



Introducing...

Social Enterprises and Local Government A Scoping Study

- **Does your Council work with social enterprises?**
- **Does your social enterprise work with local government?**

The Institute for Regional Development (IRD) at the University of Tasmania is partnering with the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG) on a scoping study to explore the relationship between social enterprises and local governments.

The scoping study involves a preliminary desktop study of “what we know” about local government working with or through social enterprises in Australia and overseas. We are reviewing reports, scholarly articles, and other published documents and case studies, with a particular focus on the Australian experience.

If you have any reports or published case studies documenting experiences with local government and social enterprises, we would love to include them. Please contact A/Prof Robyn Eversole (robyn.eversole@utas.edu.au).

The Scoping Paper is expected to be completed by early December and will be available via the ACELG and IRD websites. We hope this preliminary scoping study will provide the starting point for more in-depth research next year, so if you have ideas or suggestions, please share them!

Project Outline

Traditionally, local government as an agent of place is expected to generate place-based solutions. For local government, place-based solutions now include the challenge of viability and sustainability while fostering community development. The core of the contemporary community development process is its actors who participate in development intervention through organisations that focus on the ‘local’ and a social mission, for example, social enterprises. There is a growing body of evidence that the social enterprise sector plays a major part in contributing to sustainable local community economic development and social capital. Therefore, local government should possibly consider changing its current governance approach to embrace community governance modes and explore innovative solutions through potential initiatives that

include community partnerships with the social enterprise sector. There are already a number of local government / social enterprise collaborative initiatives in Australia, but very little is known about the extent or nature of these relationships. Recent literature identifies that the community engagement and participatory governance approach may be the way to go. This project is exploring international and Australian literature to identify examples and types of collaborative arrangements between local government and social enterprises. This scoping study paves the way for future research into modes of collaborative community engagement, community planning, community resilience and their impact on place-based solutions.