



**Brighton
Council**

Media Release

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South-Central Sub-Region (SCS) of councils releases strategic infrastructure planning report by KPMG

The South-Central Sub-Region (SCS) of councils has released an important strategic infrastructure planning study conducted by KPMG on behalf of the group. The report highlights the critical infrastructure priorities for the next 10 years in a region that has some very high growth areas. The report was jointly funded as a collaboration between Brighton, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and Southern Midlands councils and is evidence of the importance these four (4) councils place on long term planning for the entire region, with its inherently linked services and communities.

Brighton Mayor, Councillor Leigh Gray is the Chair of the South-Central Sub-Region (SCS) and explained:

“The SCS recognised that this report was key to ensuring future investment in infrastructure to support each council’s growth. We know that there will be growing pains, opportunities and infrastructure needs in the coming decade for the whole region and we wanted to clearly name these up and prioritise projects and initiatives based on a solid strategic approach to planning and infrastructure. In this way investment dollars can be more effectively utilised for the entire region and its communities.”

Some quick facts from the study reveal why this report is so important at this point in time for the region:

- A total **population of close to 38,000 people**, with half of this population residing in the Brighton Council area – the fastest growing in the region.
- Currently a large proportion of the workforce is employed in Greater Hobart, with **83% of the workforce travelling to work by car**.
- The region has a **projected \$2.3 billion plus in game-changer investments** over the coming 10 years, including the Bridgewater Bridge, Brighton High School, Tarraleah Hydro Scheme, TasWater Bryn Estyn renewal, Bagdad Mangalore Bypass and Tas Irrigation projects.
- There is a further **pipeline of over \$400 million in mid-sized projects and over \$300 million projected in the tourism and hospitality sector**.



“Most importantly the report has highlighted some key future projects and initiatives for our region to focus on, including the increasingly significant freight route between the Brighton Hub, Cambridge and the Hobart Airport. This is emerging as a State significant freight route and core to Tasmania’s industrial network, fundamental to industrial growth and export opportunity. The study recommends the State Government take over ownership of this route and upgrade it to make it more viable as a key freight route, which will also take heavy vehicles out of the city and could form part of the Hobart City Deal.” Mayor Gray said.

“This piece of work sets out the key investments needed by all three tiers of government over the coming decade to support our changing communities, and to support the significant residential growth and business and industrial investment we are seeing.”

“We also know how important social infrastructure will be to support our growing communities, including childcare centres, medical services, parks, playgrounds, education facilities and sporting facilities.” Mayor Gray added.

“The report has highlighted the need for some practical improvements to facilitate business and development in our region. The Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy is in urgent need of renewal to ensure growth is properly planned, steered to the best locations and prepared for with appropriate infrastructure. An improved headworks system for sewer and water to make development more equitable and remove hurdles for particularly residential subdivisions, supporting the growing tourism and agriculture sectors, and addressing the remaining communication blackspots within the region emerge as other critical issues.”

“As a sub-region, our four councils work collaboratively whenever it makes sense to do so, in the interests of our communities. Our highly successful regional Jobs Hub is a great example of this approach. This new report provides us a shared evidence-backed vision to work with state and federal government on, facilitating further private investment and strengthening our communities.”

The full SCS *Infrastructure Planning Report*, KPMG, March 2022 can be found on Brighton Council’s website here: <https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SCS-Infrastructure-Study-Final-Report-18-March-2022.pdf> .

Ends

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