

Media release

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CCA ANNOUNCES PROJECTS OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE

The Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) has today announced the first lot of regionally important projects assessed under its Regional Investment Framework. The framework provides a way for people to seek CCA's help advocating for regionally important project and allows our region to speak with one voice when it comes to telling government what is important to us.

The Regional Economic Development Steering Group (REDSG), a business focussed, industry-led Committee of CCA, assesses submissions against the objectives of the Regional Futures Plan, which include more jobs, more training opportunities, a better lifestyle and overcoming social disadvantage.

Businesses, community groups, peak bodies and other organisations can make a submission with assistance from the CCA team. Submissions will be considered on a rolling basis.

In no particular order, the current project list includes:

Extensions and improvements to the Coastal Pathway, transforming it into an iconic tourism experience and increasing liveability. Up to \$32m required.

A scenic railway from Devonport to Penguin and other Don River Railway upgrades, including a café and function centre. App. \$5m required.

New mobile phone towers at Woolnorth and Togari, supporting business productivity, safety, and digital accessibility. App. \$2.2m required.

World-class organic composting facilities, supporting FOGO (food organics, garden organics) collection for 40,000 households and businesses. App. \$6m required.

200 new land conservation jobs delivered through a "fair share" of a \$4b land conservation stimulus package proposed by NRM Regions Australia. Up to \$20m allocated to our region would see people working on weed management, track work and other Natural Resource Management projects.

Battery Of The Nation and **Marinus Link**. Together these projects will create thousands of jobs and enable delivery of low-cost, reliable and clean generation and storage that provide benefits to the entire National Electricity Market – working to make the best use of Tasmania and Australia's renewable energy resources. CCA supports the State and Federal Governments working with TasNetworks and Hydro Tasmania to progress these important projects.

CCA CEO Daryl Connelly said that the framework may be the first of its kind.



"Through CCA, our Member Councils have developed a rigorous process whereby esteemed people from industry, government and the university sector assess projects against the unique needs and long-term best interests of our region. People tell me they haven't seen anything like this before, and it's a real credit to our nine Member Councils and all of our partners who make the Futures Plan work." Mr Connelly said.

REDSG Chair, Sheree Vertigan AM, is pleased with how the new process worked.

"Even though our Group has a diverse membership, the rigour that sits behind the Framework enabled us to assess the projects and agree on their regional importance. We look forward to working together to consider future submissions from the community, which support economic development in the region."

CCA is also working with other regional bodies to design and advocate for a co-investment program. Under the proposal, businesses would be able to seek partial government funding for projects which help them grow and remain competitive. Further details will be announced soon.

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CCA is jointly owned by the nine Councils of western and north-western Tasmania, to help them achieve regional outcomes and maintain strong local government, by working together.

