



Small Business Growth Strategy 2036 Discussion Paper

Consultation framework

February 2026

<https://engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/SBGS-2037>



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Acknowledgment of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, the Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to the Palawa/Tasmanian Aboriginal people, as the original and continuing owners of Tasmania.

Executive Summary

The Small Business Growth Strategy 2026 was developed to set out the priorities and action areas for government and the private sector to support business growth in Tasmania. The strategy, which covered the period from 2022-2026, was launched on 26 February 2023 following an extensive consultation process throughout 2022.

The government is now working to develop the next iteration of the strategy which will cover the period from January 2027 through to December 2036, and this paper outlines the consultation that will be undertaken to support the development of the Small Business Growth Strategy 2036.

It details the objectives, focus areas and expected outcomes of the consultation process which will shape the next iteration of the strategy, and set the framework for a productive, connected and sustainable business environment for Tasmania over the next 10 years.

As with the previous strategy, the Small Business Growth Strategy 2036 will be developed in partnership with the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tasmanian Small Business Council.

Introduction

The Tasmanian Government is determined to make Tasmania the best place in the nation to live, work, raise a family, invest and do business.

Small business accounts for more than 97 per cent of all businesses in the state, provides over one third of private sector employment, and plays a crucial role in regional development, community wellbeing and innovation. As such, a key pillar of the Tasmanian Government's plan is supporting small business through the development of the Small Business Growth Strategy 2036 – a strong strategy that will establish government and private sector priorities and action areas, enabling Tasmania's small-business sector to grow and thrive.

To achieve this, the Department of State Growth, on behalf of the Tasmanian Government, is undertaking targeted consultation to refresh the current strategy by capturing new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the last consultation four years ago.

The consultation will seek input from representative organisations and peak bodies, as well as Tasmanian small businesses and members of the public with an interest in small business.

Purpose of consultation

The consultation will gather insights on the current strategy's themes and objectives to confirm that everything is still relevant, and to check whether anything needs to be tweaked.

Because the consultation undertaken in 2022 was extensive, it is not expected that significant changes to the strategy will be required.

Specifically, this consultation process aims to seek input on:

- Whether the four themes in the current strategy still represent what's important to Tasmanian businesses
- Whether the objectives that sit under each of the four themes in the current strategy are still the key areas that should be focused on
- Challenges or opportunities that have emerged since the last strategy was developed in 2022

The outcome of the consultation process will be a refreshed version of the existing strategy.

How to have your say

We invite you to read this discussion paper and share your views.

You can make a submission via the website by completing the survey, or by making a written submission via the website, email or post:

Website: www.engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/SBGS-2037

Email: ask@business.tas.gov.au

Post: Small Business Growth Strategy 2036
GPO Box 536
Hobart TAS 7001

Written submissions can be in Word or PDF format. Targeted questions are included in this paper to help you prepare your submission. You may wish to comment on only one or two matters of interest or respond to all questions.

Your responses will help to inform the Small Business Growth Strategy 2036.

Consultation will be open until **2pm, 15 May 2026**.

If you need access to a translating and interpreting service, please call 1800 440 026.

If you require any further information, you can contact Business Tasmania by phone on 1800 440 026 or email at ask@business.tas.gov.au

Publication of submissions

Other than indicated below, submissions will be treated as public information and will be published on the following website after the consultation process closes:

www.engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/SBGS-2037

No personal information other than an individual's name or the organisation making a submission will be published.

Tasmanian Government Submission Policy

In the absence of a clear indication a submission is intended to be treated as confidential (or parts of the submission), the Department of State Growth will treat the submission as public.

If you would like your submission treated as confidential, whether in whole or in part, please indicate this in writing at the time of making your submission. Clearly identify the parts of your submission you want to remain confidential and the reasons why. In this case, your submission will not be published to the extent of that request.

Copyright in submissions remains with the author(s), not with the Tasmanian Government.

The Department of State Growth will not publish, in whole or in part, submissions containing defamatory or offensive material. If your submission includes information that could enable the identification of other individuals, then either all or parts of the submission will not be published.

The Right to Information Act 2009 and confidentiality

Information provided to the Tasmanian Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the Right to Information Act 2009 (RTI). If you have indicated you wish all or part of your submission to be treated as confidential, your statement detailing the reasons may be taken into account in determining to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure. You may also be contacted to provide further comment.

Stakeholders to be consulted

The following stakeholders will be invited to provide input:

Stakeholder group	Anticipated role in consultation process
Representative organisations and peak bodies (for example, Tasmanian Small Business Council, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, regional chambers and sector-specific bodies)	Represent business interests, provide business insights, identify sectoral nuances
Tasmanian small businesses and the general public with an interest in small business	Provide individual and unique business insights
State Government policy and program areas and other entities with projects and plans that relate to the Small Business Growth Strategy	Provide insights into broader opportunities and challenges that impact small business
Tasmanian Business Advice Service and New Business Support Service providers	Represent business interests, provide business insights, identify sectoral nuances

Key considerations (targeted survey questions)

The consultation survey will seek responses to the below questions.

The questions are based on the Small Business Growth Strategy 2026, which can be downloaded from the consultation page at

www.engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/SBGS-2037

Question 1: Themes

When the current strategy was developed in 2022, the feedback gathered during the consultation process was grouped into four key themes:

- People and connections – focuses on the people who run, work in, and buy from businesses, and the essential connections between them, industry and government.

- Place – focuses on leveraging Tasmania’s unique brand, building the resilience needed for our location and lifestyle, and supporting businesses to adopt sustainable practices.
- Enabling business – focuses on enabling business success through flexible, innovative and efficient support tailored to Tasmania’s unique operating environment.
- Technology – focuses on technology as a key driver of productivity, market access and efficiency, helping Tasmanian businesses overcome challenges and grow.

Please rate each of the themes in terms of their importance to Tasmanian businesses today.

	Not important at all	Somewhat unimportant	Neither important nor unimportant	Important	Extremely important
People and connections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enabling business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Question 2: People and connections

What should the Tasmanian Government focus on to help business owners, employees, customers and government connect better with each other?

Rank these objectives from **Most Important (1) to Least Important (5)**

- ☐ Networking and collaboration – facilitating connections between people, businesses, industries and suppliers
- ☐ Local purchasing – having purchasing and contracting arrangements that prioritise local businesses and suppliers
- ☐ Staff, skills and training – addressing labour challenges so that businesses can get the right people with the right skills
- ☐ Population – fostering targeted population growth to increase participation in the Tasmanian workforce
- ☐ Housing and public transport – supporting appropriate housing and transport solutions so that businesses, particularly regional ones, can attract skilled staff

Question 3: Place

What should the Tasmanian Government prioritise to help businesses get the most out of Tasmania's uniqueness?

Rank these objectives from **Most Important (1) to Least Important (3)**

- ☐ Tasmanian brand – supporting businesses to align themselves to the Tasmanian brand
- ☐ Location, size and lifestyle – continuing to build business resilience so Tasmanian businesses are well positioned to address challenges relating to our location and size
- ☐ Environment, climate and renewable energy – encouraging and supporting Tasmanian businesses to adopt more sustainable practices

Question 4: Enabling business

Where should the Tasmanian Government focus their support so that businesses start, operate and grow successfully?

Rank these objectives from **Most Important (1) to Least Important (5)**

- ☐ Business advice and support – providing access to reliable, trusted and specialised guidance that supports businesses to get on with doing what they do best
- ☐ New businesses – nurturing Tasmania's entrepreneurial spirit so that new and innovative businesses continue to emerge
- ☐ Operating environment – working across various levels of government to respond to ongoing and emerging operating environment challenges, such as globally rising costs
- ☐ Scaling up – working with businesses and representative organisations to address barriers to scaling-up operations
- ☐ Red tape reduction – continuing to streamline government processes to reduce red tape and minimise unnecessary barriers to growth

Question 5: Technology

How should the Tasmanian Government help businesses to use technology to address challenges, increase productivity and open up new markets?

Rank these objectives from **Most Important (1) to Least Important (3)**

- ☐ Digital connectivity – continuing to improve and upgrade Tasmania's digital networks and infrastructure

- ☐ Global markets – supporting businesses to access global markets through the use of digital platforms
- ☐ Digital capability – supporting businesses to understand and use technology to enable growth and efficiency

Question 6:

Do you think the themes of People and connections, Place, Enabling business and Technology cover what they need to?

If no, what would you change about the themes?

Question 7:

This survey outlines a range of objectives to support small business, is there anything you would change or add?

Question 8:

Since the last strategy was developed in 2022, what new challenges or opportunities have emerged for small businesses?

Question 9:

Is there anything you'd particularly like the Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs to understand about Tasmanian small businesses?

Next steps

Following the consultation process, the findings will be analysed and a Draft Small Business Growth Strategy 2036 will be produced. Cabinet endorsement of the strategy will be sought prior to its planned release in late 2026.

Once the strategy is finalised, an initial three-to-five-year implementation plan will be developed that identifies the activities that will be undertaken to deliver on the strategy's themes and objectives.

If you require any further information, contact Business Tasmania by phone on 1800 440 026 or email at ask@business.tas.gov.au.