tell the female convict story.

Listed as a World Heritage site in 2010, the need for a new Visitor and Interpretation Centre was identified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of listing. The Government funding of $3 million will contribute to the design and construction of a new visitor centre, which will include modern and accessible facilities. This project has already received Heritage Council and Hobart City Council approvals.

Construction Value (est) $3 million

**Improving the Playing Field Fund for Sporting Organisations - $10 million**

The Government will establish a $10 million fund to provide grants to sporting clubs and associations to improve playing facilities across Tasmania to maintain and build participation across sporting codes following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Improving the Playing Field grants will be made available to upgrade sporting facilities for women and men of all ages, girls and boys and those with disabilities.

The grants are designed to encourage continued participation in sports following the interruption of competitions due to the COVID-19 pandemic by improving the amenity of facilities for participants, officials and spectators. The grants program will also provide a valuable stimulus to the construction industry across urban and regional Tasmania.

Grants of between $25,000 and $250,000 will be considered for approved capital works which may include change rooms, toilets and shower facilities, accessibility, lighting, security, fencing, scoreboards, drainage and other civil construction works. The grants will be available for both the building of new facilities and upgrading existing facilities.

The Grants program will be open to local councils, sporting associations and clubs.

Construction Value (est) $10 million

**Public Building Maintenance Program – Additional $20 million**

An additional $20 million will be provided over two years to fund critical maintenance on public buildings and other publicly owned assets. This funding is in addition to the $50 million that was brought forward and announced as part of the Government’s initial economic and social support measures. This $70 million Program will continue to provide support for regional employment and trades.

Construction Value (est) $20 million
Local Government Loans – Additional $50 million
The Government will provide a further $50 million for Local Government No Interest Loans. This will bring the Government’s total commitment for Local Government loans to $200 million. These loans will be interest free for three years and made available to encourage local governments to invest and employ more Tasmanians to upgrade, renovate and to do necessary maintenance to improve our tourism assets and local infrastructure.

Construction Value (est) $50 million
Total Community Infrastructure Construction Value (est) $167.5 million

Roads and Irrigation Infrastructure

State Road Safety Upgrade Fund - $40 million
The Government will allocate $40 million for State road safety upgrades in 2020-21 and 2021-22. The Government will also bring forward $40 million in road safety projects through an accelerated procurement tender process. This will provide the local construction industry with certainty of work and employment prospects over the coming months and into the next construction season. The first tranche of projects under this package are now out to market, including safety upgrades on Highland Lakes Road at the ‘Pub with No Beer’ corner, improved turning facilities on the Bass Highway at Boat Harbour, and road widening and improved turning facilities on the Arthur Highway at Eaglehawk Neck.

A further nine projects will be put to market under this process and will include bridge strengthening works, the upgrade of Binalong Bay Road, the Bruny Island landside infrastructure, and road widening works on the Midland Highway between Powranna and Tunbridge.

The Government’s record $378 million roads budget next financial year already includes other significant projects, such as the new Hobart Airport interchange, park and ride facilities in Kingborough, the West Tamar Highway upgrades and the start of the $100 million Bass Highway upgrades with the Boat Harbour Primary School turn-off. These projects are all on track to start later this year.

Construction Value (est) $40 million

Irrigation Schemes - $15 million
The Tasmanian Liberal Government recognises that agriculture is a cornerstone of our state’s economy, which is why we are investing a further $15 million to meet the increased demand for the first 5 schemes of Pipeline to Prosperity our Tranche 3 of irrigation scheme. The $28.51 million, 5,000ML Don Irrigation Scheme in the North West is our priority project with construction to commence early in 2021, delivering 130 direct and indirect jobs once all the scheme water is fully utilised.

Our nation-leading irrigation schemes are underpinning agricultural production and boosting farm productivity across the State, enabling farmers to diversify, value add and expand their existing farming operations; a key plank for meeting our target of increasing the farm gate value of Tasmania’s agricultural sector to $10 billion a year by 2050.
Schemes in Fingal, Northern Midlands, Sassafras/Wesley Vale and Tamar districts are progressing and would provide farmers in each district with confidence to invest further in growing their businesses.

**Construction Value (est) $15 million**

**Total Roads and Irrigation Construction Value (est) $55 million**

**Education and Skills Infrastructure**

**Trades and Water Centre of Excellence – Additional $7 million**

The Government’s vocational education and training system is critical to rebuilding Tasmania, providing the skills needed to support local jobs for industry productivity.

To skill up local Tasmanians for local jobs in the construction and civil contracting industries, including the water and sewerage infrastructure sector, the Government has brought forward and re-capitalised the TasTAFE Trades and Water Centre of Excellence promised at the 2018 State election.

An initial $7 million was provided for this initiative in the 2019-20 Budget. The Government will now provide a further $7 million for the new $14 million Trades and Water Centre of Excellence, which will be a key driver in delivering the skills needed to Rebuild Tasmania. It will have its own industry-based Board, to ensure its operations and training align with the skill needs of employers.

**Construction Value (est) $7 million**

**Devonport High School – Bringing Forward $3.5 million**

The Government will bring forward $3.5 million of funding allocated for the $10.5 million redevelopment of the Devonport High School. This major redevelopment will include the provision of contemporary learning environments, support spaces and administration, and car park improvements.

**Construction Value (est) $3.5 million**

**Total Education and Skills Infrastructure Construction Value (est) $10.5 million**
RBF Tasmanian Investment Fund

Retirement Benefits Fund – Social and Economic Returns for Tasmanians - $200 million

The Retirement Benefits Fund (RBF) manages superannuation for Tasmania public sector employees who hold defined benefits account or pension. As at the time of RBF 2018-19 Annual Report, the Retirement Benefits Fund stood at $2.1 billion.

The Superannuation Commission oversees the administration and investment activity of the Fund. The Commission currently has investments across a balanced portfolio including Equity Funds, Fixed Income Funds, unlisted property and infrastructure and cash.

Treasury will implement arrangements whereby up to 10 per cent of the Fund’s investments will be invested in Tasmania and the Premier’s Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council will consider options to best provide an economic and social return for the State.

The Fund will be used to identify suitable investments outside of Government in the private sector that can be supported across the economy to increase economic activity, create jobs and strengthen social outcomes. This could see up to $200 million flow into investments in Tasmania.

Total Construction Value (est) $200 million