

Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan at a glance – October 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 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 is being developed to 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 been developed based on the Victorian Government's Investment Management Standard and is expected to be formally adopted by the REDSG in the final quarter of 2019.

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 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. Ms Carol Bracken was selected from a strong field of applicants and will commence on the 22nd of July 2019. Ms Carol's experience as a hazelnut farmer, West Tamar Councillor, and a project manager with the Department of Defence, sees her ideally suited to the role.

CCA has established a new Regional Economic Development Steering Group, which met for the first time in October.

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.

Swinburne University and the University of Tasmania have each funded a three-year PhD position to support Futures Plan implementation.

A number of Working Groups are currently in the establishment phase.