

Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan at a glance – June 2019

Background

The Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan was developed by the Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) with and on behalf of regional stakeholders in 2018. CCA has accepted responsibility for implementing the plan. The Futures Plan provides a blueprint for an ambitious new approach to regional economic development and conceptualises three key features.

Regional governance framework

A regional governance framework will provide a platform for true collaboration. Stakeholders involved in developing the Futures Plan agreed that increased collaboration at the regional level, was key to ensuring that the existing efforts in economic development and education are more effective.

Component	Who is involved	Role
Regional Economic Development Steering Group	A small group of high-profile people from industry and senior government and university officials	To oversee implementation of the Futures Plan, and advocate on behalf of the region.
Working Groups	People from the private and public sector who agree that working collaboratively on certain issues (e.g. education, renewable energy, forestry) is a better way to achieve good outcomes.	To share information and / or develop project ideas for collective action.
Core Team	CCA's regional economic development staff, as well as staff from member councils and other agencies, seconded to CCA to work on regional projects.	To support the Working Groups through facilitation and project management.

Regional investment framework

A regional investment framework will provide a methodical approach for progressing initiatives from an initial concept, to a register of well thought out and investment ready proposals of regional significance. Proposals could relate to any kind of investment, be it infrastructure or a specific program / project.

The framework has not yet been developed. It is proposed that the Victorian Government's Investment Management Standard or a similar "logic mapping" approach may be a useful basis for this work.

Priority projects

The Futures Plan outlines a number of priority projects. Which projects are initiated and when, very much depends on available resourcing.

Current status and next steps

The Tasmanian Government announced has committed funding for a two-year period to assist with Futures Plan implementation. Central to this will be a Senior Program Manager role at CCA, employed on a two-year fixed term contract. An appointment is expected to be made around July 2019.

CCA has drafted rules for the Regional Economic Development Steering Group (REDSG) and has commenced recruiting for a REDSG Chairperson, who will also become a director on the Board of the CCA. The inaugural Chairperson will assist with selecting other REDSG members around July 2019.

CCA and its member councils have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will see council staff made available to CCA, to work on regional projects. Large councils have committed to 0.2 FTEs (the equivalent of one employee, one day per week) and smaller councils have committed to 0.1 FTEs. The same MOU is being considered by some other agencies who have economic development staff in the region.