

2025-26 Budget Community Consultation Submission Guidelines

November 2024



2025-26 State Budget Community Consultation Guidelines

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State Budget Community Consultation

INTRODUCTION

Every year the Tasmanian Government consults widely with the community as part of developing the Budget for the following year. This ensures that all Tasmanians can have a say on the State's budget priorities and policies and how the Government can ensure a fair and sustainable base to fund these initiatives. It is important that the development of public policy is informed by a wide range of views.

These guidelines are designed to assist in the preparation of written submissions for the State Budget Community Consultation process, including providing the context in which the 2025-26 Budget will be developed.

All parties making a submission are strongly encouraged to review and consider these guidelines through the development of their submissions.

SCOPE

The State Budget Community Consultation process provides the opportunity for peak community organisations, individuals and other organisations, to provide advice regarding:

- the environment in which you or your organisation currently operates;
- identification of services that you or your organisation considers should be a high priority to the Government;
- identification of instances where Government goods and services could be delivered more effectively, in a better way, or more successfully;
- identification of instances where Government goods and services could be delivered more efficiently that is, at a lower cost or in a timelier manner;
- identification of instances where savings could be achieved by either ceasing activities or changing the way in which Government activities are performed or delivered;
- identification of options for the funding of goods and services; and
- the impact of State taxes and charges within the context of the organisation's current role within the Tasmanian community or opportunities to streamline taxes and charges.

The State Budget Community Consultation process does not form part of the wide range of Grant Programs and other Funding Opportunities provided by the Tasmanian government which are identified under the Further Information section. Rather, the State Budget Community Consultation process informs how the Government prioritises what services, projects or initiatives the Government may undertake on behalf of the community. Where a State Budget Community Consultation process submission meets the eligibility requirements of an existing grant or funding program, the submitting organisation may be encouraged and assisted to make an application for grant funding.

Submission information is available on the Treasury website www.treasury.tas.gov.au

2025-26 Budget Development Context

The timing of the State Election in March 2024 delayed the 2024-25 Budget to 12 September 2024. Returning the 2025-26 Budget to a May Budget date, will necessitate a condensed Budget planning and development period. In recognition of this, the Government has implemented streamlined processes, including for the 2025-26 State Budget Community Consultation Process, to assist all relevant parties.

The national and global fiscal environment has changed dramatically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Continuing global uncertainty and moderating inflation continue to increase Government budgetary pressures. The current Budget outlook includes softening in some revenue lines and increasing costs and demand for Government services.

The context for preparing the 2025-26 Budget has not changed. The State continues to face a challenging Budget environment. The Government remains committed to continuing the implementation of initiatives announced in the 2024-25 Budget, including the delivery of the Government's *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future*, other new funding initiatives and The Budget Efficiency Dividend.

These factors mean that agencies must focus on priority services and that any new services must generally be funded through savings in other areas.

Your submission should consider this Budget development context.

In particular, views and suggestions are sought regarding which services provided by government are to be considered the highest priority and areas where savings could be achieved through either improving service delivery or ceasing activities or services.

2025-26 Community Consultation Process

The Budget Management Branch of the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) is responsible for coordinating the 2025-26 State Budget Community Consultation process.

The general process is outlined below.

11 November 2024

The State Budget Community Consultation process commences.

Community organisations are encouraged to meet with the relevant Ministers to understand the 2025-26 Budget development context and discuss their submission.

18 December 2024

The final date for Community Consultation submissions to be received by Treasury.

December 2024

Treasury will acknowledge receipt of your submission.

All submissions received will be provided to relevant agencies and Ministers for consideration as part of the development of the 2025-26 agency Budget submissions. It will be the responsibility of the relevant agency to thoroughly review your submission and provide a response through the relevant Minister as considered appropriate.

January 2024

Agencies develop and finalise submissions for consideration in the 2025-26 Budget Development Process.

May 2025

2025-26 Budget delivered by the Treasurer.

ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

Every submission received through the State Budget Community Consultation is assigned a lead agency by Treasury and is made available to all Government agencies, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Treasurer.

Community Consultation submissions are considered by agencies through preparation for the Budget development process.

It is not possible for all Community Consultation submissions to be reflected in the State Budget. This could be due to a number of factors, including:

- little or no alignment to the Government's strategic priorities;
- the submission refers to goods or services outside the scope of the Tasmanian Government;
- further work is required to develop or understand the ideas and recommendations in the submission for it to be ready to be used in the development of public policy;
- further analysis of costs or benefits may be required; or
- the proposal is beyond the Government's financial capacity.

PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

In accordance with the Tasmanian Government Guideline [Publication of submissions received by Tasmanian Government Departments in response to consultation on major policy matters](#), budget submissions, including submissions received through the State Budget Community Consultation, process are not published by the Tasmanian Government.

Organisations and individuals participating in the State Budget Community Consultation process may choose to self-publish their submissions - doing so will not impact the assessment or consideration of any Community Consultation submission.

Content and Format of Submissions

Peak community organisations and members of the community are encouraged to raise any issues considered to be of sufficient priority in the context of their role or function in the Tasmanian community.

The Tasmanian Government understands and appreciates the time and effort committed by community organisations, businesses and individuals in preparing submissions for the Community Consultation process. Reflecting this, the Government supports succinct submissions that raise, and provide evidence for, key issues to inform the development of budget decisions.

Peak groups are also encouraged to organise a meeting with relevant Ministers to discuss Community Consultation submissions. It is only through inclusion in agency Budget submissions that issues can be formally considered as part of the Budget Development process.

Agencies or Ministers may seek further information or clarification from a participant of the Community Consultation process.

Given the significant number of submissions received by the Government, it would be appreciated if the following are taken into consideration during the preparation of submissions.

TIMEFRAMES

It is requested that your submissions focus on the four-year period from 2025-26 to 2028-29 which will incorporate the Budget and Forward Estimates period included in the 2025-26 Budget Papers.

Information regarding longer-term trends may be provided in explanatory information within a Community Consultation submission.

FORMAT

There are no mandatory inclusions or specific requirements for submissions. However, the information included in the body of the submission should provide supporting details, information, and commentary in relation to any recommendations.

This will assist readers in gaining a good understanding of why the issue is important to you or your organisation. It is recommended that your submission is succinct with key issues and/or recommendations being clearly identifiable.

Single-issue submissions

Individuals or organisations that wish to raise single, or a very limited number of issues, should not feel constrained by the suggested 'complex submission' format below.

Shorter submissions should remain focussed on the clear and concise presentation of the particular issue and should be limited to two-pages in length.

Complex submissions

Longer or more complex submissions should follow the below structure:

Executive Summary

The submission should commence with an Executive Summary that succinctly (e.g. one page) provides an overview of the key elements or recommendations of the submission.

Prioritisation of Recommendations

In this section each key element or recommendation can be explained in more detail. Where possible these items should be prioritised and costed.

The information provided should be sufficient to allow readers to gain a good understanding of why the issue is important to the submitting organisation and suggestions for how that issue can be addressed or improved.

The information on each element or recommendation should be concise (e.g. no more than two pages).

Organisation's Role and Function

If applicable, the submission should include a brief outline of the role and function of the organisation in the Tasmanian Community.

Further Information

GENERAL BUDGET INFORMATION

The State Budget comprises estimates for the coming Budget year and estimates for the following three years (the Forward Estimates).

The Budget is prepared in compliance with the financial management framework established by the *Financial Management Act 2016* which has applied since 1 July 2019.

The *Charter of Budget Responsibility Act 2007* provides an additional framework to improve fiscal policy outcomes.

Information regarding the content and format of the Budget Papers and other documents distributed with the Budget Papers is available in the [Understanding the Budget Papers](#) resource available from the Treasury website.

KEY WEBSITES TO ASSIST SUBMISSION PREPARATION

When preparing submissions for the State Budget Community Consultation, organisations may find it useful to refer to the following resources:

[Department of Treasury and Finance website](#)

The Treasury website provides access to Budget and financial publications and to these guidelines.

[Keeping Children Safe and Rebuilding Trust](#)

The Tasmanian Government Response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings. This website describes process against all actions and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

[Service Tasmania](#)

The Service Tasmania website provides information on a wide range of Government services and provides links to other Government websites.

[Tasmanian Government Information](#)

The Tasmanian Government Information website provides links to all Government Agency websites and other Tasmanian websites.

EXISTING TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS AND OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Many Tasmanian Government agencies facilitate grant and other funding programs which can be accessed by peak community organisations, businesses, individuals and other organisations. These include, but are not limited to:

[Arts Tasmania](#)

Arts Tasmania offers grants and funding to support Tasmanian artists and arts workers, arts businesses and arts organisations delivering activities in Tasmania and Tasmanian small museums and collections.

[Business Tasmania](#)

Business Tasmania maintain a comprehensive list of funding opportunities available to businesses in Tasmania. This page also has a section covering the range of free support, training and learning opportunities that are available to help start or run a business.

[Community Grants](#)

The Community Grants Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC Grants) manages and supports community grants, Aboriginal Partnerships, scholarships, allowances and emergency assistance funding. Grant funding is at the direction of Ministers and/or delegated department employees.

[Healthy Tasmania Fund](#)

The Healthy Tasmania Fund is a grants program for health and wellbeing in Tasmania. The Fund supports the work of local government and community organisations that are well placed to know their community needs and priorities.

[Professional and Sector Development](#)

The Department of State Growth offers grants and loans to businesses, organisations and individuals to assist in professional and sector development in Tasmania.

[Skills Tasmania](#)

Skills Tasmania offers a range of funding programs for delivery of nationally recognized training and other support to address workforce development and training priorities of the Tasmanian Government.

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