

West Tamar Council
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The West Tamar Municipal Area includes the western side of the Tamar River from the suburban area of Riverside in Launceston extending north to Bass Strait and as far west as Frankford.

West Tamar Council was inaugurated on the 2nd of April 1993 and is responsible for an area of 709 square kilometres and 457 kilometres of road network. Council's offices are in Riverside, Exeter and Beaconsfield.

The major industries are tourism, retailing, agriculture, fishing, world class vineyards and first class maritime education facilities.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage

West Tamar Council area SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics. It is a good place to start to get a general view of the relative level of disadvantage in one area compared to others and is used to advocate for an area based on its level of disadvantage.

The index is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. When targeting services to disadvantaged communities, it is important to also look at these underlying characteristics as they can differ markedly between areas with similar SEIFA scores and shed light on the type of disadvantage being experienced.

A higher score on the index means a *lower* level of disadvantage. A lower score on the index means a *higher* level of disadvantage.

The percentile column indicates the approximate position of this small area in a ranked list of Australia's suburbs and localities. It's meant to give an indication of where the area sits within the whole nation. A higher number indicates a higher socio-economic status. For instance, a percentile of 72 indicates that approximately 72% of Australia's suburbs have a SEIFA index lower than this area (more disadvantaged), while 28% are higher.

West Tamar Council area's small areas and benchmark areas		
Area	2016 index	Percentile
Legana - Grindelwald and District	1,041.9	71
Trevallyn	1,028.3	63
Riverside - Trevallyn	1,023.7	60
Riverside	1,021.8	58
Australia	1,001.9	46
West Tamar Council area	1,000.0	45
Exeter and District	990.2	40
Tasmania	957.0	24
Regional TAS	935.0	17
Beaconsfield - Beauty Point and District	895.0	9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016. Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#), the population experts.

Experiences of individuals and localities of unequal access to opportunities and unequal outcomes in non-metropolitan areas.

- **Transport**

There is limited public/private bus availability from the Beaconsfield – Beauty Point and District to facilitate appropriate pickup/drop off times to support school, after school activities and employment hours- 7 days a week.

Affordable and accessible transport is required to provide opportunities for community members/young people to access activities/programs/services and reduces social isolation. (Beaconsfield Community Health and Wellbeing Mapping Project 2010).

- **Education**

Within the municipality there is limited access to years 11 and 12, there is only one non-government school in the municipality that offers years 11 and 12.

Post school options, Tertiary and the University are located out of area, which limits individual's options in educational and occupational choices due to travel and accommodation costs as a result of the highly dispersed and non-urban population and low socio economic status.

- **Health Care**

Within the Beaconsfield – Beauty Point and District there is limited access to specialised and allied health care. There is difficulty in accessing General Practitioners and Specialists, and long waiting periods for appointments.

Individuals are required to travel to Launceston or Hobart to access appointments, which is not a major inconvenience for a one of specialist appointment, however options are very limited in regards to transport and financial assistance if multiple appointments or treatments required.

Mental Health within the Beaconsfield – Beauty Point and District, the combination of low socio-economic status and a geographically dispersed population of the Beaconsfield catchment area pose both risk and protective factors to the mental health of the population. (Beaconsfield Community Health and Wellbeing Mapping Project 2010).

- **Youth unemployment**

Within the Beaconsfield – Beauty Point and District there is limited public transport access for young people to attend education facilities and employment.

Youth unemployment is an issue due to the low education attainment and is demonstrated by poor literacy and numeracy skills and low social engagement within the community.

Job seeker services are very limited within the municipality which makes it challenging for young people to access relevant regional training programs.

- **Ageing Population**

The “sea change” feature which affects the Beaconsfield catchment area, has resulted in a significant migration to the area of residents over the age of 51. This impacts on the health status

of the community as this population group has specific needs in relation to health care (Beaconsfield Community Health and Wellbeing Mapping Project 2010).

Views on cause of inequality between regions, especially between capital cities and other areas

- Access to transport to facilitate labour mobility and education access.
- Disparity in educational levels of school leavers to continue education at a higher level.
- Forecasting of low population growth has put pressure on the viability of service provision such as education and health (RDA Tasmania Regional Plan 2017).

Policy settings which could help address inequality between regions

- Government Policies and Services- requires increased collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government, and between government and the private sector.
- Collaborative infrastructure projects that support broader regional liveability or economic outcomes.
- Industry growth is supported by strategic planning around areas including: skills development, regional co-operation, research and development along with marketing and infrastructure investment (RDA Tasmania Regional Plan 2017).
- Health: improved integration of rural and urban health services.
- Workforce participation plans developed in collaboration with all tiers of government and service providers, commencing in year 7 to ensure that students from rural and regional areas are prepared for the future.