

Media Release

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TCCI says challenging past year has positive results

The State's peak employer body, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry says while last year was a challenging one, the results for the organisation over the past 12 months have been extremely positive.

At its annual general meeting, the TCCI's outgoing Chairman, Martin Rees said the strategies developed by the Board and implemented by staff were returning positive results.

The organisation incurred a loss of \$183,590 for the current financial year compared to a loss in 2009 of \$915,465. Mr Rees said the current year's loss was anticipated and was less than advised to the TCCI's members earlier this year. Mr Rees said pleasingly, the projections for 2011 were showing a return to profit for the member body.

The direction of the organisation that showed a marked improvement in the past financial year, included a comprehensive strategic review of the operations and resources of the TCCI. Mr Rees said the key outcomes of the review were to maintain a focus on growing TCCI's membership and to provide the best value-for-money to them. Another key outcome was the lease of surplus space in TCCI's Hobart and Launceston buildings to provide an ongoing income to the organisation to assist in its member offerings.

"These initiatives, including other decisions made by the Board in the previous year, continued and resulted in significant improvements particularly in membership growth," Mr Rees said.

"The overall performance of the various divisions in TCCI was satisfactory, considering the very tight economic conditions nationally. There were however some important positives that did emerge.

"These were mainly in the area of Commonwealth Government compliance in industrial relations. In addition to the regular support that the organisation's Workplace Relations division provides members, it was kept extremely busy assisting members to comply with and implement procedures to meet the new Commonwealth regulations," Mr Rees said.

The TCCI is an independent and member funded not-for-profit organisation that represents 2,800 Tasmanian businesses and supporters who collectively employ 75,000 Tasmanians.

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“The TCCI also enhanced its communication with members and its representations to government on a range of key issues.

The annual general meeting elected two new Directors to the TCCI Board – businessman and Glenorchy City Council alderman, Richard Lowrie and Director of Shepherd and Heap auctioneers and real estate agents, Andrew Heap - to the TCCI Board .

At a meeting of the new Board following the AGM, Hobart property developer Troy Harper was elected Chairman.

Mr Harper paid tribute to Mr Rees, as immediate past Chairman, for the outcomes he had achieved and for his commitment to the TCCI and the Tasmanian business community over the past 14 months.

He also thanked outgoing directors, Darren Alexander, who is Chief Executive of Autech Software and Design in Launceston and Ron Ward, who is Chairman of Metro Tasmania, for their significant contribution to the Board over many years.

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