

THE PREMIER'S ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated health measures have had a significant impact on International, Australian and Tasmanian communities and economies with restrictions leading to widespread closures of businesses and community isolation across the world. The scale of the economic and consequent social impacts is considerable.

In response to this, both the Australian and Tasmanian Governments have announced unprecedented support packages to underpin the health and well-being of Tasmanians and to support businesses, community groups and the economy in the immediate short term wherever possible.

The Tasmanian Government, in concert with the Australian Government, is also looking at strategies to minimise the medium and longer term impact on our social fabric and the economy, to ensure that the Tasmanian community is well placed to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

There continues to be significant uncertainty and the road to recovery will depend on a range of inter-related social and economic factors. These will include the need to live and work with the coronavirus pandemic until such time as a vaccine is available. Ongoing containment measures will impact the way our community interacts and how our businesses operate. These are uncertain times, with changing financial market conditions, international and domestic supply disruptions, and significant personal impacts on all Tasmanians.

The way that our broader economy operates and how our society interacts with it will be considerably different to the recent past, and there will be challenges ahead. We need to acknowledge that and importantly plan for a different future both in the short to medium and into the longer term as well, and look for opportunities to build a stronger Tasmania.

Purpose

The Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) has been established 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.

PESRAC will provide advice and recommendations on how to best mitigate the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. PESRAC will also identify opportunities for economic and social renewal.

PESRAC will be made up of individuals from across the business and community sectors and will leverage the experience, knowledge and resourcefulness of these community leaders to advise the Premier on the opportunities for economic and social initiatives to build a stronger and more resilient Tasmanian community and to strengthen and renew the Tasmanian economy.

PESRAC will provide advice to the Government for a roadmap to recovery for a stronger Tasmania

Focus of the Council

The Council will make recommendations to the Premier to:

- identify additional immediate short term actions as well as, the medium and longer term issues to be addressed by government, the community and the private sector to facilitate sustainable economic growth and mitigate the social impacts of COVID19;
- target sectors in which Tasmania has or can develop a competitive and brand advantage;
- capture opportunities for, or identify impediments to employment growth;
- support and enable Tasmanians to take advantage of a different way of life and work and business, or to reinvent themselves in new and emerging industries; and
- identify opportunities to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the community through sustainable social initiatives.

PESRAC will need to take account of any recommendations of Public Health Tasmania, the National Cabinet and work undertaken by the National COVID-19 Coordination Committee, including national economic and financial settings.

Workplan

The format, structure and timing of meetings will be determined by the Chair and considered at the first meeting.

Meetings will be held with industry and community groups who will provide submissions to directly inform the development of PESRAC's work.

PESRAC will provide advice on immediate actions/initiatives to the Government by July 2020 and an interim report containing findings and recommendations by September 2020 to inform the development of the 2020-21 Budget.

The timing of other reporting stages will be determined by the Premier and the Chair following consideration of the status of the pandemic towards the end of 2020.

Membership of the Council

PESRAC will be chaired by Mr Don Challen AM

Members will include:

Mr Paul Ranson	Ms Kym Goodes
Ms Leanne McLean	Professor Rufus Black
Ms Brett Torossi	Ms Samantha Hogg
Mr Tim Gardner	Mr Dale Elphinstone

The council will meet as required by the Chair

Secretariat

A dedicated unit will be established in the Department of Treasury and Finance supported by DPAC and State Growth to provide Secretariat support for PESRAC, and will draw on resources from across Government as required.

The Secretariat will consult with a Head of Agency reference group consisting of the Secretaries of The Departments of Treasury and Finance, Premier and Cabinet and State Growth.

The unit will be responsible for drafting agendas, undertaking research, liaising with the State Control Centre and the Recovery Advisor, equivalent bodies in the Australian Government and other jurisdictions, State Agencies and Government Businesses and will prepare policy papers, including recommendations, for the consideration of PESRAC.