

Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council

Approach to Consultation

July 2020

We want Tasmanians talking with us about our shared future.

This is the most challenging time Tasmanians have faced together. We have shown strength, resilience, compassion and more. We must continue to work together in new ways so we can revive our state. In this challenge, no-one can do this alone.

Those new ways mean new ideas, new ways of doing things, new ways of working.

The Premier has asked us to bring him options for our future to tackle the impact and maximise the opportunities arising from COVID-19. It's not just the voice of the Council he wants to hear, it's the voice of all Tasmanians.

We want to work with you through some very tight timelines to listen, learn and shape together the actions that will lead this recovery phase.

Recovery is in all our hands. As Tasmanians we can work towards our future together.

This paper explains our planned approach.

1. About the Council

The Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Council (PESRAC) has been established by the Premier to provide advice to the Government on strategies and initiatives to support the short to medium, and the longer-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council is made up of a number of highly engaged and experienced individuals from across a broad range of the Tasmanian community, led by Mr Don Challen AM.

2. Our Approach to Consultation

The Council is keen to hear the ideas and concerns and understand the challenges being experienced by all members of our community.

We recognise that consultation is critical to fully understand how COVID-19 has impacted, or is likely to impact our Tasmanian community, both socially and economically.

Engagement with the Tasmanian community will help to ensure that our advice and recommendations are better-developed and will have lasting, positive effects, making Tasmania into a stronger, more resilient state.

Tasmania's recovery from COVID-19 will be a joint effort across government, industry and business, local government, community groups and the broader public. We believe community-led recovery will deliver the best results and therefore widespread involvement in our work is critical.

A flexible approach to consultation is important, particularly in the rapidly changing environment of COVID-19, so that impacts, strategies and initiatives can be considered as they emerge.

3. Our Consultation Objectives

We aim to be clear and open in our engagement and consultation with Government, key stakeholders in both the private and community sectors and the broader Tasmanian community.

Our overall consultation objectives are to:

- encourage broad participation in the Council's work by stakeholders and the community;
- provide a range of different opportunities and mechanisms to engage with the Council and provide input into recovery strategies and initiatives,
- raise awareness of the Council's work;
- ensure a collaborative approach to developing recovery strategies and initiatives;
- create a two-way communication channel between stakeholders, the community and the Council; and
- show how consultation has influenced the Council's work.

4. The Phases of Our Work

Our Terms of Reference set out three deliverables for the Premier:

- an initial report, due in June/July that was to set out any immediate actions to commence the recovery process;
- an interim report, due in August/September that was to make recommendations on medium-term and potentially longer-term recovery measures. The timing of that report was to provide the opportunity for our recommendations to inform the Budget development process for the November 2020 State Budget.
- A Final Report, likely in early 2021 presenting our final recommendations.

We were provided with a wealth of information during Phase One, not only on impacts but also ideas and strategies for responding. We have brought forward our interim report recommendations into our first report, and combine them with immediate actions for the Premier's consideration. This provides ample opportunity for our recommendations to be considered by the Government and stakeholders well ahead of the November Budget.

Accordingly, we now have a two-phased approach to consultation.

Phase One Consultation

When: May - June 2020

How: To inform the first phase of our work and the delivery of the July 2020 Report, we undertook a programme of targeted input to identify current and potential future impacts directly resulting from COVID-19, and to capture the mitigation strategies already in place.

Targeted consultation occurred with Government Agencies, existing recovery networks, and peak bodies, to understand known and emerging impacts.

We gathered information through research, data, direct contact, and by seeking input from peak bodies.

A range of other parties took the opportunity to provide us material during this phase of our work.

Why: This was a targeted 'Listening Phase' to assist us to gain a rapid understanding of the current situation at a broad level. It will also assist us in developing more targeted consultation for Stage Two.

Phase Two Consultation

When: August - October 2020

How: Consultation will extend to the broader community.

In addition to our July Report to the Premier and some supporting information materials produced by our Secretariat, we will publish material to guide the consultation process (eg. Issues Papers). This material will be informed by the targeted consultation from Phase One and will seek broad input from the Tasmanian community.

We will seek feedback through formal submissions, Secretariat meetings with some stakeholder and representative groups and informal communications. If appropriate, we will consider online surveys on specific matters.

We will publish consultation materials on our website and provide an easy means of receiving input. We will also use traditional media channels, existing network partnerships and local government, to ensure that regional areas who may not have easy online access, can be informed and have the opportunity to participate.

Why: This continues the 'Listening Phase' and is also the 'Longer-term Strategic Phase': We will continue to develop our understanding of specific impacts in particular areas of economic and social areas. We will seek input widely on ideas and opportunities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and build momentum for recovery, particularly in the medium and longer-term.

We have a strong desire to develop methods to enable cross-sector engagement and collaborative thinking on mitigation strategies - the magnitude of the challenges and the opportunities facing Tasmania warrant it. A long-list of proposals for Government spending would be inconsistent with the financial impacts of COVID-19 on the Government. Innovative and connected responses across business, the community and government will be required.

5. How We Will Consult

Our first report (and the supporting information documents) is key in framing our engagement with Tasmanians because it:

- sets out what we have learned in our first phase - how COVID-19 has impacted the economy, people and places;
- establishes our conceptual framework for how we think recovery should be approached by establishing a set of strategic priorities to frame the recovery journey; and
- contains a package of immediate actions we believe are necessary to commence the recovery journey.

During Phase Two consultation, we will be inviting input on medium and long-term solutions to drive recovery. It will be important that all Tasmanians have the opportunity to be involved in designing the recommendations on strategies and initiatives that will be included in our Final Report.

We will use a range of communication tools, which are set out below.

Community Consultation

Following the initial report, we will invite broad consultation, asking all interested parties and the community to provide us input.

Once we have produced our guidance material (eg. Issues Papers), we will invite submissions through the traditional print and news media. We will also publish all information available on our webpage at: www.pesrac.tas.gov.au

Where material is available online, such as surveys or Factsheets, we will also look to provide access for members of the public without online access.

Media Release

A media statement will be released at each relevant Stage that invites submissions. Media channels will also be used to provide general information and updates on the Council's work.

Survey and feedback forms

Where appropriate, short surveys with targeted questions could be deployed for easy submissions to be made to the Council. Feedback forms will also provide an opportunity for further comment not related to specific questions.

Traditional submissions

For those wanting to provide further or different information than the survey or feedback forms provide for, traditional written submissions will be invited. This form may be more appropriate for organisations or representative groups who are providing submissions on behalf of a membership base.

PESRAC website and contact information

Information about the Council can be found at the webpage below. All Consultation Papers, released reports, published submissions and other information about the Council's work will be progressively added to the webpage.

Secretariat contacts:

E: secretariat.PESRAC@treasury.tas.gov.au

W: <https://www.pesrac.tas.gov.au/home>

6. Consultation Outcomes

Following feedback and engagement with the peak entities and broader community, the Secretariat will research, analyse and consider feedback to develop potential recommendations for the Council's consideration. The consultation outcomes will inform the Council's advice to the Premier.

General Correspondence

Feedback and general comments made to the Council throughout the process will not be published as submissions.

Publishing Papers and Submissions.

The Council will publish some papers and submissions to guide the consultation process, where appropriate.

7. Our Formal Reports

The Council reports directly to the Premier and the publishing of the Council's reports is not a matter for the Council. If reports are publicly released by the Premier, they will be made available on the Council's website.