

Table of Contents

Table of Figures.....	1
Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction	3
Overview	6
Why did they leave Tasmania?	8
Employment and working conditions	10
Family	11
Quality of life: lifestyle, social networks, environment and opportunities	12
Governance and parochialism	13
Access to services.....	14
Education	14
Will they return to live in Tasmania?.....	15
Would like to return.....	16
May return	18
Will not return.....	19

Table of Figures

Figure 1 - Rolling average Quarter on Quarter – interstate arrivals and departures – Tasmania - 2003 to 2023	3
Figure 2 - Interstate departures by 5-year age group, period average, 2022 and 2023, Tasmania	4
Figure 3 - Net Interstate Migration by 5-year age group, period average, 2022 and 2023, Tasmania ..	5
Figure 4 Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by five-year age group	6
Figure 5 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by family composition	6
Figure 6 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by place of birth.....	7
Figure 7 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by state of residence	7
Figure 8 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by ANZSCO occupation group – Division One.....	8
Figure 9 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by the year they left Tasmania	8
Figure 10 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents pull factors for moving interstate or overseas	9
Figure 11 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents push factors for leaving Tasmania.....	10
Figure 12 - Leaving Tasmania survey responses to whether they would move back to Tasmania	15

Executive Summary

An increasing number of Tasmanians having been leaving for interstate every year since 2015. To the year ended June 2023, 15,222 people left Tasmania to live interstate, compared with 12,271 for 2013, an increase of 24 per cent over the decade.

While there have been several studies into why people move to Tasmania from interstate, there has been little investigation into the reasons why people leave to live elsewhere in Australia. New patterns of interstate migration for Tasmania are emerging and appear to divert from historic trends, warranting investigation of the underlying reasons contributing to these new patterns. This *Leaving Tasmania* study attempts to identify the factors that contribute to Tasmanians' decisions to relocate elsewhere in Australia since 2017¹.

The study found that former Tasmanian residents report being 'pushed' out of the State more so than 'pulled' to live elsewhere in Australia.

It is clear from the responses to the *Leaving Tasmania* survey that a lack of jobs which are secure, full-time and well paid are the key reasons underpinning people's decisions to leave Tasmania. Ultimately, the pull of career progression opportunities for themselves, their partner or their children lure working-age Tasmanians to live elsewhere in Australia.

While the dominant push factor was lack of employment opportunities for respondents, other reasons ranged widely from lack of quality public services such as health, education and transport, housing affordability, parochialism and negative experiences.

Six main themes emerged from the analysis of the open-ended responses; employment and working conditions was the overwhelming reason for leaving Tasmania, along with family; quality of life including culture, social networks and the environment, education, including the university and its offerings; lack of public services; and governance and parochialism in the state. Many respondents also lamented they did not want to leave but had to out of necessity.

While many respondents report that they would like to return to Tasmania one day to live (45.7%), maybe (25.5%), others said they couldn't (29.1%).

For those who would like to move back, the reasons were very clear; nostalgia and a love of the place; the nature, environment, the people and because it's 'home' as well as family and friend connections, but the decision to return is still very much dependent on opportunity and employment prospects for themselves or their partner, or retirement. For those who may consider returning to Tasmania, the decision is very much conditional on change occurring in Tasmania – in terms of the quality of public services and amenities, the culture and cost of living. For many respondents, the sense of disillusionment with the place was strongly evident.

If these patterns of interstate migration departures continue, and working age couples and families relocate for more meaningful opportunities and rewarding life experiences elsewhere in Australia, then Tasmania's population growth rate will slow further, and the population will age at a faster rate. As a result, it is likely, that Tasmania's public services will continue to deteriorate. The risk is a snowballing effect.

The next Tasmanian Government needs to critically develop a population policy for the State.

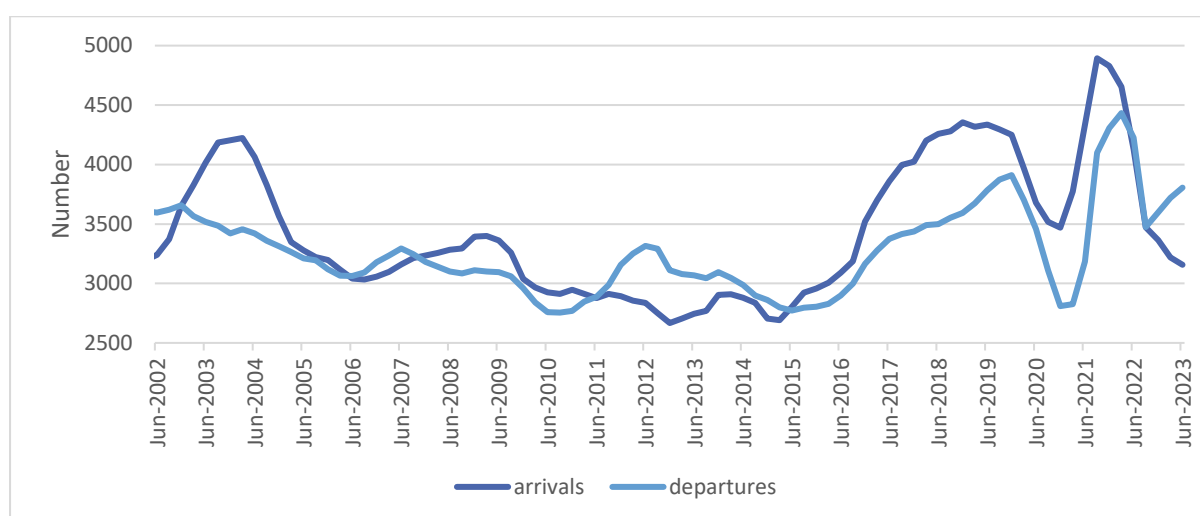
¹ The Leaving Tasmania survey attracted 127 valid responses from former residents of Tasmania.

Introduction

For the period between 2015 and 2019, an increasing number of Tasmanians moved to live elsewhere in Australia at the same time as an increasing number of people relocated from interstate to Tasmania². This was a new phenomenon for Tasmania. Historic patterns of interstate migration arrivals and departures usually reflect relative economic performance so that when the Tasmanian economy is performing well, arrivals to the state increase and departures decrease, resulting in positive net migration for the state. The reverse is true when the relative economic performance is poor; arrivals to the state decline and departures increase, usually resulting in negative net interstate migration for the state.

Post the 2020-21 pandemic period, interstate departures have begun to rise again while interstate arrivals continue to decline, heralding another new pattern in interstate migration for Tasmania.

Figure 1 - Rolling average Quarter on Quarter – interstate arrivals and departures – Tasmania - 2003 to 2023



Source: ABS, National, State and Territory Population, various years

From 2015 to 2019 when Tasmania's economy was performing relatively well, interstate arrivals increased to the state, however, departures from Tasmania to interstate also increased, creating a new pattern of interstate migration. Even so, arrivals exceeded departures so that net interstate migration to the state was positive during that period, peaking at a net gain of 3,029 interstate migrants in 2018 (the difference between 17,027 arrivals to the state, and 13,998 departures).

As is evident in Figure 1, since 2022, interstate migration movements have returned to patterns reflecting historic trends, whereby arrivals are declining, and departures are increasing. However, the cause of this pattern resumption is not necessarily clear given Tasmania's relative economic performance has not deteriorated considerably, suggesting other factors are contributing to this renewed pattern of interstate movements.

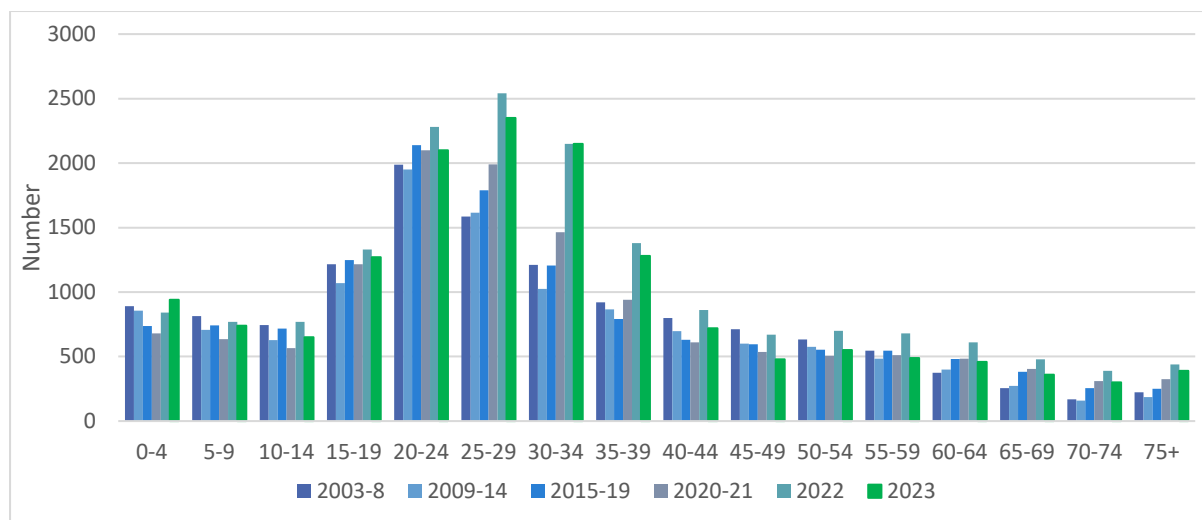
When departures from Tasmania to interstate are considered by age, the data reveals an emerging pattern, increasing numbers of young, working age families and their children have been leaving Tasmania since 2021.

² Excluding 2020 to 2021 due to COVID-19 related border controls and the accuracy of data being impacted by the mass vaccination roll out which required people to update their address details with Medicare – the primary source of administrative data used to estimate internal migration movements in Australia.

Figure 2 shows the average number of former Tasmanians moving interstate by age group for 4 periods of stable relative economic performance: 2003 to 2008, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2019 and the COVID-19 period during 2020 to 2021, and then 2022 and 2023.

As is evident, the number of Tasmanians aged between 25 and 39 years of age moving elsewhere in Australia increased considerably in 2022 and 2023 compared with historic averages.

Figure 2 - Interstate departures by 5-year age group, period average, 2022 and 2023, Tasmania



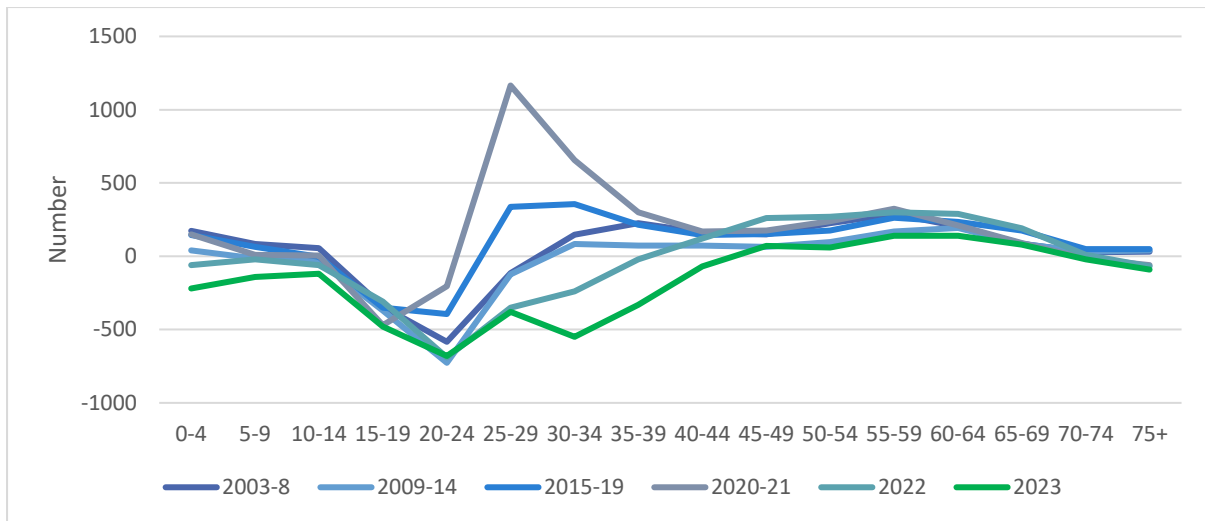
Source: ABS, National, State and Territory Population, various years

This increase in interstate departures, combined with declining interstate arrivals to Tasmania, resulted in Tasmania’s largest net interstate migration loss of 2,597 people for the financial year ended June 2023 since June 2000.

When considering how this net loss is distributed by 5-year age group, Figure 3³ shows the net gain or loss for each 5-year age group for the same time periods as in Figure 2. In 2023, Tasmania recorded a net interstate migration loss for all age groups aged zero to 44 years of age and then for those aged 70 and older, a similar pattern to that recorded in 2022, however, in larger numbers.

³ During the COVID-19 period from March 2020 to December 2021, the border closures and mass-vaccination roll out impacted both migration intentions and movements and also administrative data collection prompting the ABS to advise that the interstate migration numbers during that period were ‘implausibly high’

Figure 3 - Net Interstate Migration by 5-year age group, period average, 2022 and 2023, Tasmania



Source: ABS, National, State and Territory Population, various years

While there have been several studies into why people move to Tasmania⁴, there has been little investigation into the reasons why people leave the State. Given these new emerging patterns that appear to have diverted from historic trends, investigation of the underlying reasons contributing to this new pattern is warranted. This initial study attempts to identify the factors that contributed to Tasmanians' decisions to relocate elsewhere in Australia since 2017⁵.

A survey: *Leaving Tasmania* was undertaken between mid-December 2023 and the end of January 2024 and promoted through social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter (X) and Substack, encouraging a snowballing approach. 147 respondents participated, with 127 valid responses. This report distils the main findings.

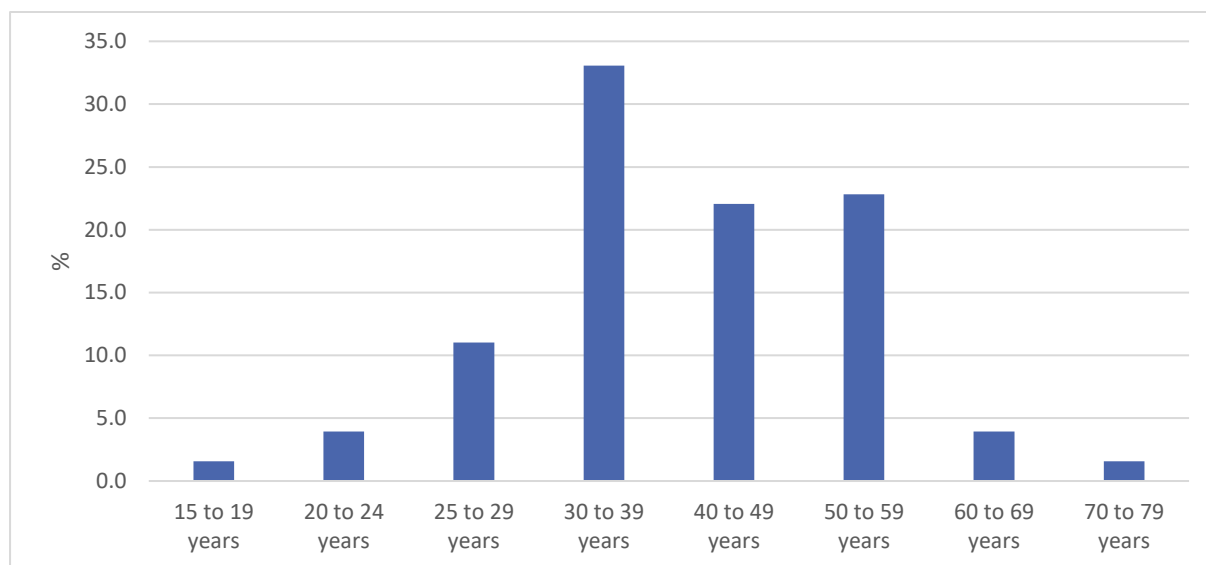
⁴ See for example: [Exploring Seachange in the Apple Isle](#) or [Moving to Tassie? A brief exploration](#)

⁵ 2017 was chosen for two reasons; 1) it was the first year after the ABS Census of Population and Housing which also provides insights into interstate migration patterns and 2) 2017 was the year that departures from Tasmania started to increase considerably.

Overview

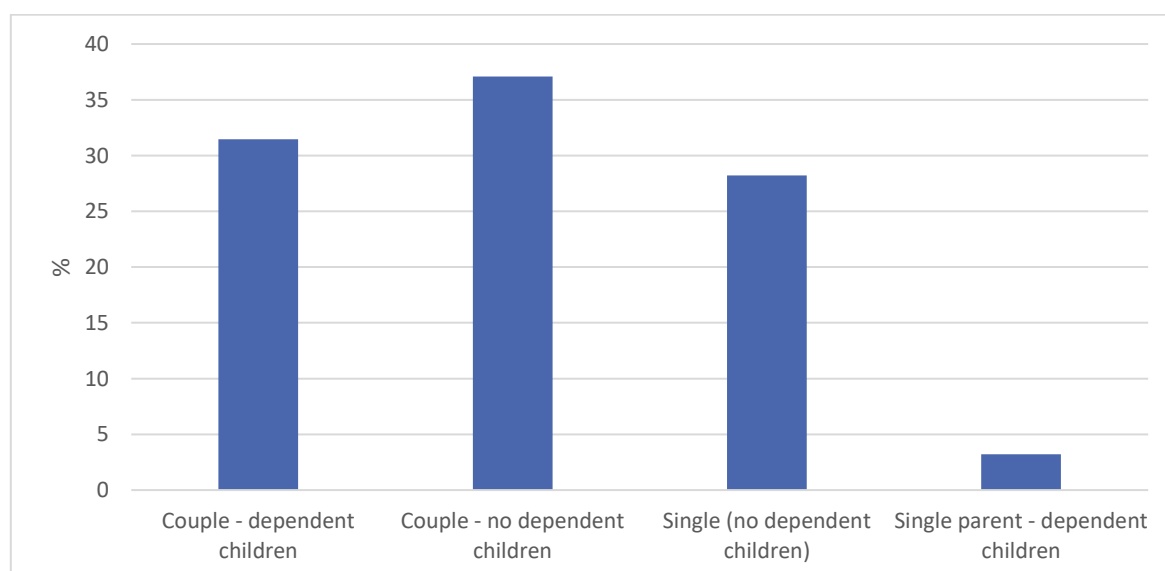
The *Leaving Tasmania* survey attracted respondents from cross-section of age groups, family composition and places of birth, with almost half respondents identifying as female (49.6%) and half as male (48.8%). The vast majority (92.1%) are Australian citizens, while 5.5% are permanent residents and 2.4% are in Australia on a temporary visa.

Figure 4 *Leaving Tasmania* survey respondents by five-year age group



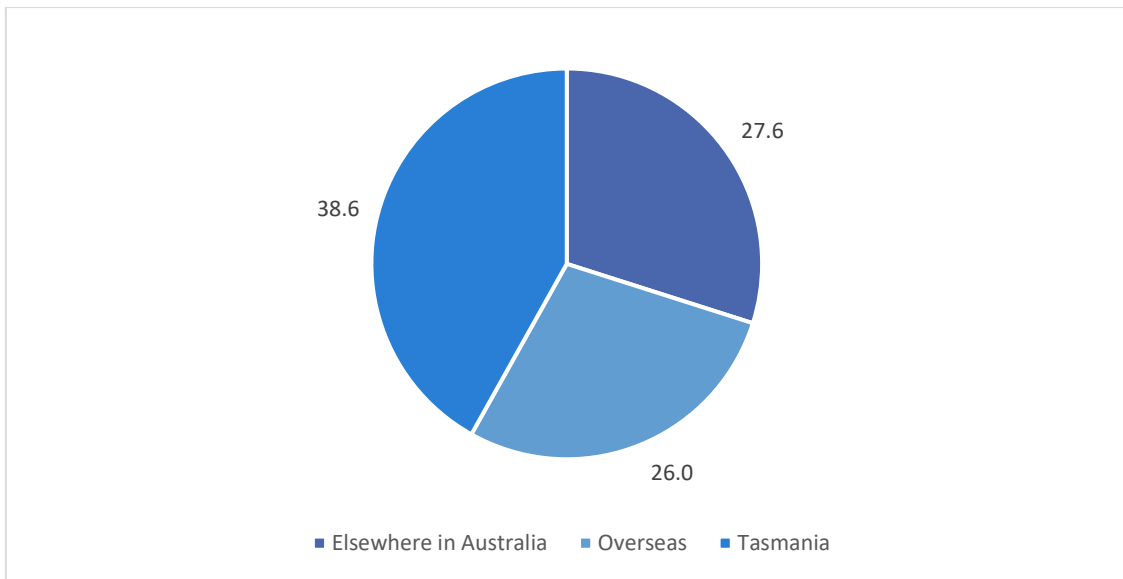
Couples represented the majority of respondents (68.6%), either a couple with dependent children (31.5%) or without dependent children (37.1%). Singles with no dependent children made up 28.2% of the respondents.

Figure 5 - *Leaving Tasmania* survey respondents by family composition



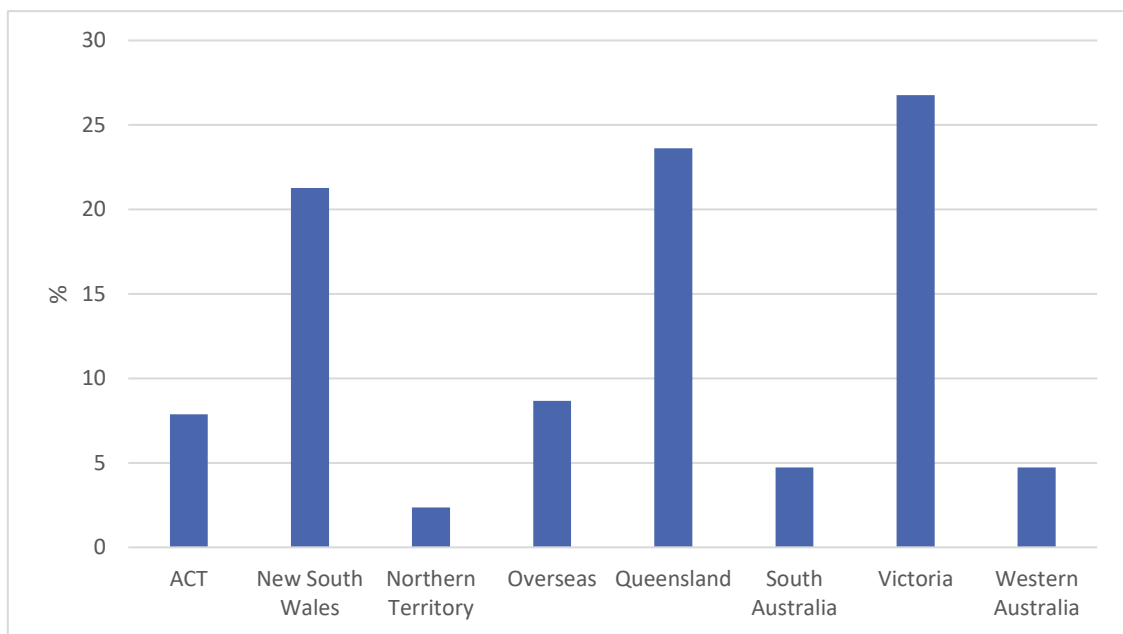
While the largest proportion of respondents was born in Tasmania (38.6%), over a quarter (27.6%) were born elsewhere in Australia and another quarter (26.0%) were born overseas.

Figure 6 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by place of birth



The new state of residence for respondents was spread between Victoria (26.8%), Queensland (23.6%) and New South Wales (21.3%).

Figure 7 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by state of residence

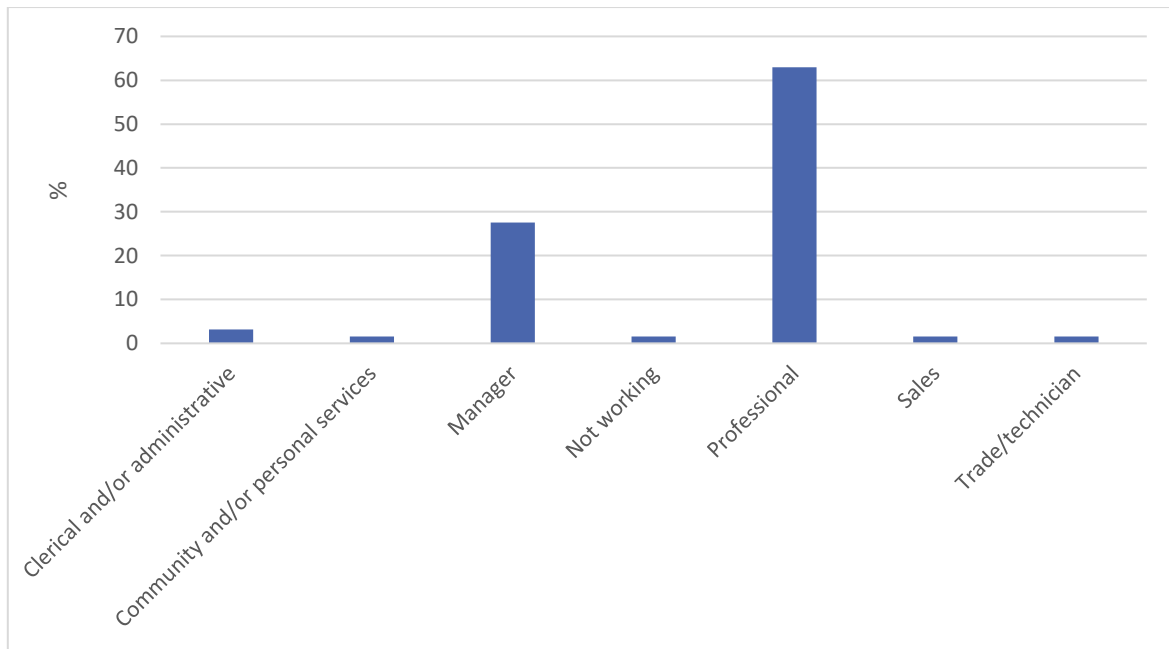


The respondents were highly educated, with 85.0% having completed a bachelor degree or higher, 7.1% held an Advanced Diploma or Diploma and 4.7% had a trade certificate.

The majority of respondents were working full time (83.5%), 6.3% were working part time while a small number were either studying, self-employed or retired.

Most of the respondents were working as professionals in their fields (63.0%) while over a quarter held a managerial position (27.6%).

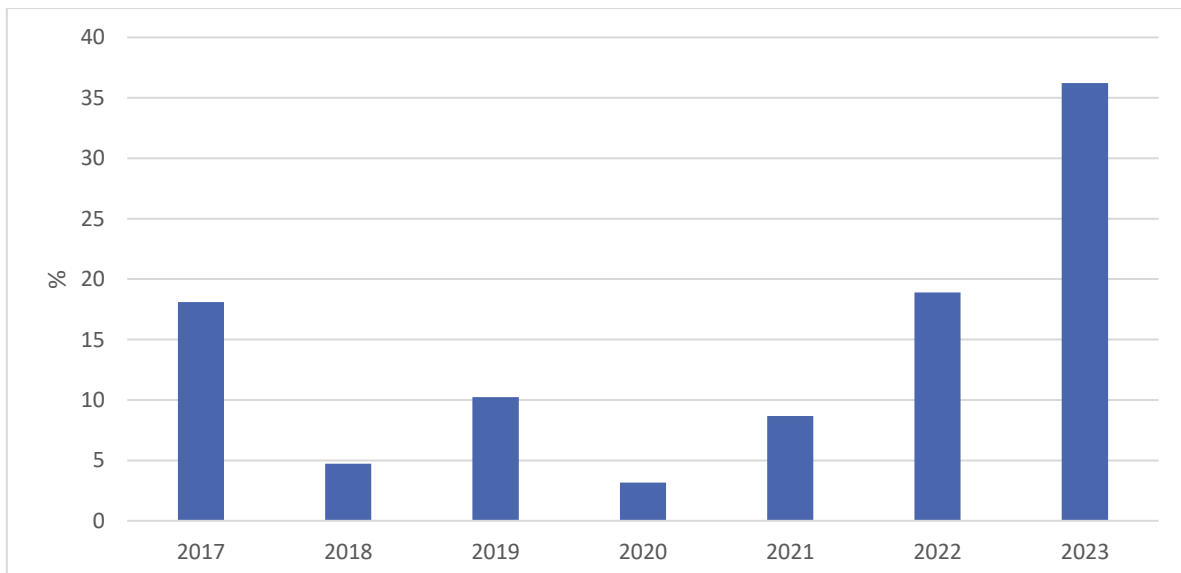
Figure 8 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by ANZSCO occupation group – Division One



Why did they leave Tasmania?

Over half of the respondents (55.1%) had left Tasmania in 2023 (26.2) or 2022 (18.9%), indicating that their reasons for leaving Tasmania and their motivation for participating in the survey was clear. This is particularly evident given that of all respondents, almost three quarters had lived in Tasmania for more than four years (73.2%), while 11.0% had lived in Tasmania for one to two years.

Figure 9 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents by the year they left Tasmania



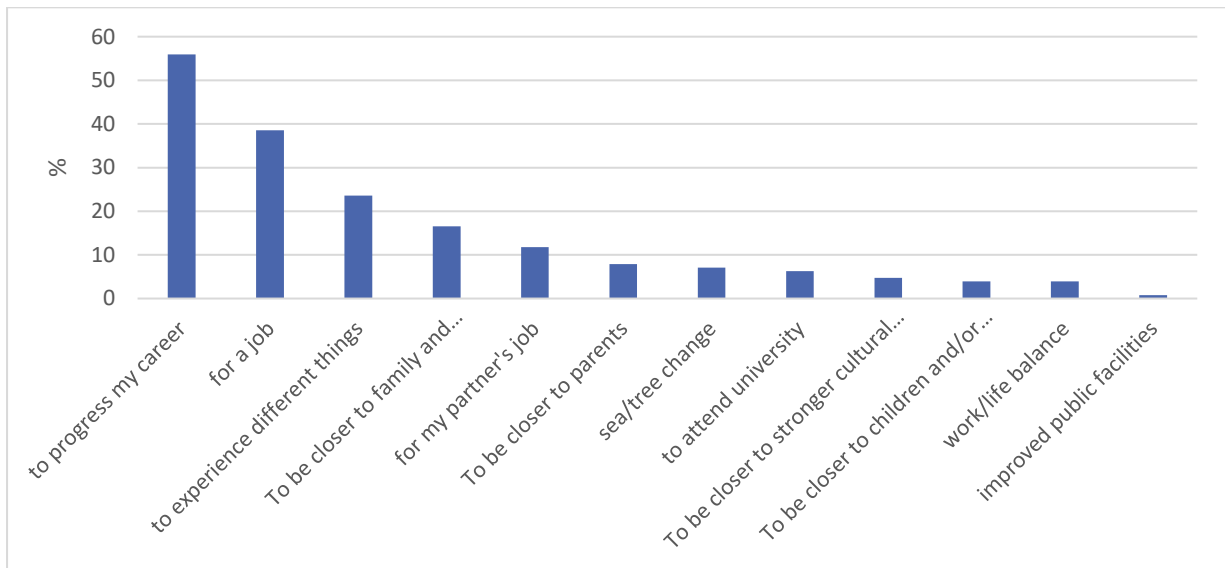
Survey respondents were asked to select up to five key reasons from a list of 28 which were designed as either 'push' or 'pull' factors contributing to their decision to leave Tasmania. Respondents were also able to add other reasons if their key reason was not listed.

While the number one reason for leaving Tasmania was a pull factor ‘to progress my career’, which 55.9% of respondents selected, collectively, it was ‘push factors’ which contributed to the key reasons for leaving Tasmania.

Employment was the main driver for people leaving Tasmania – either as a pull factor; to progress their own career, for a job (38.6%), or for their partner’s job (11.8%), or a ‘push factor’ – lack of employment opportunities (50.4%).

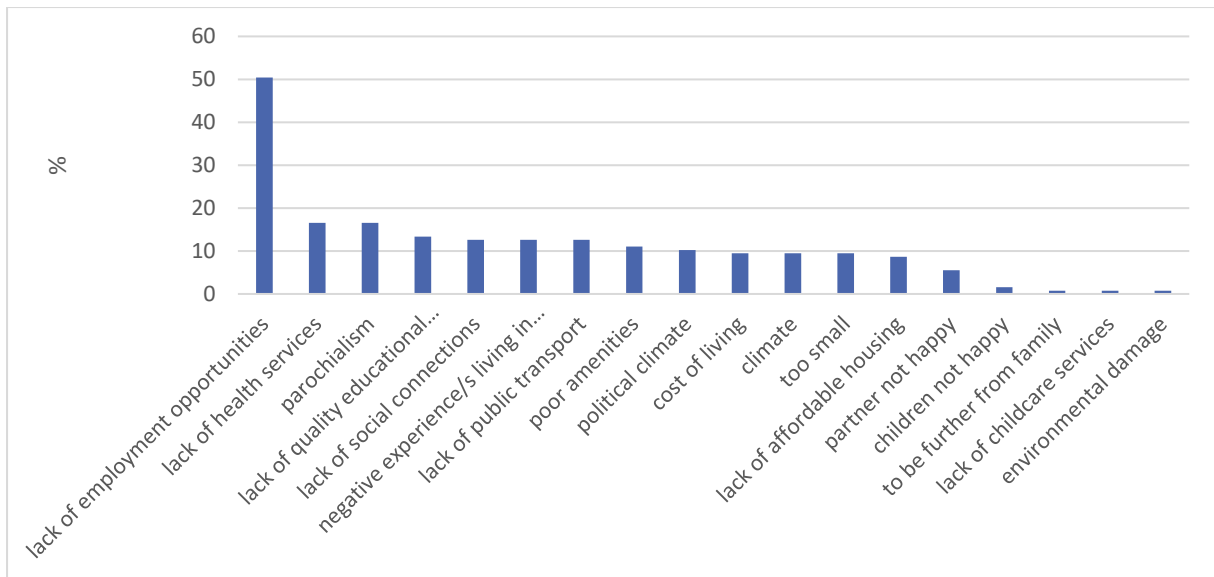
In addition to employment, other pull factors include to experience different things, a sea/tree change and to be closer to social networks and family and friends.

Figure 10 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents pull factors for moving interstate or overseas



While the dominant push factor was lack of employment opportunities for respondents, other reasons ranged widely from lack of quality public services such as health, education and transport, parochialism, negative experiences. Other reasons in addition to the 28 listed, included to be further from family to due relationship breakdowns and/or to make children safe.

Figure 11 - Leaving Tasmania survey respondents push factors for leaving Tasmania



Respondents were also asked to outline their reasons for leaving Tasmania in their own words.

Six main themes emerged from the analysis of the responses; employment and working conditions was the overwhelming reason, along with family; quality of life including culture, social networks and the environment, education; the university and its offerings; lack of public services; and governance and parochialism in the state. Many respondents commented that they did not want to leave but had to out of necessity.

Employment and working conditions

The most frequent phrase used by respondents was work/job/employment career opportunities. But, respondents weren't just looking for a job, they were looking for full-time work, permanent work, career opportunities and they expressed frustration with the lack of secure work available in Tasmania and being consigned to part-time or casual employment and low pay.

I couldn't find work for years after graduating.

No employment opportunities and very low wages

Limited career prospects for recent graduates

Very limited career opportunities at a senior level

To find full time work

One reason is lack of permanent jobs

No nursing jobs in preferred area of work and experience

Too hard to find a job here

I couldn't get a properly paid, regular job (only shitty casual work) as an academic

Lack of job growth opportunities for self and no job at all for wife.

Unable to secure sufficient employment.

To live in Tasmania and have a meaningful job and salary, I had to work remotely as an APS executive. I found this experience isolating and would have preferred to find work in Tasmania. I have now left the state and have found more opportunities for me.

I was unable to get relevant, meaningful full time work following completion of a bachelors of business and MBA. Had been working part time in retail/client services for 7 years while studying and had saved up enough for a house deposit while living at home, but on a low part time wage could not get a home loan. Ended up moving to Sydney following a full time graduate job offer.

My husband (not Tasmanian) and I (Tasmanian) both got jobs in Canberra. We applied for the jobs because options for career advancement were limited in our field of work.

Further job opportunities with higher salary

I couldn't find work for years after graduating.

Was craving more opportunities to rub shoulders with inspiring, thought-provoking leaders that were disrupting their industries. Environment plays a key factor in determining your future and I wanted to be surrounded by people making big moves that were willing to collaborate and mentor me.

I didn't want to leave Tasmania however my wife got a job as a Paramedic in Canberra. We tried to live apart for over 6 months but eventually my two sons and I moved to be with her.

Professionally Tasmania was a dead-end for me. When I moved down to work with local government I thought that I would have a career path. But instead found that I had hit a dead-end. Whereas on the mainland my skill set was everywhere, there were no further opportunities for me.

Family

Many respondents left Tasmania for family reasons, either to return 'home', to provide their children with more opportunities or to be closer to other family members. In some instances, it was to get away from family and start a fresh life.

Whole family moving with university aged kids. Kids are catalyst but moving because of lack of opportunity in Tasmania.

To be closer to grandchildren

The birth of my first grandchild gave me the perfect opportunity to finally escape the winter cold, it was just getting too much, even for someone who was born and lived in Tassie my whole life bar about 5 yrs in my late teens/early 20's.

Divorced and decided that going forward, the best outcome for the children was to move to the mainland due to better education and opportunities

my main reasons were to be closer to my family and parents

The main trigger was my daughter became pregnant and we felt she and partner would need a helping hand, so we moved to be near her.

Did not make social connection here and moved home to be closer to friends and family.

Quality of life: lifestyle, social networks, environment and opportunities

Many respondents cited the reasons for leaving Tasmania related to the pull factors of greater life opportunities elsewhere or push factors such as negative experiences when living in Tasmania as well as the cost of living.

Pull factors

greater freedom of movement/social opportunities through public transport and nightlife

Change of lifestyle, better opportunities and lot more to do

To get a fresh start on life due to medical reasons

Better weather and lifestyle

Better opportunities for personal growth. Multicultural work environment

change of lifestyle, change of climate, proximity/ease of access to other locations (eg. Major capital cities, holiday destinations, flights both domestic/international)

Push factors

Cultural fit, I didn't feel my lifestyle was celebrated and my intellect valued

lack of sporting and entertainment events

Personally, Tasmania was isolated and lonely.

Hobart was becoming insanely expensive, and congested (traffic) and we felt that it was time for a sea change.

the other reason is many teenagers are too unfriendly to foreigners and make the community very unsafe to live.

Weather is too cold, housing was too expensive, groceries were too expensive, lack of groceries supplies, (couldn't get all the groceries that I needed in one shop!), limited work opportunities, resistance to change culture at organizations, etc

My non-Australian partner experienced discrimination & unfair dismissal (which he won) due to racial & religious discrimination.

I felt isolated from friends and family and we didn't have access to goods and services like we did on the mainland

I have been planning to leave Tassie for as long as I can remember.

I think Tassie is beautiful but it lacks vibrance and culture that young adults need. I also moved for University.

Weather, house prices, people

Governance and parochialism

Many respondents identified heightened issues with governance and parochialism that tended to go hand-in-hand with very strongly worded push factors underpinning the respondents decision to leave Tasmania.

The day that made me decide to leave the state was the day the stadium proposal went through AND the mother and baby mental health unit at St Helens was shut down. The juxtaposition of those side-by-side news stories revealed priorities that were just gobsmacking. They highlighted to me how broken the system and the state – was/is. It was embarrassing to be Tasmanian. And it was dangerous.

Terrible governance, healthcare and child safety.

small minded insular public sector with rampant cronyism and incompetence meant working there wasn't viable if I wanted to keep my sanity and achieve anything. Returned to the mainland for promotion

Backward, no opportunities, not forward thinking

small minded mentality

limited opportunities to break into interesting jobs - the locals keep them for the mates

Poor economic management from govt resulting in weird missing services.

Toxic work culture in Tasmanian Government

Pathetic planning laws and a lack of private sector opportunities that were independent of needing government contracts or grants to survive.

Inertia/people with poor advocacy in key advocacy positions in the public service, drawn to a more dynamic organisation, and better relationship prospects

I don't know if council and state government are corrupt, if it's the fallout of election cycles or if the polities are simply stupid (no doubt a combination of these things and more) but the lack of foresight, care and action are astonishing.

I am a proud UTAS alumni and was born on the NW Tasmania. I have 15 years experience in government, including as a credentialed diplomat. On applying for roles in the Tasmanian State Government I was rejected for junior roles for being "too qualified."

In Tasmania I felt that my experience and qualifications were considered as a threat rather than a benefit - and I am now thriving in an environment which is more focused on excellence rather than parochialism.

The people are very unwelcoming to mainlanders

Living in Tasmania is incredibly frustrating. There is a very powerful upper class who are hell-bent on stopping anything that may benefit anyone other than themselves. The state is falling apart and nothing will ever be done about it.

Locals very unwelcoming and don't like other Australians

Parochialism and inertia

I was frequently discriminated against for not being Tasmanian

I was incredibly sick of the political climate. I had also been dismayed (and even fearful) as a result of the Sue Neill-Fraser case and the governments refusal to look at it. I was (and still am) also dismayed by the strident and often ill-informed division of opinion as evidenced, for example, in the letters to The Mercury.

Lack of career opportunities and discrimination for being a 'mainlander'

Access to services

The ability to access public services such as health and transport was a key issue resonating with many respondents as a push factor underpinning their decision to leave Tasmania.

Lack of health and public transport services.

Adequate health services, housing and education, in particular, were increasingly out of reach for much of the population. The hospital system is a disgrace.

Poor healthcare

Lacking of essential services

My son had mental health issues and the support in Tasmania was weak.

poor public transportation and expensive housing infrastructures.

I experienced deficiencies in the healthcare system in Hobart, characterized by a lack of expertise among medical practitioners and protracted waiting periods.

public transport is poor

I could not get adequate medical care & access the medication I had been on for a decade prior

Limited job opportunities, poor public transportation and expensive housing infrastructures.

I had a health crisis that meant I needed urgent/cat 1 neurosurgery. I learned the waiting period in Tas for this was 3+ years. The prospect of getting old in a State with such poor healthcare drove me to move to the mainland.

Education

Education emerged as a key theme pushing respondents to leave the state – both at the student level and also at the employment level in the schooling and higher education sectors.

Student perspective:

the poor reputation and performance of public schools in the State

Unsure on school paths for the kids

More opportunities for our children's schooling elsewhere

Whole family moving with university aged kids. Kids are catalyst but moving because of lack of opportunity in Tasmania.

To pursue graduate education.

A job prospect in the mining industry as an Engineering student

Left to pursue education at the University of Melbourne

Masters Degree that was not offered in Tas

Higher education and employment

To study a Cert II in Electrotechnology

Employment perspective:

I left mainly due to the poor administrative and strategic decisions that the university were making for its students, its terrible curricula and determined move to the Hobart CBD

We left to improve our working conditions. As my partner and I are teachers, the primary schools we worked at were not using research-informed practices, or whole-school models. We felt unsupported by our leadership teams, and that we were small cogs in a somewhat dysfunctional system. The statewide professional development sessions were advocating ineffective teaching practices, and we saw limited opportunities to improve professionally.

I am an academic, and it was clear there was no space for me or my research at UTAS. There is a tertiary education monopoly in Tasmania.

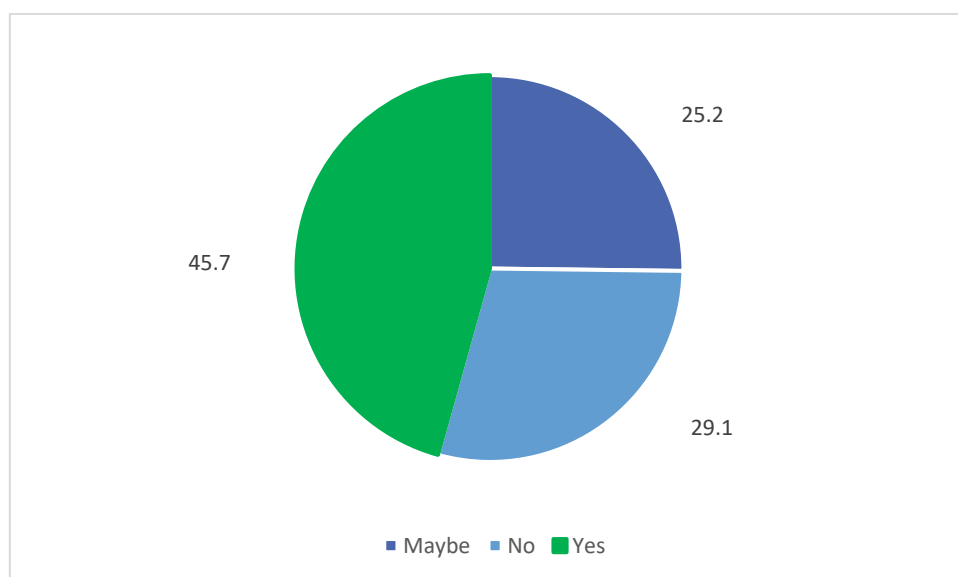
I couldn't get a properly paid, regular job (only shitty casual work) at the University of Tasmania (I'm an academic)

UTAS is a closed shop, a boys club

Will they return to live in Tasmania?

Respondents were asked if they would consider returning to Tasmania one day in the future. Almost half said yes (45.7%) which 29.1% responded, no. A quarter weren't sure.

Figure 12 - Leaving Tasmania survey responses to whether they would move back to Tasmania



Respondents were asked to explain why they would consider moving back to Tasmania, or why not.

Would like to return

For those who would like to move back, the reasons were very clear; nostalgia and a love of the place; the nature, environment, the people and because it's 'home' as well as family and friend connections, BUT the decision to return is still very much dependent on opportunity and employment prospects. Many also still own property in the state and would consider moving back in their retirement years.

Love of Tasmania

*I want to live in Tasmania long term. It is my home. **But** as a young person, there are limited opportunities to find appropriate employment for both myself and my partner.*

We love the lifestyle that we were able to lead in Tasmania.

*We would love to return to Tasmania, **but** there are no available permanent positions available to apply for as a paramedic.*

*I would love to move back to Tasmania **if** there were sufficient job opportunities. Following the news from afar, ongoing parochialism makes me less keen to move back, but overall Tasmania is a great place to live.*

*I would love to return **but** suspect we are becoming established in Melbourne*

*Tassie is home. **If** I could have my UK job in Tasmania, I would be home in a heartbeat.*

*We love Tasmania, **but** need work opportunities*

I love Tasmania and the lifestyle it affords. Once I have reached a certain level professionally, I would ideally like to move back to Tasmania to settle down.

*Yes, I would still be there **if** the pay was better. I am still home sick*

I still love the environment and scenery in Tasmania. I see Tasmania as my hometown, I would like to return with my family one day.

I have my house in Tasmania, I love Tassie, I will be back in a couple of years time

We left due to family reasons but would move back in a heartbeat.

Because it's a stunningly beautiful place to live, water views everywhere. Ease of life and lifestyle, and awesome drives anywhere.

*It's my home I would love to return **if** I could get a job in my profession (research)*

Tasmania is relatively small and has the draw of one always being fairly close to all sorts of landscapes be it coastal (for beaches) or forestry area for bushwalks and so on. It is also a naturally stunning place with beautiful scenery.

TAS has very beautiful natural scenery

*My wife and I love Tasmania and will return **once** our children are set up and free from medical and mental health issues. We love Tassie!*

I loved it- so many opportunities outside of work, and the things about education and health are the same/worse here in the NT

Connection to nature, still own a house

We love living in Tasmania, we like the lifestyle and have a lot of family and friends there.

I've wanted to move back for years but I had to wait until my children finished school

Now I have a job, I can work anywhere with working from home opportunities. Possibly not forever but climatically and culturally, I like what Tasmania has to offer.

Family and friends

Would like to due to missing family and friends and for those people to be included in future children's lives. Also professional skills make it possible to potentially work remotely if career progression is less of a priority in the future.

*Family and friends. **But** we would need suitable employment before we return.*

Proximity to friends

At some stage, will likely want to return to be close to family.

I don't see many negatives for Tasmania, except perhaps the lack of beach days. I'd be happy to move back, especially since my family and most of my friends live there. For now I'm happy to keep exploring and experiencing the mainland.

Nature, family, beaches, friends.

Good place to raise a family

My family and friends are still there, my heart is still there for Tasmania and the lifestyle I value deeply.

Because it's a stunningly beautiful place to live, water views everywhere. Ease of life and lifestyle, and awesome drives anywhere.

It's my home and where all my family are.

Friends and family majorly in Tassie that I want to return to, but I would need to be able to get stable full time work in my field.

I miss my family, and would come back if they ever needed me to

Want to be closer to family and friends

Retirement

Even though my career path has taken me back to the mainland I want to live in Tassie again. I own property there and when I retire I have plans to move back.

Thinking of my retirement. Safe, beautiful and peaceful.

Nice to retire in Tassie

Maybe to retire or before then if a good job came up

May return

The reasons for considering moving back to Tasmania for those who responded 'maybe' were very similar to those who answered 'yes', however their conditions for making the decision were much clearer; opportunities for employment and considerable change in the culture, services and amenities as well as being dependent on their partner's circumstances.

Love of Tasmania and social connections

I do love the Tasmanian environment, climate and I have a lot of friends and family here.

We still love the place and have many friends there. But probably won't consider return until the kids are independent.

People are great

Love the slowness of Tasmania

Being closer to family once children are in the picture

Still have family there

I prefer living on mainland for opportunities. May return to Tas if needed to support family.

Living in NSW may be too hot for us. We prefer the cold.

Retirement

Would consider it for retirement but in terms of work I'd need to see evidence of cultural change and the removal of most of the departmental executive as well as the political level acting professionally

I would consider it once my children have left education and I had retired. The education system and lack of career opportunities are big barriers to living in Tasmania.

To retire and enjoy a more relaxed lifestyle

Maybe to retire

to retire, maybe

Conditions

I have a four year apprenticeship in Qld and it depends what happens after that.

I would consider returning if there were better job opportunities in my area of expertise that became available

If a good opportunity arose, possibly. Children have reached year 11 and uni. Will not return due to tertiary opportunities here

Depends on my husband's employer and their requirements. Unlikely but we would be fine coming back.

I still continue working on projects down home, and occasionally visit as I have friends and family all there. If the mentality there was not so backward and parochial, and if the cost-of-living, political climate, and opportunities arose, I could possibly move back.

Significant changes to laws and addressing corruption.

If they improve what Hobart has to offer

too expensive now; and in any case "home isn't there anymore". I'd have to find a secluded spot down south perhaps up in the hills of Margate or on the peninsula. I'd consider returning to be completely away from people.

wage growth and cost of housing

Would need a very good job opportunity (often there's a pay cut moving to Tassie) and better public transport infrastructure

Will come back once the medical and educational system improves. Hopefully, Tasmanian people become more migrant-friendly.

I have no plans to, but if the right job offer arose and my family were for it I would. There is very limited work availability in my husband's field though, so it's unlikely as that would significantly alter our income.

Would consider it for retirement but in terms of work I'd need to see evidence of cultural change and the removal of most of the departmental executive as well as the political level acting professionally

Will not return

Those respondents who said they wouldn't return to Tasmania to live were very clear with their reasoning – Tasmania is just not for them, they are disillusioned with the place and the lack of services. Some had even tried returning previously but had left again. However, several did think that they may return to visit as a tourist or to catch up with family and friends.

There are no jobs, there will never be any jobs!

Not for them

Tasmania while affordable is really boring and I can't imagine spending my whole life there

Better lifestyle and opportunities elsewhere. Tasmania is very insular and doesn't offer great opportunities for technical or management professionals. Communities outside of Tasmania are much friendlier and not as nosy.

I think it might be best to stay closer to family and friends rather than moving to a small city that could sometimes feel isolating for a single woman

Engineering jobs are less likely to increase

I love living closer to my family, who all live in Qld.

No interest to return. Nothing there of importance.

I need to be with family - I had a fantastic, very well paid job in Tassie but it meant nothing, when I couldn't see my family enough during COVID. And there may well be another similar restriction in future, so I'm not going to chance it.

Established connections outside of state

Unfortunately, there is a lifestyle choice and Tasmania whilst beautiful and nice to be , does not offer the same work opportunities / education and employment as cities like Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

I love the performing arts and vibrant cities and not being stuck in the same routine every day. This is hard to find in Tasmania; both metaphorically and literally, I'm sick of driving the same streets every day.

I think it would feel a 'backward step'. We've probably explored and done all the walks we want to do. I'd prefer to keep living somewhere warm and somewhere a lot less parochial and small-minded. Sorry to sound negative, as we did have a good life there and it's easy to 'stand out' and run a business in such a place. I don't miss it.

Not enough to do there

Loved Tasmania but if I had to return somewhere, it would be the country I was born

Weather - employment and cost of living

Too remote

Disillusionment

Best decision of my life leaving that shit hole

Not unless there was a huge cultural improvement in workplaces and a few more opportunities

Even though my mum, sister and daughter still live in Tassie, I'm utterly disillusioned about living there. Just watching the state devolve makes me depressed and angry.

The small minded mentality of the people who live there and poor work prospects

Even if the education, the pollution, the medical system & the economic injustice were fixed, it would still be an awful culture for to outsiders.

I used to want to return and never wanted to leave permanently but it took so much physical, financial and emotional effort to move overseas alone and start a new job and make new friends (all in 2020 at height of pandemic), that I no longer want to go back. There are no real opportunities for stable work as an academic in Tasmania, and I'm not super interested in being reminded of the difficulties involved in leaving by spending time there. I've been back once since moving and although it was nice to see family and friends I don't miss living there.

Lack of services

Lack of access to Health care

Insufficient health care and too cold

The healthcare system is broken

If we look at the health system support for major illness, operations and expertise is distinctly lacking.

Tried returning

This was my second shot, and the culture and diversity of thought just isn't there

I have already tried returning to Tasmania. It will never change and is not worth the poor standards of living and stress.

May visit

No family connections in Tasmania. Plenty of friends though, this isn't enough. Airfares are cheap, so can visit if needed.

I would visit again but would never consider living there or recommending that people move there.

It felt like a small pond in comparison to the mainland in regards to opportunities and experiences. Will be a frequent holiday destination instead.

It didn't work out so will not be returning. Maybe for a holiday

End.