



Cradle Coast Authority
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By email: vterry@cradlecoast.com

Dear Ms Terry,

Local Power, Local Prosperity: ensuring older Tasmanians share in the benefits of the renewable energy transition

COTA Tasmania welcomes the release of *Local Power, Local Prosperity* report and congratulates the Cradle Coast Authority on its practical and constructive contribution to the regional conversation about Tasmania's renewable energy pipeline.

COTA Tasmania is the peak body for older Tasmanians. Our interest in this work is not in the technical delivery of renewable energy infrastructure, but in ensuring that major regional development is planned and managed in a way that strengthens communities, protects liveability, and delivers long-term benefits for people of all ages.

We strongly support the report's call for early, coordinated planning across government, industry, and community. The scale of proposed investment in the Cradle Coast region presents real opportunity, but also real risk if cumulative impacts are not identified and managed before pressure points become entrenched.

From COTA Tasmania's perspective, cumulative impact assessment and regional transition planning should explicitly consider the needs of older residents and existing communities, not only the requirements of major projects and incoming construction workforces.

In particular, we encourage attention to the following issues:

Housing and community legacy

COTA supports the report's focus on housing and legacy outcomes. Temporary worker accommodation and associated infrastructure should be planned from the outset with future community use in mind. This could include affordable and accessible housing, key worker housing for health and aged care staff, or other community assets that support ageing in place.

Universal design and accessibility should be embedded early, so that any long-term housing or community infrastructure legacy is suitable for people across the life course, including older people and people with disability.

Health, aged care, and community service capacity

Large construction programs can place pressure on local health and community services, both through population growth and through competition for workers.

In regional Tasmania, where health, aged care, home care, allied health, and community support services are already under strain, these impacts should be assessed early and monitored over time.

Planning should consider not only hospital and GP capacity, but also aged care, home care, pharmacy access, allied health, community transport, volunteering, social support, and informal caring networks. These services are essential to older people's wellbeing and to the liveability of regional communities.

Transport and access

COTA welcomes the report's reference to Demand-Responsive Transport. Transport planning should include the needs of older people, people with disability, people who do not drive, carers, volunteers, and residents of smaller communities outside major transport routes.

For older people, transport is not simply a workforce issue. It affects access to medical appointments, shopping, social connection, community participation, volunteering, caring responsibilities, and essential services.

Energy affordability and household resilience

The renewable energy transition should deliver a practical dividend for local communities, including older households. Many older Tasmanians live on low or fixed incomes and are particularly vulnerable to energy hardship, especially during winter.

COTA encourages consideration of targeted home energy upgrades, support for low-income households, community energy initiatives, and other measures that reduce energy costs and improve household resilience for older residents.

Local decision-making and community voice

COTA strongly supports the report's emphasis on local decision-making. Planning for the renewable energy transition should include structured opportunities for older residents and community organisations to contribute their lived experience of local service gaps, transport barriers, health access issues, housing pressures, and social infrastructure needs.

Older people are often long-term residents with deep knowledge of their communities. Their perspectives should be included in shaping what "local prosperity" means in practice.

Avoiding preventable failure demand

COTA also welcomes the report's attention to the concept of failure demand. If housing, health, transport, and community service impacts are not anticipated, the costs will emerge later in more harmful and expensive forms: preventable hospital presentations, housing stress, carer strain, workforce churn, social isolation, and emergency responses.

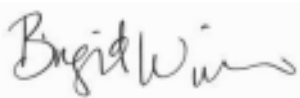
Early planning is therefore not only good regional development practice; it is also prevention.

What next

COTA Tasmania would welcome the opportunity to contribute an older Tasmanians lens to any shared regional planning process arising from the *Local Power, Local Prosperity* report, particularly in relation to housing legacy, transport access, health and community service capacity, energy affordability, and ensuring that the benefits of the renewable energy transition are shared fairly across generations.

Thank you again for this important work. We would be pleased to remain engaged as the regional planning process develops.

Yours sincerely



Brigid Wilkinson

Chief Executive Officer

2nd June 2026