

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

**The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 22 July, 2015**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT
the Association's Annual General Meeting
will be held at
The Tramsheds, Launceston.
Commencing at 10.30am
on
Wednesday 22 July, 2015.**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundred and Third General Meeting
of the Association
will be held at
The Tramsheds, Launceston
commencing immediately following the conclusion
of the
Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 22 July, 2015**

**To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

**Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

2015 CONFERENCE PROGRAM**WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2015**

10.30am	AGM	
	General Meeting	Commences immediately following the conclusion of AGM
12.30pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Aerus Technologies</i>
1.30pm	Meetings continue	
4.15pm	JLT Night at the Museum	

THURSDAY 23 JULY 2015

8.00am	Registration Desk Opens	
8.45am	Welcome and Opening	
9.00am	Ian McBurney	
9.45am	Moving Moment	
9.55am	Associate Professor Roberta Ryan	
10.30am	Morning Tea	<i>With thanks to Dial Before You Dig</i>
11.15am	Local Government Awards for Excellence	
11.50am	Mayor Troy Pickard	
12.30pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Dial Before You Dig</i>
1.30pm	Workshop Program	
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
3.45pm	Panel Discussion	
4.45pm	Happy Hour	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
7.15pm	MAV Insurance Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY 24 JULY 2015

9.00am	Workshop Program	
10.30am	Morning Tea	<i>With thanks to Integrity Sampling</i>
11.15am	Sir Bob Barker	
12.10pm	Moving Moment	
12.15pm	Mayor Brad Pettitt	
1.05pm	Conference wrap up	
1.15pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Integrity Sampling</i>

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Acting President, Mayor Daryl Quilliam, will welcome Members, accept apologies and declare the Annual General Meeting open.

A copy of the Rules of the Association are available on the Association's website at -
[LGAT Rules](#)

1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Decision Sought

That the President's report be received.

The President will present his report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

2 MINUTES OF 102ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting, held 23 July, 2014 be confirmed.

The Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 23 July, 2014 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 2.**

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2014 *

Decision Sought

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 be received and adopted.
--

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, an abridged version of which is included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

A full version is available from the Association's offices.

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2014 to 16 June 2015 is also included at **Attachment to Item 3** to provide members with an indication of the current financial position of the Association.

At the time of preparation of this report two weeks remained to the end of the Financial Year with year end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be a small surplus with items below being of note -

Workshops/Training	There was higher than anticipated uptake of training by Elected Members, in particular by the new Elected Members. An LGAT Training Program and Regional Breakfast Series were introduced resulting in increased registration income.
Membership	The return of Hobart City Council resulted in additional pro-rata subscription membership income.
Departure of the CEO	While reducing staff entitlement accruals there were non-budgeted recruitment expenses.
Council Careers	There is an amount of unexpended funds that have been earmarked for additional advertising in July 2015
Salaries	The Procurement Officers term was extended to the end of this financial year and this position has been budgeted going forward.

Decision Sought

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 be received and adopted.
--

4 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS**Decision Sought**

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

The Rules of the Association provide that the Annual General Meeting will grant an annual allowance to the President and Vice President.

In the past an independent review of allowances was undertaken in the same financial year as the review of allowances for Local Government Elected Members, with the last review undertaken in 2009. The result of that review was to retain the basis of the present allowances unchanged for the two positions with movements to be in conjunction with the wages price index. This brought the escalation factor for allowances in line with Elected Member allowances across councils.

The escalation factor used for elected member allowances remains the wages price index and it is deemed appropriate that the President and Vice President Honorariums continue to escalate on the same basis.

If in the future, the escalation of Elected Member Allowances is reviewed or alters, the Honorariums can also be reviewed.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for 2014/15 were:

- President allowance \$44,185 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$11,046 per annum.

5 SUBSCRIPTIONS 1 JULY 2015 TO 30 JUNE 2016 ***Decision Sought**

That subscriptions be increased by 2.48% to meet the operating costs of the Association.

The application of the LGAT formula for subscriptions involves using the Total Assessed Revenue of councils, in accordance with State Grants Commission data, with an application of the Council Cost Index then applied across the various categories of councils.

The result this year sees Glamorgan Spring Bay and Latrobe moving up a category with Break O'Day, West Coast and Waratah Wynyard moving down a category.

The total to be received from subscription revenue next year is \$1,049,081. It should be noted that the payment structure associated with outstanding subscriptions from Hobart City Council is not reflected in the budget as the debt is recognised in the balance sheet. The Hobart instalment attributable to its past subscription will be reflected in a change to debtors in the balance sheet.

A copy of the Subscriptions are at **Attachment to Item 5** for reference.

6 BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS 1 JULY 2015 TO 30 JUNE 2016 *

Decision Sought

That the Meeting adopt the Budget as presented.
--

There are only minor variations to the budget for the upcoming year. GMC has determined to reduce the salary of the incoming CEO and this has been reflected in the budget. However, salaries remain largely unchanged as the salary of the officer managing the sector procurement task has been brought into the budget proper. This function was previously funded from some savings achieved in the broader salary budget. With the revenue being generated from procurement activity and the demands being placed on the role by councils seeking to improve their procurement processes and access to goods and services, much of the salary will be offset by the increase in income received via commissions on goods purchased. In fact a further \$10,000 is anticipated in revenue for fees and commissions this year. A projected 3% increase in salaries has been built into the budget.

Other employee entitlements have been reduced by almost \$20,000. This acknowledges the provision made for Long Service Leave and untaken annual leave. The outgoing CEO had significant balances in both areas while an incoming CEO will have no accruals to be provisioned for.

Provision has been made for the secondment of an officer to the Drafting Team of the Planning Task Force. This is effectively an in and out entry with LGAT simply collecting the funds from councils and on paying them to the State Government/host council as a contribution to salary of that officer.

The budget bottom line is break even with the imposition of an increase in subscriptions of 2.48% in line with the Council Cost Index.

A copy of the budget is at **Attachment to Item 6.**

7. MOTIONS

**7.1 Term Of Office Of President
Council - Derwent Valley**

Decision Sought

<p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania Rules 27 Regarding Term of Office of President, be amended that in the event that the President vacates office, the Vice President is to hold the position of President until the next election.</p>
--

Background Comment

The rule change proposed is in the event that the President vacates office for one of the following reasons:

- (i) Resigns by notice in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer;
- (ii) Is absent without leave for three consecutive meetings of the General Management Committee; or
- (iii) Ceases to be a Councillor or Alderman;

And if the office of President becomes vacant more than six months before the next AGM where the President is due to take up office in accordance with Rule 27(a), a new President shall be elected in accordance with the procedures in Rule 26.

It is council's view that to save the cost of an election consideration should be given to the following option:

That in the event that the President vacates office in the 12 month period prior to the next AGM, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President and that an election for President be held at the next appropriate election date.

LGAT Comment

It should be noted that this motion was not in response to the death of Barry Jarvis, having been received well in advance.

However, if the rule was in existence, it would have been applied in this instance. While unusual circumstances, in that the President had by resolution had his term extended and was not facing election this year, which meant the Vice President, Mayor Quiliam would have been filling the vacancy created for two years without an election.

7.2 Motion – Voting Entitlements *
Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania Rules Regarding Conduct of General Meeting be amended by deleting from rule 16 voting by population categories and replacing it with one (1) vote per Council.

Background Comment

This matter has been discussed at General Meetings and rejected on the basis of the Scale of fees payable, but it is our view that the Local Government Association of Tasmania does not represent the public (ratepayers) they represent the member councils.

The current process in our view is not democratic by having weighted voting at meetings of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

In reading the rules of the Municipal Association of Victoria for meetings and for State Council meetings the rules state as follows:

14. Voting Entitlements at Meetings

At any meeting of the Association other than a meeting of State Council members will vote by a show of hands and the Chairperson in taking the sense of the meeting will put the question first in the affirmative, then in the negative, and the result of the vote will be recorded in the minutes.

15. Voting Entitlements at State Council Meetings

15.1 At any meeting of State Council, voting entitlements on any motion or amendment will be

15.1.1 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which exceeds the mid point between the lowest and highest subscriptions will have two (2) votes; and

15.1.2 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which does not exceed that mid point will have one (1) vote.

15.2 and questions will be decided on the basis of the votes of the representatives voting.

Should there be an equality of votes on any question before a meeting the Chairperson has the casting vote.

The method used in Victoria appears slightly better than that used in Tasmania, but that is only because the maximum vote is two (2) as opposed to four (4) in Tasmania.

It would in our view, be an option for the Local Government Association of Tasmania to trial for a twelve month period one (1) vote for all members councils and then review the situation at a future Annual General Meeting.

This matter was further discussed at a General Meeting of the Association on 13 February 2015. At that meeting after much discussion Council was asked to provide details in relation to subscriptions as a percentage of Council Rate Income. This spreadsheet is appended to this Agenda Item.

This matter was the subject of some debate at the last Annual General Meeting of the Association. It is the view of the Derwent Valley Council that that Local Government should cease the practice of weighted voting, and replace it with one vote per council.

Motions on Notice LGAT General Meeting 13th February 2015

At the General Meeting in November 2014, Derwent Valley Council raised the following items for discussion:

1. That the Rules Of The Association be amended to provide for one vote per council.

Council prior to that meeting was requested to provide additional information and this was as follows:

I wish to advise that through the process of election for President of the LGAT one of our councillors wrote to each person who nominated asking for their comments in regard to the one vote per Council. The response received from most was that they were prepared to consider this matter at a future meeting of the Association if they were successful in their endeavors to become President. It is for this reason that we request further discussion in regard to this matter, bearing in mind it was raised by Derwent Valley at the most recent Annual General Meeting of the Association and was not supported.

At the meeting in November Council advised that as a percentage of rates smaller councils were contributing a greater portion, this comment received some sympathy and we were asked to provide this information for further debate on the matter.

At **Attachment to Item 7.2** is a spreadsheet detailing the percentage of rates required to service the LGAT Subscriptions. The spreadsheet also shows subscriptions based on rate revenue and population.

8	REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *
----------	---

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2014/15 financial year.

Representatives on Bodies are requested to provide a report for Conference and are also requested to provide regular reports back to the Association during the year.

- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**
Clr Andrew Downie
- **Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC)**
Mr Neil Blaikie
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Ms Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mr Kay Reeves
- **Local Government Board**
Mrs Liz Gillam
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**
Mayor Jock Campbell, Clarence City Council
- **State Fire Commission**
Mr Rod Sweetnam, Launceston City Council, Clr Hannah Rubenach, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Dr Stephen Bresnehan, Hobart City Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Grant Atkins and Mr Rodney Fraser
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Ms Danielle Gray, Kingborough Council; Ald Robin McKendrick, City of Launceston
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Ald Doug Chipman, Clarence City Council and Clr Susan Nolan, Kingborough Council, Ms Kym Matthews, Break O'Day Council;
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Ms Sandra Hogue

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 8**.

Decision Sought

- | |
|---|
| <p>(a) That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That Conference acknowledges the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.</p> |
|---|

9	CLOSURE
----------	----------------



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**To be submitted to the
ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Was held on
23 July 2014**

**Commencing
11.00am**

**Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

**Local
Government
Conference**

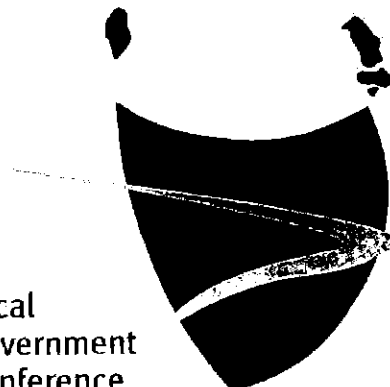


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page No
FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING	3
CONFERENCE PROGRAM	4
1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....	5
2 MINUTES OF 101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *	8
3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2013 *	9
4 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS.....	10
5 THINK BIG/WORK LOCAL - CAREERS PROJECT.....	11
6 SUBSCRIPTIONS 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015 *	15
7 BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015 *	16
8 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN & ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014/15 *	17
9 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA	19
9.1 TERMS OF OFFICE EXTENSION - MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	19
9.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS & GMC MEMBERSHIP	20
10 MOTIONS	22
10.1 VOTING CATEGORIES	22
11 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *	23
12 CLOSURE.....	24

* Denotes Attachment

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

***The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 23 July, 2014***

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT
the Association's Annual General Meeting
will be held at the
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart.
Commencing at 11.00am
on
Wednesday 23 July, 2014.**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundred and Second General Meeting
of the Association
will be held at the
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart
commencing immediately following the conclusion
of the
Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 23 July, 2014.**

**To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

**Allan Garcia
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

2014 CONFERENCE PROGRAMLocal
Government
Conference**WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2014**

- 10.00–2.00pm Registration Desk Open
- 11.00am AGM
General Meeting Commences immediately following the conclusion of AGM
With thanks to Dial Before You Dig
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Meetings continue
- 5.00 - 6.00pm JLTA / ALGWA Networking Hour

THURSDAY 24 JULY 2014

- 8.00am Registration Desk Opens
- 9.00am Welcome and Opening
- 9.10am Craig James
- 10.05am Moving Moment
- 10.15am Tim Gartrell
- 10.45am Morning Tea *With thanks to Integrity Sampling*
- 11.15am Tarran Deane
- 12.10pm Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
- 12.30pm Lunch *With thanks to Integrity Sampling*
- 1.30pm Workshop Program
- 3.00pm *Afternoon Tea* *With thanks to Commonwealth Bank*
- 3.30pm Panel Discussion
- 4.30-5.30pm Happy Hour *With thanks to Commonwealth Bank*
- 7.30pm MAV Insurance Conference Dinner

FRIDAY 25 JULY 2013

- 9.00am Workshop Program
- 10.30am Morning Tea *With thanks to GHD*
- 11.00am 2013 Local Government Awards for Excellence
- 11.30am Roger La Salle
Innovate or Perish
- 12.00am Moving Moment
- 12.05pm Tony Morris
- 1.05pm Conference wrap up and Wrest Point prize draw
- 1.15pm Lunch *With thanks to GHD*



2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Barry Easter, welcomed Members and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 11.05.

Apologies were received from -

Mayor Sarah Schmerl	Break O'Day Council
Mr Des Jennings	Break O'Day Council
Mr Tim Watson	Dorset Council
Mr Dino De Paoli	George Town Council
Mayor Albert van Zetten	Launceston City Council
Mayor Kim Polley	Northern Midlands Council
Mr Brian Lovell	West Coast Council
Mayor Graham Bury	Kingborough Council
Deputy Mayor Mark Jones	Southern Midlands Council
Clr Bob Campbell	Southern Midlands Council

A copy of the Rules of the Association are available on the Association's website at - <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=628>

1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That the President's report be received.

Carried

In a year that saw changes of Government at the Federal and State levels, we are beginning to feel the brunt of the new frugality with cuts to financial assistance grants over the next three years and some likely pain at next month's State Budget. In all, some belt tightening is likely across the sector, particularly when our communities have also felt the budget wrath.

We are very pleased to have the new Minister for Planning and Local Government with us today and I must say that it has been refreshing to have a Minister take such a keen interest in the sector and be willing to pick up the phone and have a chat about things before decisions are made or announced. I look forward to working with Peter over the last few months of my tenure and know that he will be equally as accessible to whomever takes on the role of President.

This will be my last AGM as President and while I will be at the next General meeting in September I would take this opportunity to thank those present for their support over the past 5 years and their advice and friendship. I have enjoyed my time as President thoroughly and would commend the role to any of you thinking about throwing your hat into the ring.

At the national level this past year we threw ourselves into the referendum campaign for constitutional recognition only to find that our efforts were in vain with the calling of an early election. The wrapping up of the campaign saw some significant mopping up of activity and thankfully the majority of funds collected from members to campaign the effort was able to be refunded on the basis of the Commonwealth agreeing to reimburse the majority of monies spent. Interestingly, the second Williams decision in the High Court only reinforces the need for constitutional action although the threat to the Commonwealth's capacity to directly distribute funds is much broader than Local Government. We will watch this space with interest.

As mentioned the budget saw a freezing of FAGS indexation meaning a reduction in real terms to Tasmanian councils of some \$17 million over the next year although some consolation was received in the announcement to double Roads to Recovery funding in the 2015-16 financial year. Efforts are continuing at the national level to obtain relief on the FAGS funding although it is fair to say that at this time, things don't look promising.

At the legislative level we were involved in a number of activities throughout the year. Consultation took place with members on legislative compliance and audit processes, boundary fence issues, dilapidated buildings, private certification of no permit required developments, privately issued planning permits, National Heavy Vehicle Regulations and private letting as well as planning and building regulations. Significant input was provided on the Ministerial Orders relating to both Audit Panels and matters associated with the Long Term Financial Plans of councils. Meeting procedures regulations, Local Government Highways regulations and submissions to the State Bushfire Policy were other key endeavours by Association staff through the year.

Much effort has been involved in seeking to find a way through the mire which has become the Code of Conduct and the related processes and procedures. We developed a Code of Conduct Discussion paper as a prompt for further refinement of the legislation and regulation in this area and it is hoped that a new set of arrangements and structures will be able to be in place sooner than later to ensure appropriate behaviours and sanctions.

Planning came to the fore later in the year with the new State Government embracing its single planning scheme model and the establishment of the Planning Task Force. I know that the Minister will speak of this in his speech later in the morning and there will be some significant debate on the subject during the Panel session tomorrow.

The Association focused significant attention on the delivery of services during the year and specifically in aggregating effort and offerings that would financially assist councils as well as increasing their capacity and capability. In the area of procurement, a range of products and offerings are now available for councils to purchase through a national network of providers. On the basis of the transaction data available for the year we estimate that councils saved in the order of \$480,000 last year through the Association's aggregated purchasing arrangements. Not all councils are signed up yet and the product offering continues to grow so we expect that this will be of even greater benefit to councils in the ensuing years.



The Association also brokered commercial arrangements with a legal service provider to allow members access to up to date training, templates, case law and guidance material in respect of workplace health and safety. Each council contributes funding to the service but the individual cost to councils is much less than otherwise would have been possible if councils had sought the same level of service individually.

A similar activity has occurred in the area of delegations. Following some fantastic preliminary work by Burnie City Council, the Association has now brokered an ongoing arrangement where delegations can be automatically and accurately be updated at all times. A central process allows all councils access and saves each from having to constantly refer to legislative and regulatory amendments and the possibility of delegations being unlawful.

In a similar vein, we have recently been working with councils to develop an aggregated purchasing capacity to influence the pricing structure of street lighting. While contestability in the market place for this service has been introduced, it is uncertain at this time as to the level of competition such unbundling may exert. We are hopeful of being able to deliver councils some savings albeit that they may be modest.

The Association has also launched its extranet whereby council staff and elected members can access the products referred to above as well as a range of other materials proposed. This site is a secure site for council personnel and provides a significant value add beyond the website information. A new professional development calendar has been developed and is also on the extranet with downloadable materials and registration forms.

Our careers activity was again front and centre with a second series of careers videos being developed, screening of the "think Big" commercial during the seasonal peak in vacancies, attendance at key careers expos and the development of a guide to finding council jobs for use at expos.

Our efforts on behalf of councils in the award modernisation space continued and it is hoped that this effort can be finalised in the coming months.

In partnership with the 26TEN Coalition of interest we took a lead project management role in the development of a "how to" guide to assist communities in the state to become 26TEN communities and facilitated the development of a Plain English Guide that can be used by communities, business and governments to support clear communication.

A detailed election manifesto was prepared and presented to all parties in the lead up to the State election. A number of submissions were made to regulatory and oversight bodies including a detailed submission into Emergency Management Funding to an Inquiry conducted by the Productivity Commission; a submission on the State Budget;

Staff participated on a number of key committees including the Road Safety Advisory Council, the Planning Taskforce, the Nomenclature Board, the various "Role of Local Government" Working Groups, the OTTER Consultative Committee, the Australia Post Stakeholder Council, the ACELG Research Advisory Committee; ALGA Roads & Transport Advisory Committee, Alcohol Advisory Group and the Cultural Development Network

A very successful series of pre-election workshops was conducted around the state with approximately 130 would be councillors attending training sessions. The general



engagement and level of interaction suggests that we will have a vibrant crop of new candidates to select from in a couple of months.

We have a small but very dedicated staff at the Association led by our CEO Allan Garcia. One just has to look at the monthly reports on Association activities and ponder on the matters contained in this report to realise what a tremendous amount of activity is generated by the Association staff for the benefit of local government in Tasmania.

On behalf of the entire membership and all present here today I thank each and every one of you for a job well done. Personally I find it difficult to put into words just how much I admire you all for the professional and cheerful way you approach your daily responsibilities, so suffice to say thank you for the assistance and wise council you have always given me, it has been a privilege to have had the pleasure of working with such a great group of people during my terms as President.

2 MINUTES OF 101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *
--

Devonport City Council/Launceston City Council

That the Minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting, held 24 July, 2013 be confirmed.

Carried

The Minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 24 July, 2013 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 2.**

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2013 *

Glenorchy City Council/Southern Midlands Council

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 be received and adopted.
--

Carried

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, an abridged version of which is included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

A full version is available from the Association's offices.

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2013 to 24 June 2014 is also included at **Attachment to Item 3** to provide members with an indication of the current financial position of the Association.

At the time of preparation of the report one week remained to the end of the Financial Year with year end adjustments also pending. The items below are of note but it is anticipated that there will be a minor surplus.

Constitutional Recognition	The campaign funds were returned by ALGA distorting the Associations income and also the expenses, where those funds were then refunded back to councils.
----------------------------	---

Associated expenses for the Constitutional Recognition Campaign ie arrangement of workshops/forums and provision of advertising materials also impacted miscellaneous expenditure.

Travel	Heavy Vehicle Regulation and Procurement activity has meant unexpected additional meetings for officers.
--------	--

Community Satisfaction Survey	Funds are received annually from councils for a bi-annual survey, in practice the survey is conducted during April to July with costs incurred across financial years, in future these amounts will be allocated annually in the budget.
-------------------------------	--

4	PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS
----------	---

Meander Valley Council/Northern Midlands Council

<p>That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.</p>
--

Carried

Derwent Valley Council voted against the motion

The Rules of the Association provide that the Annual General Meeting will grant an annual allowance to the President and Vice President.

It has been practice to undertake an independent review of the allowances of the President and Vice President in the same financial year as the four yearly review of allowances of Local Government Elected Members. The last review was undertaken in 2009 by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The result of that review was a proposal to retain the basis of the present allowances unchanged for the two positions with annual movements for the next four years being in accord with the wages price index, bringing the allowances into line with the escalation factor used for elected member allowances across councils.

The President and Vice President allowances have been increased in line with adjustments with the Wages Price Index for the financial years ending 30 June 2010, 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012 after which a further review of allowances was to be conducted.

However, as the escalation factor used for elected member allowances remains the wages price index it is deemed appropriate that the President and Vice President Honorariums escalate on the same basis going forward.

If in the future, the escalation of the Elected Member Allowances are reviewed or alter, the Honorariums can also be reviewed.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for the 2013 - 2014 were:

- President allowance \$43,192 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$10,798 per annum.

The wage price index will also be applied to GMC sitting fees.

5 THINK BIG/WORK LOCAL - CAREERS PROJECT

Circular Head Council/Central Coast Council
--

Members agree to incorporate Think Big Work Local costs into subscriptions (separately itemised) on an ongoing basis as opposed to the current, two yearly project terms.
--

Carried

Derwent Valley Council voted against the motion.

This project was first funded in September 2008 with a view to reducing skills shortages. The project scope expanded with television advertising being piggy backed off in terms of raising the profile of Local Government for the Constitutional Recognition Campaign. The project was renewed for a second period and is funded separately to subscriptions but using the subscription formula.

The project funding comes to an end in June this year.

LGAT feels that there is value in the project continuing based on the following outputs and outcomes:

- In June this year, LGAT obtained \$75,000 of funding from Skills Tasmania's 'Skills Fund'. After an EOJ process, a collective application was made on behalf of Clarence, Devonport, Launceston and Meander Valley councils using data and resources from the Think Big Work Local project. Council staff will be funded to study qualifications in: Local Government regulatory services for parking officers; turf management; frontline management; marketing; business administration; tourism; and workplace health and safety. Since 2010, the Think Big Work Local project has obtained 3 training grants for 13 councils, from both Commonwealth and State sources worth a total of \$316,000. Training plays an important role in minimising skills shortages.
- Raising the profile of Local Government as a career choice was identified as a key need by the original steering committee. For a strong impact, a TV advertisement was created and broadcast to reach 92% of the adult audience in Aug 2010, Jan/Feb 2011 and Jan/Feb 2012. The advertisement directed viewers to www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au for descriptions of careers, training available, and an electronic summary of job vacancies from council websites. TV advertising took website hits from 0 visits a month, to an average of 1110 visits a month in 2010 and 1178 visits a month in 2011 (Figure 1).
- A number of videos on in-demand roles were created and added to the website, with some additional ones obtained free.
- At least 12 careers expos and presentations were provided to job seekers each year. Using our branded promotional booth with a touch screen PC and internet access has enabled LGAT to discuss careers and check jobs live with our audience. From 2012 we organised Commonwealth Government Careers Expos, with jobs placed on a jobs board, helped drive interest in council careers higher.
- LGAT's online competition and prizes advertised over our existing TV commercial and on the website also contributed to interest levels. Average visits per month climbed to 1401 in 2012, and to a high 1819 in 2013. This was achieved despite TV advertising being reduced to a minimal level in 2013, with the advert doubling as support for Constitutional Recognition.
- Each year the project officer has provided a range of advice to council HR officers and staff, helping them understand VET/university systems, options, grants and applications, grant

administration and quality assurance processes. Lack of local training causes local skills shortages. Writing some content for national core subjects, and obtaining grants has helped grow local training, including e-learning. Influencing the policy of Commonwealth and State organisations on qualification structures and training grant rules, has increased utility and access to training and training grants by councils. For example, data obtained by the project has been used to persuade TasTAFE to continue to deliver civil engineering in centres beyond Hobart from 2014.

- When the project commenced, insufficient data was available to the sector, to strategically manage workforce planning. LGAT worked with the Commonwealth, through the Centre for Excellence and the State through DPAC, focusing on useful data outcomes for councils. Monitoring of job adverts since enabled measurement of the level of recruitment need of Tasmanian councils. Recruitment need was observed to rise sharply in 2011 (Figure 2) to an average of 19.5 a week, marking the peak of the observed skills shortage. This level was maintained in 2012, at 18 per week. In 2013 the average job adverts fell for the first time to 16 per week, illustrating a reduction in recruitment need.
- In 2012, a database of Tasmanian councils/staff was developed by an electronic survey of HR databases. The analysis enabled LGAT to give the 22 participating councils strategic advice in a Workforce Plan. The Plans advise on which job roles to prioritise and recommend what strategic actions to take to minimise estimated retirements and resignations by job role. The Workforce Plans also provide councils with data they will require when applying for training grants. A sector report was also created, the aggregated data is being used to help negotiate better training outcomes, by using the size and scale of our sector's needs projected to 2040. In 2014 the survey added measurements of actual retirements, resignations and other forms of staff loss, expanding the scope of advice.

Figure 1 Monthly Website Visits

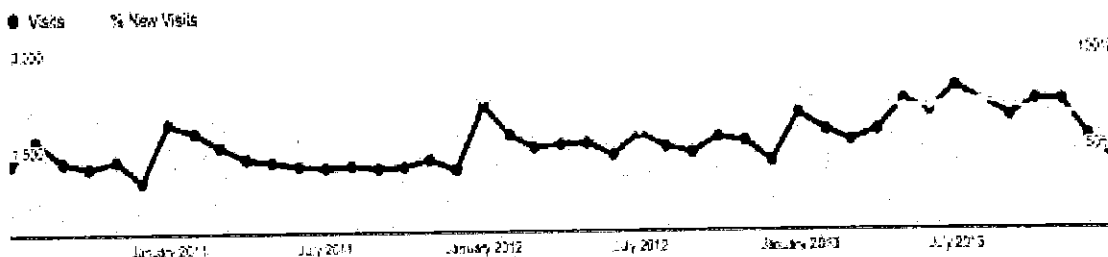
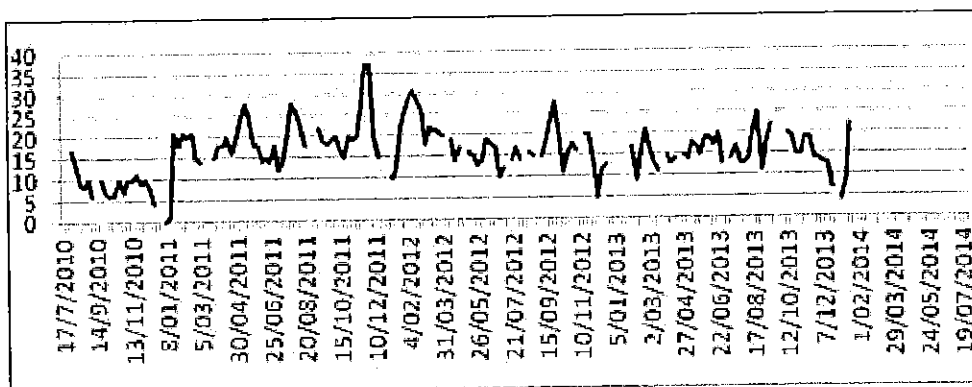


Figure 2 Weekly No. of Job Adverts



The Policy Director raised the matter at the last General Manager's workshop to get an indication of the level of support for continuing the project by building it in to subscriptions for a longer period.

There appeared to be a high level of support for keeping the project in its entirety including advertising which was seen as a high profile marketing device for the sector. However, the support was not unanimous and there was agreement that a strong set of KPIs should be identified. A few councils expressed concern at the ongoing additions to subscriptions but the reality is this project has been funded on a subscription model basis for the last four years. One possible solution is to still itemise it separately in subscriptions but noting it cannot just be 'dropped'.

In summary, at the GMs workshop we noted the following:

- We need to be in it (workforce development) to avoid future shortages
- Bring funding inside subscriptions
- Keep advertising and videos
- Workforce survey is a critical aspect
- Not negotiable every two years but subject to review (eg scale back advertising or other components but core costs not negotiable).

The Policy Director sought further advice from General Managers out of session via email and also identified some KPIs for their consideration. These were:

- Reach of advertising
- Website traffic – general, during advertising, post careers fairs
- Grant funding obtained/number of council staff supported through grant funding
- Usefulness of workforce data/survey analysis (through staff feedback survey)
- Number of councils utilising careers videos or linking to Think Big Work Local
- Time to fill vacancies

Only eight councils provided any reply by email, six of those were wholly supportive. One expressed concern about ongoing costs and the other wanted to be satisfied there would be ongoing evaluation.

Budget Implications

To continue delivering roughly the same, including TV advertising, we are looking at a total annual cost of \$125,000 per annum (distributed across councils using subscription formula as part of subscriptions but separately identified).

Costs can be held to current levels by minimising physical attendance at interstate meetings such as Government Skills Australia meetings and the Local Government Workforce Development Group and better utilising teleconferencing and web conferencing.

More specifically funding would cover -

- Television advertising (\$60,000).
- Web site maintenance.
- Sectoral training grant applications and management of grant funding and related reporting.
- Basic advice on training available (but no individual council application support).
- Workforce Survey biannually with sectoral and individual council analysis.
- Monitoring job advertising, website visits, TV reach etc for KPIs.
- LGAT presentations at 4-5 key careers expos in Tasmania as well as presentations to six UTAS, TAFE, Careers Advisors and other stakeholders each year.

- Support for councils to participate at regional/local expos (tools, tips, flyers etc). Advice in relation to events such as speed dating, bus visits etc but Councils to self manage/fund otherwise.
- Maintain basic relationship with Intrastate Agencies such as Government Skills Australia, Local Government Workforce Development Group, National HR Conference Committee with support from Policy Director and greater use of teleconferencing.
- Based on 0.5 FTE

If budget savings were desired, it is proposed to hold off advertising for a period of 1 year. This would reduce the annual cost to \$65,000 in Year 1.

Current Policy

This is well aligned with our Strategic Plan Priority Area 4: Building Sector Capacity.

6 SUBSCRIPTIONS 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015 *
--

West Tamar Council/Circular Head Council

That subscriptions be increased by 2.63% to meet the operating costs of the Association.

Carried

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

The application of the LGAT formula for subscriptions involves using the Total Assessed Revenue of councils, in accordance with State Grants commission data, with an application of the Council cost index then applied across the various categories of councils.

The result this year sees five councils moving up a category and two moving down. It is generally not expected that there would be as much movement but the circumstances are such that a number of councils were closely aligned with the upper threshold of the range in their previous category.

Break O'Day, West Coast, Kentish, Latrobe and Waratah Wynyard will face increases in category levels, while Dorset and Glenorchy go down.

The total to be received from subscription revenue next year is \$1,023,693. It should be noted that while the funds that would otherwise have been payable by Hobart City Council, had it retained its membership, were met from reserves last year, the "Hobart cost" has been passed on to all members this year.

The subscription table for councils is at **Attachment to Item 6** and is submitted to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

7	BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015 *
----------	---

Dorset Council/Northern Midlands Council

That the Meeting adopt the Budget as presented.

Carried

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

There are no significant variations to the budget for the upcoming year with the exception of the introduction of a new service being provided to councils for workplace behavioural issues, an increase in ALGA subscriptions, a reduction in network and internet costs and a bringing to account of employee entitlements.

The first matter represents a significant benefit to councils where a sectoral contract has been negotiated with a service provider to provide councils with templates and up to date services and information, as well as training, on workplace issues. The Association will make a small margin on the transaction for administration purposes.

With the withdrawal of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) from ALGA, the shortfall is to be accommodated in an increase in subscriptions across other jurisdictions. The formula used to calculate the additional contribution does not favour Tasmania relatively but the subscription formula overall is considered equitable. The cost to LGAT will be some additional \$10,000.

Network and internet charges have reduced considerably under a new service provider with a decrease in budget proposed of \$8000 next year. With regard to other employee entitlements, traditionally, we have budgeted on the basis of what would normally be expected to be taken in the form of holidays in the financial year. Better practice is to calculate this figure against a potential liability spread. This takes into account the possibility that those eligible for long service leave may actually take it. The result is an increase in the budget of some \$35,000.

Standard increases are expected in salaries and superannuation.

The budget bottom line is break even with the imposition of an increase in subscriptions of 2.63% in line with the Council Cost Index.

A copy of the budget is at **Attachment to Item 7**.

8 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN & ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014/15 *

<p>Launceston City Council/Central Coast Council</p> <p>That Members note the amended Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017 and the Operational Plan for 2014/2015.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

During April, LGAT staff met to review progress against the current Annual Plan and agree likely future actions for the year ahead.

GMC approved the amended strategic plan and endorsed in principle the operational plan at their May 2014 Meeting.

The key change to the Strategic Plan is removal of the priority area relating to Water and Sewerage as LGAT no longer has a significant role in this space.

Priority Area 2 has shifted in focus reflecting the end of the Constitutional Recognition campaign and is now entitled: *PA2: Leading Reform And Lifting The Sector's Profile*.

The key focal areas are improving the image of Local Government and developing research and analysis to allow meaningful responses to reform agendas or to support Sector initiated reform.

The Annual Operational Plan has been developed after consideration of what has been already achieved and what still needs to be achieved and tries to anticipate likely future activity based on the election of a new State Government. The Operational Plan is a living document and will be reviewed as the policy agenda for Local Government and relevant related activity under the new Liberal Government become clearer.

New initiatives include:

- Taking the LGAT News Magazine to market.
- Build a strong relationship with the Department of State Growth and the Co-ordinator General
- Promote all-in, all-out elections and advise communities and voters what this means for them.
- Provide support to potential Local Government candidates through forums and written resources.
- Implement a LGAT Twitter Feed and participate in National Twitter Day.
- Identify and implement new training opportunities such as:
 - Master Class for 2IC's
 - Master Class on Rating
 - Community Development Networking Forum (possibly including or in addition to an Arts and Recreation Forum)
 - Workshops for Roads Managers re pre-consent classification of vehicles
- Continue to work collaboratively with members to identify and understand land use planning issues and advocate on those for the sector including:

- Participation on the Planning Taskforce
- Driving resolution of issues arising from implementation of the Bushfire Code
- Advocate for members on the planning/policy interface issues with regard to social infrastructure and objectives (eg healthy by design, public transport, active transport)
- Contribute to improvements in planning and building processes through the Planning Schemes Online Project and the Business Tasmania Online Project (smart forms).
- Investigate opportunities to improve consistency of approach and modernise a range of planning/building documentation including permits forms and 337s.

Copies of the Strategic Plan and Draft Annual Operational Plan are at **Attachment to Item 8**.

Current Policy

The Strategic Plan sets the broad direction for LGAT activity. The Annual Operational Plan has been developed in accordance with that Plan.

Budget

Future activity has been reflected in the development of the LGAT Budget.

9 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
--

9.1 Terms of Office Extension - Members of the General Management Committee

Burnie City Council/Southern Midlands Council
--

That the term of office of all GMC Members, with the exception of the President, be extended for a period of one year.
--

Amendment Motion

Derwent Valley Council/Kentish Council

That term of office of all General Management Committee members, with the exception of the President, be extended to December 2014.

Lost

Burnie City Council/Southern Midlands Council
--

That the term of office of all GMC Members, with the exception of the President, be extended for a period of one year.
--

The Original Motion Was Carried
--

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

The current Rules of the Local Government Association of Tasmania require an election of the General Management Committee members in the year following a Council election. The delay of council elections until October 2014 this year means that under the current Rules it is not possible to conduct an election for GMC membership this year.

It is proposed, therefore, to extend the terms of office of all GMC members for a further year with elections to be held in 2015. Although moving to all in all out for councils, it is proposed that GMC positions be only for a two year period with "mid-term" elections. This has previously been endorsed by councils on the basis of it providing greater opportunity to serve on the LGAT Executive.

All members of GMC have indicated a willingness to continue in their role with the only issue arising being if they are not successfully returned as councillors in the October elections.

The Rules presently provide for the extension of the term of office of the General Management Committee (Rule 21(c)) by any meeting of the Association for such period as the meeting determines.

With the decision by the current President to not re-contest his council seat and foreshadowing his resignation as President, a fresh election for President will be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting, subject to amendments to the Association's Rules being passed.

Policy Implications

The present Rules allow for the extension of the term of office of GMC members for any period determined by a Meeting of the Association.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

9.2 Local Government Elections & GMC Membership

Burnie City Council/Derwent Valley Council

That the meeting adopt the changes to the Rules in relation to

- 1. Withdrawal of Hobart City Council as a Member of the Association; and**
- 2. Changes to Local Government elections.**

Carried

Two sets of changes to the LGAT Rules are presented to the Annual General Meeting. One to overcome the fact that if a council is not a member of the Association, it should not be able to have a representative on the General Management Committee and the other, to address the election of GMC members in the move to all in all out elections.

The first arises directly as a result of the withdrawal of Hobart City Council from the Association. Section 18(a) of the current rules states that

The General Management Committee shall consist of:

- (i) The President
- (ii) The Lord Mayor or proxy;
- (iii) Six members to be elected, as provided in sub-rule (b), from the three electoral districts ...

By virtue of this reference, it could be suggested that the Lord Mayor has a right of representation on GMC regardless of Hobart City Council membership.

The proposed rule change that will be taken to the Annual General meeting will be inserted as a new 18(a)(ii)

provided the Hobart City Council is a current Member, the Lord Mayor or proxy; and

The second rule change follows the move to all in all out elections.

The existing provisions within the Rules of the Association contemplate an election for President and members of the General Management Committee in the period following an ordinary council election. The Rules do not contemplate a postponement of an ordinary council election for a year.

In addition, the shift to all-in / all-out elections means that there will only be an ordinary council election each four years. This means that in order to provide for two-yearly terms of office for the President and GMC members, an amendment will be required of the Rules.

This constitutes a relatively minor amendment to the Rules which would differentiate between a "council election year" and a "mid term year", the latter being a calendar year occurring two years after the holding of an ordinary election immediately following a council election year.

Further, the current Rules do not allow an election to be held for the President until the office becomes vacant.

Legal advice has been provided on these matters and explanatory information is provided to members and is at **Attachment to Item 9.2** in the appropriate format for reference along, with a draft copy of the proposed Rules, amendments included.

In summary, proposed amendments to the Rules will allow for the conduct of an election while the President is incumbent, thus allowing a speedier transition to the new office holder. The other amendments will allow for the conduct of two yearly elections, the first following the conduct of ordinary elections and the other during the "mid-term" of the council office period.

The impact of the Change to the Rules relating to the election of President means that the President will now be able to give formal notice of his decision to step down as President as at a certain date and the conduct of an election to occur during his incumbency. The current President will not be standing for council re-election in October 2014 and thus would be ineligible to continue as President. While the Vice President could assume the role until the next election, it has been agreed that a fresh election for President would allow for an earlier alignment with the State Government on key issues. This has been discussed in detail at GMC as well as being discussed and supported at the last General meeting in March during the debate on topical issues.

Policy Implications

In accordance with Rule 16(d)(iii) of the Association's Rules, when a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.

Budget Implications

The cost of the Presidential election is minimal.

10	MOTIONS
-----------	----------------

10.1 Voting Categories**Derwent Valley Council/West Coast Council**

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania Rules Regarding Conduct of General Meeting be amended by deleting from rule 16 voting by population categories and replacing it with one (1) vote per Council.

Lost

Background Comment

This matter has been discussed at General Meetings and rejected on the basis of the Scale of fees payable, but it is our view that the Local Government Association of Tasmania does not represent the public (ratepayers) they represent the member councils.

The current process is in our view not democratic by having weighted voting at meetings of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

In reading the rules of the Municipal Association of Victoria for meetings and for State Council meetings the rules state as follows:

14. Voting Entitlements at Meetings

At any meeting of the Association other than a meeting of State Council members will vote by a show of hands and the Chairperson in taking the sense of the meeting will put the question first in the affirmative, then in the negative, and the result of the vote will be recorded in the minutes.

15. Voting Entitlements at State Council Meetings

15.1 At any meeting of State Council, voting entitlements on any motion or amendment will be

15.1.1 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which exceeds the mid point between the lowest and highest subscriptions will have two (2) votes; and

15.1.2 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which does not exceed that mid point will have one (1) vote.

15.2 and questions will be decided on the basis of the votes of the representatives voting.

Should there be an equality of votes on any question before a meeting the Chairperson has the casting vote.

The method used in Victoria appears slightly better than that used in Tasmania, but that is only because the maximum vote is two (2) as opposed to four (4) in Tasmania.

It would in our view, be an option for the Local Government Association of Tasmania to trial for a twelve month period one (1) vote for all members councils and then review the situation at a future Annual General Meeting.

LGAT Comment

The present voting structure of the Association is based on the premise of representation, the greater the size of the council population, the higher the voting weight. The one council one vote issue has been raised on a number of occasions but has not to date received support.

11 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *

Derwent Valley Council/Circular Head Council

- (a) That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.**
- (b) That Conference acknowledges the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.**

Carried

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2013/14 financial year.

Representatives on Bodies are requested to provide a report for Conference and are also requested to provide regular reports back to the Association during the year.

- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**
Mr David Moser
- **Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC)**
Mr Neil Blaikie
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Ms Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mr Kay Reeves
- **Local Government Board**
Mrs Liz Gillam
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**
Mayor Jock Campbell, Clarence City Council
- **State Fire Commission**
Mr Rod Sweetnam, Launceston City Council, Cllr Hannah Rubenach, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Dr Stephen Bresnehan, Hobart City Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Grant Atkins and Mr Hugh Denny
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Mr Peter Button, Launceston City Council, Ald Jeremy Ball, Launceston City Council
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Ald Doug Chipman, Clarence City Council and Cllr Susan Nolan, Kingborough Council, Ms Kym Matthews, Break O'Day Council;
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Ms Sandra Hogue

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 11**.

12 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President, Mayor Barry Easter, declared the meeting closed at 12.25pm.

1-236

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA**Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2014**

	Note	Assist 2014 \$	General 2014 \$	Assist 2013 \$	General 2013
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	685,666	673,411	749,487	949,666
Trade and other receivables	4	-	69,623	-	43,005
Financial assets	5	429,762	2,050,000	398,438	1,922,478
Other assets	6	972	60,989	1,420	50,013
Total current assets		1,116,400	2,854,023	1,149,345	2,965,162
Non-current assets					
Financial assets	5	60,542	-	35,520	-
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	1,014,779	-	1,015,861
Intangible assets	8	-	890	-	1,476
Total non-current assets		60,542	1,015,669	35,520	1,017,337
Total assets		1,176,942	3,869,692	1,184,865	3,982,499
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	9	5,088	277,064	5,756	306,172
Unexpended grants	10	-	435,608	-	541,612
Provisions	11	-	249,186	-	227,735
Total current liabilities		5,088	961,858	5,756	1,075,519
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	11	-	65,639	-	45,463
Total non-current liabilities		-	65,639	-	45,463
Total liabilities		5,088	1,027,497	5,756	1,120,982
Net Assets		1,171,854	2,842,195	1,179,109	2,861,517
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		1,171,854	2,842,195	1,179,109	2,861,517
Total Equity		1,171,854	2,842,195	1,179,109	2,861,517

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1-237
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2014**

	General 2014	General 2013
	\$	\$
Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Government grants	172,970	360,580
Fees and commissions	79,202	65,917
Interest - general account	94,216	129,071
Interest – building proceeds	3,308	3,047
Interest – Constitutional Rec	-	6,035
Surplus/(Deficit) on sale of plant and equipment	1,500	(3,950)
Sponsorship, conferences/seminars	228,574	240,416
Subscriptions	997,405	968,035
Other Subscriptions	138,449	212,482
Other	191,491	487
	1,907,115	1,982,120
Expenditure		
Advertising	1,268	454
Accommodation expenses	676	475
Accounts administration	12,629	12,033
ALGA	106,345	104,672
Amortisation - computer software	586	973
Annual conference	155,789	135,708
Auditors' remuneration	14,115	13,635
Bad Debts Expense	50,920	-
Catering	3,524	5,550
Cleaning	4,363	4,256
Consultancy fees	9,005	9,095
Council careers and skills shortage	112,710	100,219
Community Satisfaction Survey	8,100	18,900
Conferences and seminars	15,036	32,490
Constitutional Recognition	159,627	190,500
Cost Recovery - grant administration	(79,399)	(78,061)
Depreciation - computers	6,897	9,178
Depreciation - motor vehicles	18,954	16,644
Depreciation - furniture and equipment	2,953	3,076
Division 43 Deduction	1,441	1,274
Fringe benefits tax	10,458	14,853
Land & Buildings Running Costs	3,934	-
Insurance	29,545	30,096
Members emoluments	58,959	56,911
Motor Vehicle - running expenses	7,609	9,111
Motor Vehicle - repairs and maintenance	1,166	1,869
Network and internet	12,782	14,119
Other expenses	7,886	8,825

1-238
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2014**

	General 2014 \$	General 2013 \$
Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure (cont'd)		
Postage	5,534	5,949
Power	9,543	6,750
Printing and publications	5,612	5,387
Rates and taxes	8,566	1,603
Rentals	1,888	2,055
Salaries, wages and employee benefits (incl. Grant Staff)	788,414	736,260
Software	4,085	2,781
Sponsorship	1,700	3,450
Stationery	2,558	2,899
Subscriptions - general account	9,236	9,422
Superannuation contribution (incl. Grant Staff)	92,793	84,552
Telephone	19,622	19,189
Travelling Expenses	16,090	20,389
Government grants expenditure (excluding wages and superannuation):		
Environmental Dispute Resolution	3,783	-
Tasmarc - Climate Connect	3,107	16,667
26TEN - Plain English Guide	27,570	-
Container Deposit Scheme	18,562	-
Household Hazardous Waste	-	35,879
eDAIS	-	286
Coastal Adaption Pathway Project	10,000	124,991
LG Reform	72,018	172,691
LG Liveable Places	87,880	30,566
Total expenses	1,926,437	1,998,621
Operating surplus/(deficit) - general account	(19,322)	(16,501)

Charges incurred for the administration of both the LGAT Assist account and grant projects have been recharged to LGAT Assist or the specific project. The recovery of these costs is then shown as Cost Recovery so that the expenses on the General Account are more accurately reported.

1-239
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2014**

	Assist 2014	Assist 2013
Note 17 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Interest on Loans	39,505	34,198
Other Interest Revenue	24,552	30,347
	64,057	64,545
Expenditure		
LGAT Assist Accounts Administration	34,298	33,524
Auditors Remuneration	4,705	4,545
Bad Debts Written Off/(Recovered)	1,659	2,076
Donations and Research Projects	13,000	16,000
Grants to Members – Welfare	17,500	9,414
Other Expenses – Welfare	150	127
Total Expenses	71,312	65,686
Operating surplus/(deficit) – LGAT Assist	(7,255)	(1,141)

Note 18 Commitments

At 30 June 2014 the Association had no outstanding commitments.

Local Government Association of Tasmania
 Profit and Loss (Budget Analysis)
 1 July 2014 to 16 June 2015

Attachment to Item 3

	Income	Selected Period	Budget For 2014/2015	Difference	Difference %	Comments
4-000	Annual Conference	304,667.26	215,000.00	89,667.26	41.71	Actuals for 2014/15 Conference \$200,845.43 Income will be adjusted at end FY
4-1000	Conferences/Seminars	55,589.02	25,000.00	30,589.02	122.36	
4-1500	Cost Recoveries	19,033.05		-19,033.05		
4-1600	LGAT Training - Cost Recovery			0.00		
4-2000	Fees & Commissions	76,585.52	80,000.00	-3,414.48	-4.27	
4-3000	Interest	44,041.84	80,000.00	-35,958.16	-44.95	
4-3100	Interest - Building Proceeds	2,033.15	3,000.00	-966.85	-32.23	
4-3500	Other	222.00		222.00	100.00	
4-5000	Profit Sale on Plant/Equip.			0.00	0.00	
4-6000	Subscriptions	1,050,613.00	1,023,700.00	26,913.00	2.63	HCC rejoined, subscriptions for 14/15 paid pro-rata
4-6100	Subs - Council Careers	131,577.00	125,000.00	6,577.00	5.26	As above
4-6115	Subs - Community Sat Survey	14,736.00	14,000.00	736.00	5.26	As above
4-7000	Industrial Awards - HR Tools	87,165.00	90,000.00	-2,835.00		
	Income	1,748,196.74	1,655,700.00	92,496.74	5.59	
	Less 2015/16 Conf Income	103,821.83				
	Total Income	1,644,374.91				
6-0000	Expenses					
6-1050	Accomm exp - GMC	1,345.00	1,000.00	345.00	34.50	
6-1100	Accounts Administration	12,580.00	14,000.00	-1,420.00	-10.14	
6-1200	Advertising	250.43	1,500.00	-1,249.57	-83.30	
6-1250	ALGA - Meeting expenses	23,022.36	20,000.00	3,022.36	15.11	
6-1300	ALGA Subscription	89,789.00	90,000.00	-211.00	-0.23	
6-1350	Annual Conference	153,263.96	155,000.00	-1,736.04	-1.12	Actuals for 2014/15 Conference \$136,017.29 Expenses will be adjusted at end FY
6-1400	Auditors Remuneration		18,900.00	-18,900.00	-100.00	
6-1450	Bank Fees & Gov. Charges	3,329.43	3,000.00	329.43	10.98	

6-1475	Bad Debts Expense	-	50,920.00		-50,920.00	100.00	Bad Debt expense was taken up in 13/14, now the funds are to be recovered, the Bad Debt Expense from the previous year is reversed in 14/15
6-1500	Catering / Entertainment		6,762.80	4,500.00	2,262.80	50.28	
6-1600	Cleaning and Supplies		4,404.58	5,000.00	-595.42	-11.91	
6-1610	Community Satisfaction Survey		8,550.00	14,000.00	-5,450.00	0.00	
6-1650	Conferences/Seminars		30,626.53	10,000.00	20,626.53	206.27	
6-1700	Consultants Fees		5,900.00	10,000.00	-4,100.00	-41.00	
6-1705	Consultants Fees - HR Tools		80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00	0.00	
6-1710	Council Careers/Skills Short		65,950.00	125,000.00	-59,050.00	-47.24	
6-1800	Equip & Venue Hire			1,000.00	-1,000.00	-100.00	
6-1850	Elections - GMC Bi-annual		2,162.20	2,000.00	162.20	0.00	
6-1900	Fringe Benefits Tax		7,653.35	13,000.00	-5,346.65	-41.13	
6-2000	Depreciation Expense		22,224.00	25,000.00	-2,776.00	-11.10	
6-3100	Insurance		28,210.94	32,000.00	-3,789.06	-11.84	
6-3200	Land & Building Running Costs		1,333.59	4,000.00	-2,666.41	-66.66	
6-3400	Members Emoluments		57,903.18	60,000.00	-2,096.82	-3.49	
6-3410	President travel expenses		3,393.57	5,000.00	-1,606.43	-32.13	
6-3450	Motor Vehicle lease/hire		42.70	500.00	-457.30	-91.46	
6-3500	Network & Internet		12,343.97	10,000.00	2,343.97	23.44	
6-3580	Office Requisites		751.31	1,500.00	-748.69	-49.91	
6-3600	Other & Miscellaneous		30,273.20	1,000.00	29,273.20	2927.32	CEO recruitment
6-3800	Other Employment Entitlements		12,566.34	44,000.00	-31,433.66	0.00	
6-3900	Postage		4,896.80	6,000.00	-1,103.20	-18.39	
6-4000	Power		8,468.94	10,000.00	-1,531.06	-15.31	
6-4100	Printing & Publications		6,524.74	6,000.00	524.74	8.75	
6-4300	Rates & Land Tax		8,999.94	10,000.00	-1,000.06	-10.00	
6-4310	Rentals		1,231.32	1,500.00	-268.68	-17.91	
6-4350	Repairs & Maintenance		1,715.28	1,500.00	215.28	14.35	
6-4400	Salaries & Wages		726,303.44	737,000.00	-10,696.56	-1.45	
6-4500	Software		2,382.00	3,000.00	-618.00	-20.60	
6-4550	Standards Panel			500.00	-500.00	-100.00	
6-4600	Stationery		2,103.73	3,500.00	-1,396.27	-39.89	
6-4700	Subscriptions - Membership etc		9,501.83	10,000.00	-498.17	-4.98	
6-4800	Superannuation		90,695.65	91,500.00	-804.35	-0.88	
6-4900	Sponsorship/Research/Donations		1,500.00	5,000.00	-3,500.00	-70.00	

6-5100	Telephone	15,914.13	19,000.00	-3,085.87	-16.24
6-5200	Travelling Expenses	20,245.51	10,000.00	10,245.51	102.46
6-5250	Staff Training	239.40	9,000.00	-8,760.60	-97.34
6-5300	Uniform Expense	48.00	300.00	-252.00	-84.00
6-7000	Motor Vehicle Expense	11,815.01	12,000.00	-184.99	-1.54
6-7960	Grant Cost Recoveries	15,349.11	-		0.00
6-7970	LGAT ASSIST - Cost recoveries	29,095.00	31,000.00	1,905.00	-6.15
	Expenses	1,481,854.05	1,655,700.00	-173,845.95	-10.50
	Plus Bad Debt Recovery	50,920.00			
	Less 2015/16 Expenses	17,246.67			
	Total Expenses	1,515,527.38			
	Operating Profit(Loss)	128,847.53	0.00	128,847.53	
8-0000	Government Grants Income				
8-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution	46,152.62			
8-1015	26TEN - How To Guide	13,500.00			
8-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project	33,946.79			
8-2150	LG Reform Fund	342,008.93			
	Healthy Communities	80,000.00			
	Total Government Grants Income	435,608.34	0.00	435,608.34	
9-0000	Government Grants Expenditure				
9-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution				
9-1015	26TEN - How to Guide	13,500.00			
9-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project				
9-2150	LG Reform Fund	90,454.55			
	Healthy Communities	9,727.05			
9-6000	LG IT Strategies	25,814.14			
	Total Government Grants Expend	139,495.74	0.00	139,495.74	
	Operating Profit(Loss)	424,960.13	0.00	424,960.13	

Subscription Table
Based on Assessed Revenue Category

Grp	Council	2014/15 Subs Paid		2015/16 Subscriptions		Careers Project	Survey	Planning Secondment	Total Contribution
		% of	Subs	% of	2.48%				
1	Flinders Island	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
1	King Island	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
1	Tasman	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
1	Central Highlands	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
2	Southern Midlands	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	Kentish	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	Dorset	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	George Town	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	Derwent Valley	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
3	Break O'Day	3.70	37,877	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
3	West Coast	3.70	37,877	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
3	Glamorgan Spring Bay	2.80	28,663	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Latrobe	2.80	28,663	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Waratah Wynyard	4.20	42,995	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Brighton	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Meander Valley	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Northern Midlands	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Circular Head	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
4	Sorell	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
4	Central Coast	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
4	West Tamar	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
4	Huon Valley	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
5	Burnie	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
5	Devonport	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
5	Kingborough	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
5	Glenorchy	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
6	Clarence	5.26	53,846	5.04	52,874	6,300	706	2016	61,895
6	Hobart	0.00	-	5.04	52,874	6,300	706	2016	61,895
6	Launceston	5.26	53,846	5.04	52,874	6,300	706	2016	61,895
Total Subscriptions		100	1,023,693	100.00	1,049,081	125,000	14,000	40,000	1,228,081

Increased - Glamorgan Spring Bay, Latrobe

Decreased - Break O'Day, West Coast, Waratah Wynyard

The above amounts do not include GST

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2014/15	2015/16	Comparison
Income			
Annual Conference and seminars	240,000	250,000	10,000
Fees and Commissions	80,000	90,000	10,000
Interest (Excl. Interest on grants)	80,000	80,000	-
Interest on Capital from Building	3,000	3,000	-
Profit on Sale of Plant & Equip	-	-	-
Project Admin/Cost Recovery	-	-	-
Assist Revenue	31,000	31,000	-
Subscriptions	1,023,700	1,049,081	25,381
Careers Project	125,000	125,000	-
Extraordinary Income via Subscriptions			
Community Satisfaction Survey	14,000	14,000	-
Industrial Awards - HR/IR Tools	90,000	90,000	-
Planning Taskforce - Secondment		40,000	40,000
Total Income	\$1,686,700	\$1,772,081	85,381

Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses - GMC	1,000	1,000	-
Accounts Administration	14,000	14,500	500
Advertising	1,500	1,500	-
ALGA Subscriptions	90,000	92,000	2,000
Auditors' Remuneration	18,900	19,300	400
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	3,000	3,000	-
Catering, receptions, etc	4,500	5,000	500
Cleaning and Supplies	5,000	5,000	-
Community Satisfaction Survey	14,000	14,000	-
Conferences/Seminars	165,000	175,000	10,000
Consultants' Fees	10,000	10,000	-
Consultants Fees - HR/IR Tools	80,000	80,000	-
Council Careers	125,000	125,000	-
Depreciatio Building Division 43	1,000	1,000	-
Computers	7,000	7,000	-
Furniture & Equip	1,000	1,000	-
Motor Vehicles	15,000	20,000	5,000
Amortisation	1,000	1,000	-
Donations/Research/Scholarships	5,000	5,000	-
Equipment and Venue Hire	1,000	1,000	-
Fringe Benefits Tax	13,000	14,500	1,500
GMC Elections - Bi-annual	2,000	2,000	-
Insurance Fidelity Guarantee	1,000	1,000	-
General	9,000	9,000	-
Public Liability and PI	15,500	15,500	-
Workers Compensation	6,500	6,500	-
Land & Building Running Costs	4,000	6,000	2,000
Members Emoluments	60,000	62,000	2,000

	2014/15	2015/16	Comparison
Motor Vehicles - Running Costs	9,000	14,000	5,000
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000	5,000	2,000
Lease/hire	500	500	-
Network and Internet	10,000	10,000	-
Office Requisites	1,500	1,500	-
Other and Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	-
Other Employee Entitlements	44,000	24,500	- 19,500
Planning Taskforce - Secondment		40,000	40,000
Postage	6,000	6,000	-
Power	10,000	10,000	-
Printing and Publications	6,000	6,000	-
Rates and Land Tax	10,000	11,000	1,000
Rentals	1,500	1,500	-
Repairs and maintenance	1,500	1,500	-
Salaries (exc Grant Staff)	737,000	760,000	23,000
Software	3,000	3,000	-
Stationery	3,500	3,500	-
Subscriptions - membership etc	4,000	4,000	-
Superannuation	91,500	95,000	3,500
Standards Panel	500	-	- 500
Telephone	19,000	19,000	-
Training	9,000	9,000	-
Travelling expenses ALGA	20,000	20,000	-
Interstate	10,000	12,000	2,000
President	5,000	10,000	5,000
TTC Subscription	6,000	6,000	-
Uniform expense	300	281	- 19
Total Expenditure	1,686,700	1,772,081	85,381
Net Result	-	-	-

All figures are ex GST

**LGAT ASSIST
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2016**

	2014/15	2015/16	Comparison
Income			
Interest	31,000	31,000	0
Interest on loans	37,000	37,000	0
Assist Loan Application Fees	2,000	2,000	0
Total Income	70,000	70,000	0
Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses	500	500	0
Accounts Administration	35,000	36,000	1,000
Advertising	1,000	1,000	0
Auditors' Remuneration	5,000	5,200	200
Bad Debts	12,000	12,000	0
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	250	250	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	25,000	25,000	0
Grants to members	10,000	10,500	500
Other and Miscellaneous	500	500	0
Printing and Publications	1,000	2,000	1,000
Welfare Write Offs	200	200	0
Special Projects	2,000	2,000	0
Total Expenditure	92,450	95,150	2,700
Change in net assets from operations	-\$22,450	-\$25,150	-\$2,700

All figures are ex GST

Council	Rate Income		LGAT Subscriptions 2013/14	Percentage of Rate Income		Council	Estimated Population		Based on		Based on Rate Revenue 2012-2013
	Grants Commission 2012-2013			Rate Income			Population 2013	Population 2013			
Break O'Day	\$ 5,782,151.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.49682203	Break O'Day	6430	\$ 13,160.86	\$ 18,123.12				
Brighton	\$ 5,628,075.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.673480719	Brighton	15813	\$ 32,365.90	\$ 17,640.20				
Burnie	\$ 15,918,000.00	\$ 47,878.00	0.300778992	Burnie	19986	\$ 40,907.16	\$ 49,892.13				
Central Coast	\$ 11,026,071.00	\$ 42,891.00	0.388996225	Central Coast	22347	\$ 45,739.63	\$ 34,559.25				
Central Highlands	\$ 2,319,360.00	\$ 19,949.00	0.860107961	Central Highlands	2355	\$ 4,820.19	\$ 7,269.62				
Circular Head	\$ 5,963,785.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.635569525	Circular Head	8287	\$ 16,961.75	\$ 18,692.42				
Clarence	\$ 31,646,559.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.167364167	Clarence	53582	\$ 109,671.13	\$ 99,190.49				
Derwent Valley	\$ 4,872,471.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.58957765	Derwent Valley	9886	\$ 20,234.57	\$ 15,271.89				
Devonport	\$ 19,705,510.00	\$ 47,878.00	0.242967576	Devonport	25628	\$ 52,455.15	\$ 61,763.41				
Dorset	\$ 4,779,000.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.793136639	Dorset	7158	\$ 14,650.93	\$ 14,978.92				
Flinders	\$ 1,048,460.00	\$ 19,949.00	1.902695382	Flinders	784	\$ 1,604.68	\$ 3,286.21				
George Town	\$ 5,708,859.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.503200377	George Town	6828	\$ 13,975.49	\$ 17,893.40				
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	\$ 4,862,749.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.590756381	Glamorgan/Spring Bay	4437	\$ 9,081.61	\$ 15,241.42				
Glenorchy	\$ 24,484,130.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.216323798	Glenorchy	45537	\$ 93,204.70	\$ 76,741.14				
Hobart	\$ 53,641,009.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.098739753	Hobart	50473	\$ 103,307.66	\$ 168,128.17				
Huon Valley	\$ 8,541,253.00	\$ 42,891.00	0.502162856	Huon Valley	16159	\$ 33,074.09	\$ 26,771.03				
Kentish	\$ 3,817,509.00	\$ 19,949.00	0.522565893	Kentish	6495	\$ 13,293.90	\$ 11,965.30				
King Island	\$ 1,546,166.00	\$ 19,949.00	1.290223689	King Island	1605	\$ 3,285.10	\$ 4,846.18				
Kingborough	\$ 18,886,440.00	\$ 47,878.00	0.253504631	Kingborough	35201	\$ 72,049.07	\$ 59,196.18				
Latrobe	\$ 4,977,321.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.577157873	Latrobe	10655	\$ 21,808.55	\$ 15,600.52				
Launceston	\$ 45,981,300.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.115188131	Launceston	67035	\$ 137,206.61	\$ 144,120.18				
Meander Valley	\$ 7,776,328.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.487427999	Meander Valley	19543	\$ 40,000.43	\$ 24,373.51				
Northern Midlands	\$ 7,373,513.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.514056619	Northern Midlands	12754	\$ 26,104.77	\$ 23,110.96				
Sorell	\$ 8,407,384.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.450841784	Sorell	13537	\$ 27,707.40	\$ 26,351.45				
Southern Midlands	\$ 3,677,572.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.781140383	Southern Midlands	6271	\$ 12,835.42	\$ 11,526.69				
Tasman	\$ 3,100,000.00	\$ 19,949.00	0.643516129	Tasman	2363	\$ 4,836.57	\$ 9,716.40				
Waratah-Wynyard	\$ 7,334,796.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.516769655	Waratah-Wynyard	14291	\$ 29,250.68	\$ 22,989.61				
West Coast	\$ 4,981,918.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.576625308	West Coast	4707	\$ 9,634.24	\$ 15,614.93				
West Tamar	\$ 11,318,002.00	\$ 42,891.00	0.378962647	West Tamar	23012	\$ 47,100.74	\$ 35,474.26				
Total	\$ 335,105,691.00	\$ 1,050,329.00	0.554160702	Total	513159	\$ 1,050,329.00	\$ 1,050,329.00				



REPORTS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

to be presented to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 22 July 2015

INDEX

STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.....	2
TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD.....	4
STATE GRANTS COMMISSION.....	4
HEALTH COUNCIL OF TASMANIA	6
STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF MEDICARE LOCAL.....	6
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.....	6
TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION	9
STATE MARINE POLLUTION COMMITTEE.....	10
TASMANIAN SPATIAL INFORMATION COUNCIL (TASSIC).....	10
STATE FIRE COMMISSION.....	12

STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**REPRESENTATIVE:** Stephen Bresnehan**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Five**OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The State Fire Management Council has the following functions, as per section 15 of the Fire Service Act 1979:

- (a) To develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning;
- (b) To advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as are referred to it by the Minister and on such matters concerning vegetation fire management as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Minister;
- (c) To advise the Commission on such matters relating to the prevention and mitigation of vegetation fires as are referred to it by the Commission or land managers and on such other matters as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Commission;
- (d) To perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct;
- (e) To provide an annual report to the Minister on its activities, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G; and
- (f) To provide an annual report to the Commission on the activities of the Fire Management Area Committees, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G.

In addition to the above, the Council is to consider each Fire Management Area Committee fire protection plan submitted to it under section 20(1)(c) and may –

- (a) Approve the plan as submitted; or
- (b) Approve the plan subject to such modifications as it thinks fit; or
- (c) Reject the plan and instruct the Committee to recast the plan.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**Fire Management Area Committees**

The ten Fire Management Area Committees have each produced an inaugural Fire Protection Plan for their area. The plans were endorsed by the State Fire Management Committee in late 2014 and early 2015. Work is currently underway to implement the Fire Protection Plans and to develop the next iterations for the 2015-16 season. Executive summaries of all plans can be viewed at <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/committees>

TFS Fuel Reduction Unit

The SFMC Executive Unit has been restructured and expanded to form the new TFS Fuel Reduction Unit. The unit retains a key role in supporting Fire Management Area Committee activities and assisting in coordinating Fire Protection Plan implementation. The FRU is in the process of developing future risk management works programs based on the work of the Fire Management Area Committees.

Fuel Management Program

This four-year, 28 million dollar project was formally launched on the 23rd March 2015, and represents a substantial commitment of resources to manage landscape scale bushfire risk.

The program is prioritized through the risk assessment work done presented in the report *Bushfire in Tasmania – A new approach to understanding our statewide relative risk* (available for download at the State Fire Management Council website <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/>) and detailed local knowledge through the Fire Management Area Committees. Implementation will be coordinated through the TFS Fuel Reduction Unit, and on-ground works will involve TFS, P&WS, Forestry Tasmania, other agencies and contractors.

The ongoing implementation of this program is expected to be a major component of SFMC activity through 2015.

Red Hot Tips project

Red Hot Tips is a State Government funded program designed to build the capacity of landholders to safely and effectively conduct planned burning on their properties. The project has developed a range of tools, information and training about planned burning, primarily at a small localized scale.

The project's second round of activity commenced in August 2014 and will finish in June 2015. Round 3 will commence in May 2015 and end in June 2016. Each round offers 20 landholders across the state the opportunity to participate. More details can be accessed here: <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/red-hot-tips>

State Vegetation Fire Management Policy

The current State Vegetation Fire Management Policy was endorsed in 2012. The policy is based on the Indicative National Bushfire Principles:

- Bushfires are understood, accepted and respected
- Shared responsibility
- Decisions within a risk management framework
- Integration of learning and knowledge
- Manage fire according to the landscape objectives
- Consistency of purpose and unity of command
- Protection of lives as the highest consideration
- Monitoring performance

The policy is due for review in 2015.

TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Alderman Doug Chipman, Alderman Sandra French,
Councillor Susan Nolan, Mrs Kym Matthews

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015: Four

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The role of the board is to provide advice to the Minister on any issue relating to library services.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

1. Adult Literacy Plan
2. Client Survey 2014
3. Strategic Plan 2014-17
4. Business Plan 2014-15
5. Volunteer Literacy Tutors
6. Family History Web
7. Budget
8. Digitisation
9. LINC Tasmania Strategy Portfolio Structures
10. Launceston LINC redevelopment plans
11. Digital Literacy – Workforce Development
12. Lending Library Usage
13. Home Library Service
14. 26Ten Strategy
15. Archive & TAHO management
16. Service Tasmania cooperation
17. Workforce Surveys
18. Financial Reports
19. Reimagining Reference Services

STATE GRANTS COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Grant Atkins and Rod Fraser

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015: 11 plus council hearings and visits

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The State Grants Commission is an independent statutory body responsible for recommending the distribution of Commonwealth Assistance Grant funding to Tasmanian councils. The decisions of the Commission are guided by a set of national principles that are prescribed in the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. The Commission also recommends the distribution of the amount allocated by the Tasmanian Government to councils from heavy vehicle motor tax revenues.

To provide some structure in its distribution methods the Commission operates a triennial review policy whereby major changes to methodology are only introduced every three years. Data input and minor changes are applied each year. To ensure the available funds are allocated on an equitable basis the Commission continually monitors council practices and updates its assessment methods and data as appropriate. Should any significant changes to the current model be considered necessary following the Commission's recent hearings, they will be introduced into the 2015-16 distribution.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

The current Commission consists of four members. State Government legislation to amend the State Grants Commission Act 1976 has recently passed Parliament. The amending legislation (State Grants Commission Amendment Act 2015) will reduce the number of commissioners from four to three. Two of the members on the restructured Commission will be nominated by local government and the third will be an independent chairperson to be nominated by the Department of Treasury and Finance and approved by the Treasurer.

Current members of the Commission are Rob Close (Independent Chairman), David Hudson (representing Department of Treasury and Finance), Grant Atkins and Rod Fraser (both representing Local Government).

Hugh Denny retired from the Commission in August 2014 after 11 years on the Commission and the current Chairman, Rob Close, will retire after 15 years of service when the amending legislation is proclaimed in May. Both Mr Denny and Mr Close have given distinguished and outstanding service to the Commission and their expertise will be missed.

The Commonwealth announced in its 2014-15 budget that it was ceasing the practice of bringing forward payment of 50 per cent of the grant entitlement before the end of the prior financial year. The Commonwealth also announced that it was suspending indexation of the total funding pool for three years commencing July 1 2014.

Due to Tasmania's relative population decline compared to the rest of Australia, this will result in the base grant received by Tasmania over the three year period reducing in both real and absolute terms. As Tasmania receives funding from the Commonwealth road grant funding pool, based on historical (fixed) proportions, it is anticipated the road funding allocation should remain constant in absolute terms.

In the 2014-15 financial year, Tasmania received a base grant allocation of \$34,943,827 from a national pool of \$1,585,269,379, being a 1.5% reduction on the 2013-14 year entitlement, and a road grant allocation of \$37,276,854 from a national pool of \$703,430,675, being equivalent to the previous year's entitlement.

In March 2015 the Commission completed the latest round of hearings and visits. Part of this round included consideration of two significant discussion papers. The first discussion paper sought to consider the components of revenue in the base grant model and the second paper discussed whether there should be an additional funding allocation for roads with significant cost disadvantages. A third paper, prepared mainly for information, outlined the status of the current triennium review. The Commission was pleased with the submissions it received in response to the discussion papers and with the interaction it had with councils during recent visits.

HEALTH COUNCIL OF TASMANIA

REPRESENTATIVE: Councillor Graham Bury

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Health Council of Tasmania (HTC) is a high level committee established to provide advice to the Minister, who addressed the HTC at its first meeting.

The committee is working with the substantial changes in administrative and governance arrangements that will arise as the One State Wide Health Service is established, particularly as the role delineation of clinical services is developed.

With a Local Government representative on the committee it is possible to stress the need for the community to be well informed as these changes occur and offer the Local Government Association of Tasmania as a mechanism for doing so.

STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF MEDICARE LOCAL

REPRESENTATIVE: Councilor Graham Bury

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

Medicare Local has the responsibility for the provision of wide ranging services in primary health.

With the change in Federal Government it was understood that the provision of Primary Health care may change and discussion at meetings has been overlain by this prospect.

The Federal Government recently invited tenders for the provision of Primary Health services and Medicare Local has provided a submission with results still to be advised.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Elizabeth Gilliam

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015: The Board did not meet in the last financial year

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

Established under the Local Government Act to

- (a) Carry out reviews;
- (b) Advise the Minister on any other matters the Minister may determine.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

The Board's report into Councillor numbers at West Coast Council was finalised and handed to the Minister in June 2014. The Minister did not accept the Board's recommendation.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue as the LGAT representative on the Board.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION (ACDC)**REPRESENTATIVE:** Neil Blaikie**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Nine

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

- To consider applications for dam permits and, if granted, to determine the conditions to be applied.
- To issue Notices requesting additional information when required
- To specify the appropriate level of on-going safety management of dams

The ACDC considers natural and heritage values, and dam safety in its assessment of Dam Works applications.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Under the Act, "dam works" means any works for the construction, erection, enlargement, modification, repair or removal of a dam, or for the conversion of land to a dam, or any work on any such dam which may significantly increase the dam's safety risk.

The provision of a separate statutory approval process for dam works, outside the State's more general development application process under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, reflects the fact that dam developments generally cover a larger land area, have potential for greater off-site impacts and pose more significant public safety risks than any other routine type of development proposal.

The Committee receives advice from a Technical Advisory Group in relation to the various technical aspects of dam permit applications, with group membership drawn from various government departments and agencies. The advice includes information on dam safety and environmental issues including Aboriginal and cultural heritage, threatened species and communities, environmental flows, water quality and fish passage. The Committee also receives operational and management advice and support from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

All decisions by the Assessment Committee to issue Notices and grant or refuse permit applications are open to appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. Since 2000, less than one percent of them have been subject to appeal, a record which reflects the Committee's strict adherence to processes and judicious deliberations.

The Water Management Act provides time limits in which the Committee must finalise its decisions to seek further information from applicants or to grant or refuse permit applications. The Committee not only strives to fully meet these limits but also to establish procedures to reduce the time taken to below these limits.

To this end, decisions on applications for more simple dam works proposals of less than 100 megalitres, where no additional information is required from the applicant and where there are no representations received, have been delegated to officers within the Water and Marine Resources Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

The Committee's work in determining dam safety requirements for tailings dams at mine sites has also increased over the last couple of years with increased mining activity in the State. The Committee provides expert input on dam safety for works on tailings dams directly to the relevant body responsible for their overall approval (the local council or the Environment Protection Agency).

The ACDC's services remain strongly in demand. This is indicated by the following dam statistics:

1 July 2014 to 20 April 2015	Number	Storage volume (ML)
New applications accepted	48	10,095
Applications approved by ACDC	17	9,810
Approved under delegation	23	667

As at 10 March 2015	Number	Storage volume (ML)
Applications under technical assessment	10	937
Applications under Notice for Further information	9	1,876

- All significant applications are submitted to the relevant council for their consideration.
- Mr Blaikie carefully considers the implications for council assets in his wider assessment of dam applications.
- The State Government has decided to cease the role of the ACDC. This will require changes to the Water Management Act. The end date for the ACDC is yet to be determined.
- Mr Blaikie's current membership of the ACDC expired on 12 March 2015, however, he is continuing his membership for up to six months, as allowed by the Act, to cover the anticipated transition period. Mr Blaikie will need to be formally re-appointed should the transition period extend beyond 12 September 2015.

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION**REPRESENTATIVE: Sandra Hogue****NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015: Nine****OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The Tasmanian Planning Commission is an independent statutory body established under the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997.

The Commission has specific statutory responsibility in a number of key areas, including statutory planning, the assessment of major projects and use of public land, as well as the provision of advice to the Minister for Planning and Local Government and to Councils in matters related to land use planning.

The Commission's core business activities are undertaken in accordance with the following legislation, and usually initiated by a direction from the relevant Minister:

- Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
- State Policies and Projects Act 1993
- Public Land (Administration and Forests) Act 1991
- National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Water Management Act 1999.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Compliance check report on all draft Southern Interim Planning Schemes completed
- Finalised the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme
- Commenced assessment for all draft Cradle Coast Interim Planning Schemes
- Commenced assessment process for all draft Northern Interim Planning Schemes (other than Launceston and Flinders Island)
- New legislation came into effect on 1 January 2015 to streamline the process for completing the interim planning schemes planning reform in readiness for introducing the government's election commitment of a single statewide planning scheme
- Significant progress with the Planning Schemes on-line project – Launceston Interim Planning Scheme and all draft southern interim planning schemes lodged electronically
- Review of amendments to the draft Wellington Park Management Plan 2013
- Numerous planning scheme amendments

Note that Sandra Hogue resigned as LGAT nominee in January 2015. A new nominee is yet to be appointed.

STATE MARINE POLLUTION COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE: Andrew Brown

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015: One

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The State Marine Pollution Committee (SMPC) is responsible for administering the Tasmanian Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan (TasPlan) and ensuring that marine pollution response arrangements in Tasmania are in a satisfactory state of preparedness at all times.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Only one meeting has been held during this period. Projects being undertaken affecting the committee are:

- Updating the TasPlan – Tasmanian Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan including a review of the Local Government roles and responsibilities to reflect those identified in the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan (**TEMP**) ie: provide information on stormwater systems and supply labour and machinery to support DPIPWE.
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (**AMSA**) will be offering a free training session on Shoreline clean up towards the end of the year. This will be an opportunity for Councils with coastal borders to be active in the protection of their areas.
- Stage 2 of the Oil Spill Response Atlas (**OSRA**) and in particular the sharing of the information and establishing a suitable method of delivery. This does not have an impact on Local Government.
- Arrangements between Tasmania and Victoria in pollution responses in Bass Strait. This does not have an impact on Local Government other than the responsibilities listed in the TEMP.

No minutes have been issued yet.

TASMANIAN SPATIAL INFORMATION COUNCIL (TASSIC)

REPRESENTATIVE: Alex Crothers, City of Launceston

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015: Five

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) is the key forum for increased collaboration between public, private and community sectors in the collection, maintenance and use of spatial information in Tasmania.

The Council reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water and has representatives from:

- TASSIC independent chair
- State Government - Department of Premier & Cabinet
- State Government - DPIPWE
- LGAT
- University of Tasmania
- SSSI (Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute)
- SIBA (Spatial Industries Business Association)

TASSIC Strategic priorities and activities for 2014-2016 are:

- 1 Reinforce and promote the role and value of spatial information and the Tasmanian spatial information community
- 2 Promote broader, more effective use of spatial information, products and services to strengthen government, business and community decisions
- 3 Facilitate development of the skills, capability and capacity necessary to maximise the use of spatial information across the Tasmanian community

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Firstly I wish to thank LGAT for my appointment in December 2014 as LGAT representative on the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council and thank outgoing representative Mark Wise for his service and support. Since my appointment I have attended two TASSIC meetings and have enquired into the activities of the council over the last year. The following is my report on these activities for the financial year 2014 - 2015.

The TASSIC vision of 'abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all' is now being realised after a great deal of work behind the scenes. This is especially the case for Local Government with many of the barriers to spatial data now lifted.

For Example the State Government LIST recent adoption of Open Data licensing and provision of data as web services and downloadable data to the public through an open data portal <http://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/opendata/> is a great tool for Local Government and the whole community.

During 2014 - 2015 TASSIC has been active in advising on:

- Cadastral reform and the 'Cadastre 2034' report
- State ICT Policy especially as it relates to Open Data, the 'freeing up' of data.
- Spatial data as a means to Government efficiency and the digital economy, advising on policy direction.
- Advocacy - Increasing knowledge and spatial skills across traditionally 'non-spatially-aware' government agencies
- Promoting the spatial sciences to primary industry groups and the benefits applicable to precision agriculture. TASSIC presentations given at the Precision Agriculture Expo at Deloraine in April.
- Supporting a case for the capture and delivery of statewide LiDAR - high resolution elevation mapping.
- Providing media statements highlighting LIST services and the value of spatial information to the community.

For more information on TASSIC please visit the web site at www.tassic.org.au . A full activity report for 2014/15 is due for publication here in late June.

STATE FIRE COMMISSION**REPRESENTATIVE:** Rod Sweetnam and Hannah Rubenach**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Ten**OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The State Fire Commission (SFC) is constituted by the Fire Service Act 1979 ("the Act") which vests in the Commission the responsibility for the control of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) which delivers fire prevention and suppression throughout Tasmania. The Commission oversees and directs the affairs of the TFS. The SFC is accountable within the responsibilities under the Fire Service Act 1979.

The Commission sets the strategic direction of the TFS within its Corporate Plan. The Commission must ensure that TFS management's objectives and activities are aligned with the Commission's strategic expectations and also address the risks identified by the Commission.

The Commission has a number of mechanisms in place to ensure this is achieved including:

- Approval of a strategic plan designed to meet stakeholders' needs and manage business risk;
- Ongoing development of the strategic plan and approving initiatives and strategies designed to ensure the continued sustainability, viability and success of the TFS; and
- Implementation of budgets by management and monitoring progress against budget - via the establishment and reporting of both financial and non-financial key performance indicators.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

During 2014/15 the major inputs into the operations of the TFS have been:-

- Development of the 2015-16 to 2017-18 Corporate Plan which was approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Management
- Progress towards meeting the recommendations stemming from the 2013 Bushfire Inquiry
- The Introduction of Fire Permits Periods:
 - 20 November 2014 – Whole of State
- The Declaration of Total Fire Bans put in place:
 - 27 September 2014 - South
 - 3 January 2015 – South and North

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR THE COMMISSION INCLUDED:**Review of Delivery of Corporate Services across DPEM**

The Department of Police & Emergency Management are undertaking a review to ensure a cohesive and sustainable model for the delivery of Corporate Services across the department. A Steering Committee was established and Wise Lord & Fergusson was engaged to look at potential governance models for consideration. The Commission has been kept abreast as to the status and potential implications of the integration of Corporate Service business units as integration progresses. One of the key issues for consideration is financial modelling to delineate what services or action require State Fire Commission and the broader Department of Police & Emergency Management funds.

State Emergency Services (SES)

The management reporting line transition for State Emergency Service from Tasmania Police to Tasmania Fire Service took place and was well received.

TasFire Training Review

The State Fire Commission has provided oversight into a review into the ongoing viability and subsequent potential business models for TasFire Training (TFT). TFT compete against private sector companies so a number of commercial sensitivities exist. Wise Lord & Fergusson have been engaged to undertake this process.

Emergency Management – “The Future Of”

The State Fire Commission supported and had significant input into the contents of a paper titled “Emergency Management – The Future Of” and forwarded it to the review committee at the Department of Justice for consideration in their “independent review to develop a suitable model for integrated and interoperable emergency management arrangements in Tasmania’.

Fire Fighting Appliance Replacement Program

The Commission's major capital priority is its fire fighting appliance replacement program. Over the past few years this program has enabled the replacement of a significant number of older appliances. The new vehicles, which are purpose designed and built locally, provide greater safety and efficiency for brigades responding to fires.

Fire Station Build Program

The fire station build program continues to be an important priority for the Commission. In 2014-15 the following stations received significant upgrades to their buildings:

- Burnie storage area and demolition of old church and completion of Youngtown additional floor.
- As well as these upgrades, three brigades, Wynyard, Glenorchy and Rokeby have undergone separation of Personal Protective Clothing gear modifications.

Community Fire Protection Planning Program

The State Government provided funding for three years from January 2010 to support the development of Community Protection Plans throughout Tasmania.

The objective has been to develop plans to mitigate the impact of fire and other natural hazards on Tasmanian communities, with an initial focus on bushfire.

In recognition of the value demonstrated by community protection planning, Tasmania Fire Service (through the State Fire Commission) is continuing to fund the project beyond the initial three years, continuing to focus on bushfire.

The program received national recognition in 2013, winning the State & Territory Government category of the state and national Resilient Australia Awards.

The program produces three types of plans; bushfire protection plans for local communities, bushfire response plans for emergency responders, and bushfire mitigation plans to address fuel management on the urban-rural interface and for at risk critical infrastructure.

To date, 210 of Tasmania's most bushfire-prone communities have protection and response plans in place, and eight communities have mitigation plans. Ninety-two Department of Education schools and two private schools have mitigation plans. This initiative is dubbed Bushfire-Ready Schools, which are often used by community members as places of shelter during intense bushfires.

Community Education and Awareness Program

The Commission has overseen the introduction and growth of the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) Program.

Following a successful community development pilot program part funded by the Commonwealth, 2013-14 has seen an increased commitment of resources to roll-out community development in Tasmania's most bushfire-prone communities.

Community development is a successful and cost-effective approach for changing behaviour, by accessing existing community networks and resources and supporting communities to develop specific local strategies.

Some of the bushfire preparedness activities flowing from this initiative include community forums, workshops, field days, bushfire rehearsals, women's programs, BRN groups, and property assessments.

This initiative, which seeks to increase the preparedness of bushfire-prone communities, and hence their resilience, is consistent with the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

Following in the footsteps of Community Protection Planning, the program received national recognition in 2014, winning the State & Territory Government category of the state and national Resilient Australia Awards.

While sixteen bushfire-prone communities are the initial focus of the program, BRN staff are also active in several other communities across the State.

State Fire Management Council

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$28.5 million over four years to significantly increase fuel reduction burning across the State. Strategically reducing risk in the areas that provide the most protection to communities is the priority; therefore, areas of both private and public land will be included – a “tenure-blind” approach.

The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) is one of three main organisations involved with the management of bushfires in Tasmania, along with the Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania.

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) Unit, which resides within the TFS, has transitioned to the Fuel Reduction Unit (FRU), and has a key role in coordinating the implementation of the program across the whole-of-Government.

The Commission has raised some governance issues which were considered in relation to clarifying the reporting lines between State Fire Management Council, State Fire Commission, the Chief Officer and the Minister of Police & Emergency Management.

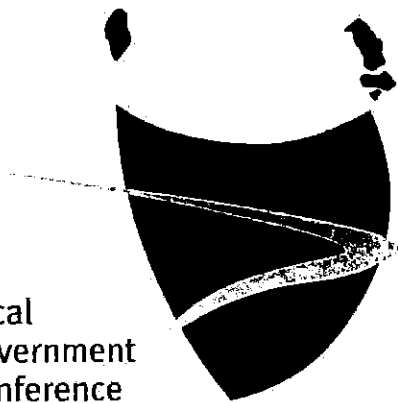


Local Government Association Tasmania

GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

Local
Government
Conference



**The Tramsheds
Launceston**

Wednesday 22 July 2015

**Commencing
immediately following
the conclusion of the
AGM**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
RULES REGARDING CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

13. WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) Each Member shall be entitled to send a voting delegate to any Meeting of the Association, such voting delegate exercising the number of votes determined according to Rule 16(a).
- (b) After each ordinary Council election, the Chief Executive Officer shall request each Member to advise the name of its voting delegate and the proxy for the voting delegate for Meetings of the Association until the next ordinary Council elections.
- (c) Members may change their voting delegate or proxy at any time by advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing over the hand of the voting delegate or the General Manager prior to that delegate taking his or her position at a Meeting.
- (d) A list of voting delegates will be made available at the commencement of any Meeting of the Association.
- (e) Members may send other elected members or Council officers as observers to any Meeting of the Association.

14. PROXIES AT MEETINGS

- (a) Up to 1 hour prior to any Meeting of the Association, a Member may appoint another Member as its proxy.
- (b) The form of the proxy is to be provided by the Chief Executive Officer and is to be signed by either the Mayor or General Manager of the Council appointing the proxy.
- (c) The Chair of the meeting is not entitled to inquire as to whether the proxy has cast any vote in accordance with the wishes of the Member appointing the proxy.
- (d) Proxies count for the purposes of voting and quorum at any meeting.

15. QUORUM AT MEETINGS

At any Meeting of the Association, a majority of the Member Councils shall constitute a quorum.

16. VOTING AT MEETINGS

- (a) Voting at any Meeting of the Association shall be upon the basis of each voting delegate being provided with, immediately prior to the meeting, a placard which is to be used for the purpose of voting at the meeting. The placard will be coloured according to the number of votes to which the Member is entitled:

Population of the Council Area	Number of votes entitled to be exercised by the voting delegate	Colour placard to be raised by the voting delegate when voting
Under 10,000	1	Red
10,000 – 19,999	2	White
20,000 – 39,999	3	Blue
40,000 and above	4	Green

- (b) The Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the raising of a coloured placard as the recording of the vote for the Member and as evidence of the number of votes being cast.
- (c) Except as provided in sub-rule (d), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
- (d)
 - (i) When a vote is being taken to amend a Policy of the Association, the resolution must be carried by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
 - (ii) When a vote is being taken for the Association to sign a protocol, memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement, the resolution must be carried by a majority of votes capable of being cast by Members and by a majority of Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
 - (iii) When a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.

Schedule

11.15 approx	Meeting commences immediately following the conclusion of the AGM
11.30	The Hon Peter Gutwein Minister for Planning and Local Government
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Sam Paske Chief Operations Director Enterprise Marketing and Research Services (EMRS) State-wide Customer Satisfaction Survey

Index

1	MINUTES *	6
2	CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS	6
3	BUSINESS ARISING *	6
4	FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *	6
5	MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS *	7
6	ITEMS FOR NOTING	7
6.1	POLICY AND LEGISLATION UPDATE **	7
6.2	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS (FAGs) STRATEGIC CAMPAIGN.....	11
6.3	ELECTED MEMBER CENSUS *	12
6.4	PLANNING REFORM *	13
6.5	TASMANIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE REPORT	15
6.6	ELECTRICITY	16
6.7	COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY	17
7	ITEMS FOR DECISION	19
7.1	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM	19
	MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED	20
8	GOVERNANCE	20
8.1	MOTION – COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER	20
8.2	MOTION – ADMINISTRATION OF GENERAL MANAGERS ROLL.....	21
8.3	MOTION – ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION ON GENERAL MANAGERS ROLL.....	21
8.4	MOTION – COMPULSORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS	22
8.5	MOTION – DISCLOSURE OF CANDIDATES POLITICAL DONATIONS	23
8.6	MOTION – ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING	24
8.7	MOTION – ELECTION OF MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR.....	25
8.8	MOTION – COMPOSITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	27
8.9	MOTION – CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION.....	28
9	PUBLIC POLICY - GENERAL	29
9.1	MOTION – LAND HANDBACKS AND DUAL NAMING.....	29
9.2	MOTION – REVIEW OF SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCIL AUTHORITY (STCA)	31
9.3	MOTION – DETERMINATION OF THE ROLES OF THE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT	32
10	ADMINISTRATION	34
10.1	MOTION – RECORDING OF VOTING AT LGAT MEETINGS	34
10.2	MOTION – VIDEO CONFERENCING AT GENERAL MEETINGS	35
11	FINANCE	36



11.1	MOTION – RATES ON COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN EXEMPT AREAS	36
11.2	MOTION – PAYMENT OF RATES ON ALL STATE OWNED LAND	38
11.3	MOTION – REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE GOVERNMENT	39
11.4	MOTION –TRAILS & BIKEWAYS FUNDING PROGRAM	40
12	INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES.....	41
12.1	MOTION – RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORESTRY AND PARKS & WILDLIFE ROADS.....	41
13	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.....	44
	<i>No MOTIONS RECEIVED</i>	<i>44</i>
14	ENVIRONMENT.....	44
14.1	MOTION – TRAWLERS TARGETING SMALL PELAGIC FISHERIES (SPF).....	44
15	PUBLIC HEALTH & NUISANCE.....	46
	<i>No MOTIONS RECEIVED</i>	<i>46</i>
16	ANIMAL CONTROL.....	46
16.1	MOTION – DOG CONTROL ACT.....	46
17	COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	48
17.1	MOTION – FUNDING FOR ARTS INITIATIVES	48
18	CLOSE.....	48

* DENOTES ATTACHMENT

1 MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2015, as circulated, be confirmed.

The Minutes of the General Meetings held on 30 April, 2015 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS

That the agenda and order of business be confirmed.

Delegates are invited to confirm the agenda and order of business as presented.

3 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following information.

At **Attachment to Item 3** is a schedule of business considered at the meeting held on 13 February, 2015 and the status thereof.

4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *
Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That the meeting note the report detailing progress of motions passed at previous meetings and not covered in Business Arising.

Follow up on outstanding motions

A matrix indicating progress to date on motions passed at General Meetings, which remained outstanding at the last General Meeting, is at **Attachment to Item 4.**

5 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS ***Decision Sought**

That Members note the reports for January through to May 2015.

Background comment:

Monthly reports to Councils that briefly outline the Associations activities and outcomes for the previous months are at **Attachment to Item 5.**

6 ITEMS FOR NOTING

6.1 Policy and Legislation Update **
Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

LEGISLATION**Code of Conduct Amendment Bill**

At the time of writing, the Bill was due to be debated in the Upper House on Thursday 25 June, with the Local Government Division and LGAT providing a briefing on Wednesday 24 June. There had been concerns raised in the Lower House debate about the timing of the Bill and the sanctions proposed. LGAT wrote to all non government members of State Parliament, clarifying that the amendments had been driven by the sector over a long period of time commencing in 2010.

The amendments aim to streamline the complaints process under the Local Government Act 1993 and replace the 29 individual council code of conduct panels with a single, independent panel. The Bill also proposes a number of other minor amendments such as making it optional for a council to hold an Annual General Meeting.

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations

Consultation was completed in May this year and the amended Regulations are due to take effect on 29 June 2015.

A key component of the review was to reduce red tape associated with Local Government newspaper advertising requirements and provide clarity to existing Regulations. Members were supportive of most of the amendments proposed. There was not a consensus position in relation to Virtual Attendance at Meetings and Adjournment of Meetings.

A copy of the LGAT submission is available on the LGAT website.

Local Government (General) Regulations

Consultation was completed in May this year and the amended Regulations are due to take effect on 29 June 2015.

Key components included raising the threshold for public tenders and amendment to the s337 certificates.

A copy of the LGAT submission is available on the LGAT website.

Support for Elected Members

LGAT is currently exploring a number of programs for Elected Members on which we will provide more detail at the next General Meeting. These include:

- As part of the roll-out of tools around Work Health and Safety/Workplace Behaviours, we are exploring the establishment of an Employee Assistance Type Program(EAP's) for Elected Members. The aim of EAPs is to provide preventative and proactive interventions for the early detection, identification and/or resolution of work and personal problems that may adversely affect performance and wellbeing.
- Council based/workshop style master classes on 'effective meetings' in partnership with an external provider.
- An accredited Elected Member Program in partnership with the Centre for Excellence in Local Government.

POLICY

Role of Local Government Project

At its 13 May meeting, the Premier's Local Government Council endorsed the three year *Role of Local Government Project Strategic Action Plan* and the establishment of a subcommittee to oversee implementation of the Plan. A copy of the Action Plan is at **Attachment to Item 6.1**.

A number of the 26 initiatives in the Plan have already commenced and/or been completed. For example:

1. Development of a Good Governance Guide (overseen by a Reference Group)
2. A report from the Legislation Working Group on legislative changes that might cut costs for customers/ratepayers, cut costs for councils and improve workability of statutory roles for Local Government.
3. Establishment of the Continuous Improvement Framework Advisory Group focussed on enhancing the Local Government performance reporting system and related tools and advice.

Tasmanian State Budget Update

LGAT staff attended the 2015-16 Tasmanian State Budget lock-up and briefing in May and the LGAT Budget Fact Sheet is at **Attachment to Item 6.1**.

Some key areas of interest to Local Government as a sector include:

Roads, Transport and Heavy Vehicles

\$1.7M allocation to Department of State Growth to assist and support councils in the development of strategic road networks and the assessment of critical bridge infrastructure in order to deliver a sustainable heavy vehicle access network.

Parks

\$8M for Parks 'high priority' infrastructure renewal and maintenance over two years including signage, fencing, walking and multi-use tracks, fire trails, roads, amenities and car parking. Priority projects will be identified in consultation with Local Government, regional organisations and other stakeholders.

Forestry

\$4M for non-commercial Forestry activities, including maintaining roads to a higher standard for public use, along with education, research and NFP tourism activities.

Concessions

\$300M total to fund ongoing concessions, including Local Government Rates (\$17M) and Water and Sewerage (\$14M)

Focus on Regions

\$5M Regional Revival Fund - New Projects Investment to facilitate the critical infrastructure required for major job-creating projects within regions; State Government will determine in consultation with private investors and local councils.

Planning

\$1.7M funding provided to accelerate the Planning Reform process in order to implement the reforms and deliver a single planning scheme sooner.

Local Government Reform

\$400,000 funding to exploring Local Government reform i.e. Local Government voluntary amalgamations.

Roads & Transport Update

The LGAT was pleased to note the \$1.7M allocation in the 2015-16 State Budget towards assisting and supporting councils in the development of strategic road networks and assessment of critical bridge infrastructure.

This funding comes on the back of continued advocacy from the Association to the State Government, indicating that councils need funding and support to better understand their road networks and bridge infrastructure in order to undertake their obligations as road managers under the recently introduced national heavy vehicle regulatory framework.

In June, Council General Managers and Infrastructure Departments were apprised of the opportunity for local councils to be involved in this State-funded project. The funding will enable the Department of State Growth to support councils to develop and implement a series of heavy vehicle networks on suitable local roads and routes to facilitate efficient, appropriate road access for certain classes of heavy vehicles.

The work to be undertaken that will involve assessing Local Government road routes for suitability to carry these vehicle types, with a particular emphasis on the structural capacity of bridges. State Growth has engaged consultants to provide structural analysis and route assessment services to councils and the Department across the three regions.

Given its state-wide focus, the project will have an emphasis on regional collaboration and strategic 'cross-boundary' identification of appropriate heavy vehicle routes and networks. There is no competitive element to the allocation of funds, the money will be spent in such a way as to maximise outcomes that benefit road access for heavy vehicles across the State.

It is envisaged that this work will be undertaken and completed over the next 3-6 months.

The Project will be overseen by a State Growth Steering Committee and the process and program of work will be informed both by a technical reference group and in collaboration with council road managers.

Emergency Management

The Department of Justice is currently conducting an independent review of Emergency Management Arrangements in Tasmania. The review report is due to go to the Minister for Police and Emergency Management in mid July. As part of the review, Local Government was asked to comment on the current municipal arrangements. A number of councils submitted responses into the review and LGAT developed a sectoral response to the request. It is likely that further consultation will occur with Local Government should the review recommend changes to municipal arrangements.

Significant activity is occurring at the Commonwealth level, with the Government tabling the Productivity Commissions report into natural disaster funding. The report made strong recommendations in relation to commonwealth funding for natural disasters particularly the split between mitigation and recovery funding. The Australian Government is now consulting with States in relation to future models. The state and ALGA are keeping LGAT updated on the discussions and formal consultation will occur with Local Government once potential funding models are better developed.

Planning for Healthy Communities Project

LGAT was successful in achieving \$80,000 funding from Tasmania Medicare Local and the Cradle Coast Authority to build the capacity of Local Government to improve social determinates of healthy outcomes in local communities.

As part of this project, two 'Planning for Healthy Communities Forums' were successfully held during May offering a wide variety of presentations on topics including systems thinking, a community development approach, the role of planning, food security, physical activity as well as local case studies.

In conjunction with the forums, a small grants and training program is underway to help councils develop a more strategic approach to achieving health outcomes. Closing 12 June 2015, 17 applications have been received and are in the process of being assessed.

The final phase of the project is a free workshop in the week of the LGAT conference. Scheduled for Monday 20 July at the QVMAG Meeting Room the session will include a "key note" style presentation from Ian McBurney on how Local Government can be a change agent for supporting healthy communities followed by a workshop on the issue of food security and Local Government's role as part of the food economy. The workshop will be run by Leah Galvin of the Heart Foundation and Professor David Adams of the University of Tasmania.

Disability Action for Local Government Working Group

The Disability Action for Local Government Working Group has been established in response to a decision at the Premier's Local Government Committee (PLGC).

Through PLGC it was agreed that the Local Government Division (Department of Premier and Cabinet) and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) would work together to provide recommendations to Local Government on supporting people with disability.

Local Government, through the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), and the Tasmanian Government are signatories to the National Disability Strategy (NDS). It represents an intergovernmental approach to improving the lives of people with disability and providing leadership for a community-wide shift in attitudes. The Tasmanian Government also has a Tasmanian Disability Framework for Action 2013-17, which is being implemented through action plans developed by government agencies, and through State Government collaboration with the Commonwealth, Local Government, industry, and community organisations.

The Disability Action Working Group has the following objectives:

1. Gather information on what Tasmanian councils are doing to support disability access.
2. Expand upon work that has already been done by local government.
3. Enhance partnerships between the State Government and local government on disability access issues.

The Group includes representatives from DPAC, LGAT and representatives from Break O'Day, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and City of Hobart councils.

The working group has met twice and is currently developing a Strategy incorporating an Action Plan to be presented to PLGC.

Cat Management

The Tasmanian Government is about to commence the development of a State-wide Cat Management Plan. The plan will cover all aspects of cat management including responsible ownership, awareness of the impact of cats and tackling the problem of feral cats. As part of the development of the Plan the Government has convened a Cat Management Reference Group. LGAT is represented on this Reference Group. At the time of writing this update the Reference group had yet to convene.

6.2 Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) Strategic Campaign **Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the activities being undertaken by all Associations, with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), in relation to the FAGs Strategic Campaign.

Background Comment:

In March 2015, the ALGA Board endorsed progression of a Strategic Campaign Plan to address the impact of the freeze of indexation on Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) funding on the Local Government Sector; as well as any future risks to the payment of FAGs posed through the development of the White Papers on Reform of the Federation and the Taxation System.

A Campaign Steering Committee comprising the State Presidents, has been established with the first meeting held on 1 June 2015. The Steering Committee will meet monthly.

Actions taken to date include:

- A letter to all councils highlighting the importance of FAGs and asking that each council pass a resolution identifying their FAGs allocation and agreeing to separately identify FAGs as a Commonwealth Grant in annual reports.
- A letter to councils in key electorates seeking their advocacy with their local MPs.
- A letter to key Federal Members and Senators seeking support for the restoration of indexation.
- Political representation at the Federal Level including via COAG.
- ALGA has commenced analysis of possible alternatives to FAGs. Deloitte Access Economics have been commissioned to develop the paper: *Tax Reform Options: Implications for Local Government*.
- At a local level, LGAT has sought some case studies from councils to add to a national portfolio illustrating the impact of the freeze on indexation.

The LGAT Acting President and Chief Executive Officer have a meeting scheduled with the Local Government Minister and Treasurer to build an understanding of the level of support from State Government for restoration of the FAGs.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

This is a priority for the Australian Local Government Association.

6.3 Elected Member Census * **Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note:

- a) **The preliminary findings from the Elected Member Census.**
- b) **That a full report will be tabled at the Meeting.**
- c) **That the completion rate was disappointing and LGAT will be seeking feedback in future on ways to ensure a higher return rate for surveys.**

Background Comment:

In early 2015, subsequent to the 2014 Local Government elections, LGAT conducted an Elected Member Census using Survey Monkey.

The return rate was down on previous surveys, at 40%.

Consequently, LGAT sought additional demographic information directly from Councils to supplement the broad findings.

Preliminary findings have been provided and are at **Attachment to Item 6.3**. and a more detailed report, including some trend analysis is intended to be tabled at the Meeting.

The survey is anonymous and does not collect data that can reveal the identity of an elected member or a particular Council. Only aggregated information pertaining to each question is made public.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Information collected via the Census provides information that can be used to help address the needs of the sector such as training and development for elected members. It also provides a picture of demographic change in Local Government over time.

6.4 Planning Reform *
Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background Comment:

On 26 March 2015, the Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, announced in Parliament the structure of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) which is meeting the Government's election commitment for a single statewide planning scheme. The TPS will have a clear set of planning controls which apply consistently to land use and development across the state.

Katrena Stephenson has taken up a position on the Planning Taskforce in light of the departure of Allan Garcia.

As discussed at our February 2015 General Meeting, LGAT conducted a process to second a Local Government Planner to the Taskforce drafting team. Caroline Lindus from Hobart City Council was the successful applicant. The cost of her secondment is being shared between the Taskforce and LGAT.

A Local Government Technical Reference Group has now been established, following an Expression of Interest process, to provide detailed technical comment in relation to implementation of State Government policy around the TPS. For your information, the Terms of Reference and Membership are available at Attachment to Item 6.4.

The first meeting was on 20 May, 2015 with the next meeting scheduled for 15 July. The first meeting primarily considered the planning scheme format and zones.

The TPS will comprise two sections -

- a) State Planning Provisions - a set of statewide planning controls
- b) Local Planning Provisions - includes zone and overlay maps for each area, Particular Purpose Zones and Specific Area Plans and specified departures.

The State Planning Provisions will comprise the following -

- Purpose and Objectives
- Administration provisions
- Zones - with use and development provisions
- Codes - with standard overlay provisions

This is based on populating the template in *Planning Directive No 1 - Format and Structure of Planning Schemes (PD1)*, subject to any necessary modifications and reconfiguration of the structure to give effect to the separation of State and Local Planning Provisions.

The Local Planning Provisions will comprise the following -

- Zone and overlay maps
- Particular Purpose Zones
- Specific Area Plans
- Local Use Qualifications

The preparation of the Local Planning Provisions will be the responsibility of local councils in their role as planning authorities. This will require the councils to reflect the State Planning Provisions and to ensure the consistent application of the zones.

The TPS will take effect in each local area when the Local Planning Provisions, which include the zone and overlay maps for that area, have been approved and are in effect.

The second meeting of the Technical Reference Group will consider the draft Use and Development Standards.

The Taskforce has commenced conversations about Codes as well as amendments to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act). The Amendments to the Act will provide the framework for introducing the TPS. Legislation is in the drafting stage and will be work-shopped with council planners via web conferencing as soon as a consultation draft is available.

The work is intended to be quite iterative with initial components being retested as new components are completed. It is anticipated that by the end of 2015 there will be final overall review of the draft State Planning Provisions for public consultation in early 2016. At that point, the consultation will move beyond those with a technical or specific interest as is currently being tested in relation to components.

The main concerns raised by Local Government planners to date relate to the retention of PD1 as the model for a TPS, however this is not a matter that is negotiable.

Budget Impact

As agreed at the February 2015 General Meeting, councils will contribute 50% of the costs of the secondment placement via the 2015/16 subscription process.

Current Policy

In line with current policy.

6.5 Tasmanian Local Government Workforce Report
Contact Officer: Scott Blacklow

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background Comment:

The Tasmanian Council Workforce Planning Survey 2013, database and reports were completed as part of a project containing a number of skills shortage and workforce planning actions branded as 'Think Big, Work Local'.

A survey was developed in consultation with council Human Resources officers and managers through the Human Resources Special Interest Group. The 2013 survey is an extension of the 2011 survey, including additional questions.

The majority of analysis and recommendations from the 2013 survey are contained in individual council Workforce Plans for the 19 councils who participated.

A sector report has now also been produced and is available on the LGAT Website. Information presented in this report is designed to help the Local Government Association Tasmania take actions to reduce the impacts of resignation and retirement on the sector.

A brief overview of key findings is provided below:

The LGAT survey found that of the 13.8% turnover in 2013:

- 9.3 percentage points was due to resignation
- 2.2 to retirement
- 1.4 to redundancy
- 0.7 to other (sickness, injury, death) and
- 0.3 to dismissal

While resignation is the major contributor to turnover and needs to be reduced, managing retirements should remain a priority due to the relative ease of predicting retirement turnover and managing succession.

The report looked at around 100 occupations in the 19 councils participating in the survey and combined them into 13 occupational groups for presenting results. Estimated future turnover impacts are relatively evenly distributed among occupational groups when considered at a sector level.

Occupations estimated to have highest turnover impacts at a sector level in the future are work crew, administration, director/manager, engineering, human resources and environmental health. Works Crew and Administration are the largest groups (roughly 2/3 of the total FTE workforce), they contain the oldest staff and are estimated to account for the majority of turnover events in nearly all councils and the sector.

The estimates of future retirements presented in this report are based on individual staff ages. Estimated future resignations are based on the average resignation rate found in participating councils in this survey of 9.3%.

The next survey process is scheduled to occur sometime after June 2016 and will switch from a calendar to a financial year. The survey, analysis and reporting change supports the integration of the survey with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's, Consolidated Data Collection, in relation to the council human resources component.

A focus for LGAT going forward will be working with those councils with the highest estimated levels of resignation and retirement to take actions as described in their Workforce Plans.

For this survey to continue to have benefit and improved accuracy, it will be important to increase the number of participating councils.

Councils need to work to understand their priority occupational groups, create Careers and Retirement Plans (or similar) and actively address likely future losses.

Budget Impact

This is within the Council Careers Project Budget.

Current Policy

A project identified as part of the Council Careers Project.

6.6 Electricity

Contact Officer: Kate Hiscock

Decision Sought

That Members note that LGAT coordinated a process for market based sectoral purchasing of energy for unmetered public lighting.

This process was successful and has resulted in significant savings for members.

Background Comment:

During 2014, for the first time, the retail energy market for the unmetered component of public lighting (or streetlights) in Tasmania, became competitive. LGAT coordinated a competitive consultancy to go to the market for the retail energy supply for unmetered public lighting for all Councils in Tasmania (with the exception of Flinders and King Islands). Additionally, LGAT procured legal advice to review contract terms and conditions.

As it was the first time the process had been undertaken in Tasmania, it took a long time, raised many new issues and was a learning experience for all involved. The end result, however, was worth it. With energy costs having a major impact on council budgets each year, achieving significant savings for councils on their public lighting energy bills was a real win for the sector.

LGAT looks forward to identifying future areas where we can support a sectoral approach to achieve savings for our member Councils.

Budget Impact

A shared cost model was applied to purchase energy consultancy and legal services. The process has delivered a cheaper rate of energy for unmetered public lighting, resulting in savings for members.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan Priority Area 2: Ensure Financial Sustainability

6.7 Community Satisfaction Survey
Contact Officer: Deborah Leisser**Decision Sought**

That Members note that the State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted in May 2015

That Members note that Sam Paske, Chief Operations Director, Enterprise Marketing and Research Services (EMRS), will present the key findings relating to the survey at this meeting.

Background Comment:

Since 2001, LGAT has regularly carried out a State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey to find out how satisfied Tasmanians are with the way in which their local Councils provide a range of services.

In 2015, following an approach to market, the research firm EMRS (Enterprise Marketing and Research Services) was engaged to conduct the survey.

A standard questionnaire document was developed by LGAT and EMRS then conducted interviews with 1240 randomly selected residents across the State in late May. A sample of this size provides for reliable results not only at a state level but also at the city/urban/rural and regional level.

As well as information about level of community satisfaction with various activities, the 2015 Survey identifies areas for improvement within Local Government, opinions on the importance of Local Government reform and overall perceptions of Local Government by residents.

Sam Paske, Chief Operations Director, EMRS will present the key findings relating to the 2015 State-wide Customer Satisfaction Survey at the LGAT Conference on Wednesday 22 July 2015. Sam has over ten years experience in data capture and processing.

Key results from 2015 Survey

- The average satisfaction score across all 35 elements in 2015 was at 70%, up 1 point from 2013 and steady when compared to the figure recorded in 2009 and 2011.
- The individual elements to receive the highest level of satisfaction from residents surveyed in 2015 were "staff being friendly and polite", "staff having a professional attitude and presentation" and "household garbage collection" all recording average satisfaction scores of 80% or greater.
- Only 35% of residents had direct dealings with their local council in the last 12 months – a decrease of 11 percentage points from 2013.
- Only 53% of residents had direct dealings with their local council in the last 12 months – a decrease of 11 percentage points from 2013.

- The primary reason for contacting a local council within the last 12 months remained consistent with 2013 data, with 19% doing so in relation to a "building/planning permit or query" and 14% for a matter related to "rates or taxes".
- Strong results were recorded with respect to council direction with 77% of residents surveyed stating that they thought their local council was currently heading in the right direction while 12% believed they were heading in the wrong direction.
- 77% of residents surveyed believed it was important that their council is involved in discussions about reform in their area. While only 4% believed this to not be important. The primary reason given for the importance of being involved was that regardless of the eventual outcome of discussions, residents believed their councils had a duty to stay informed and involved in the process.

Survey costs for the 2015 survey Statewide were \$31,350 (inc GST) which includes:

- Fieldwork
- Data analysis
- Development of a consolidated research report
- One bound copy of the final report for each Local Council
- An electronic copy of full data tables
- A presentation of key survey findings at the LGAT Conference in July 2015

Councils may have chosen to conduct a piggy back survey using the State-wide Survey questions as a basis for accessing reliable information for their local area. Costs to do this depend on the size of the population in the local area and range between \$7,700 and \$9,900 (inc. GST) for the basic survey. Piggy back surveys and any specific additional questions a local area may require are negotiated directly between a Local Council and EMRS.

Budget Impact

Councils contribute annually via the subscription process to fund the bi-annual survey.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan - Priority Area 2 – Leading Recognition and Reform (*improving the image of Local Government*)

7 ITEMS FOR DECISION

7.1 Local Government Reform Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That the Members discuss the difficulties being faced in identifying and finalising models and provide direction to LGAT on the areas of support required moving forward.

Background Comment:

The Minister for Local Government, Peter Gutwein, will be addressing the General Meeting, and it is anticipated he will provide a comprehensive update on the progress of reform conversations.

By way of background, in February 2015, the Minister met with the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and General Managers of Tasmanian councils at regional meetings in Hobart, Ulverstone and Launceston to discuss voluntary council amalgamations and strategic resource sharing. The Minister stated at the meetings that some principles must be met before any amalgamations will be considered. The principles are that amalgamations must:

1. Be in the interest of ratepayers;
2. Improve the level of services for communities;
3. Preserve and maintain local representation; and
4. Ensure that the financial status of the entities is strengthened.

Councils had until June to provide advice to the Minister on proposals they wished to have tested.

In June, a Request for Tender Process was conducted to identify a panel of providers for feasibility studies.

At the April General Meeting, LGAT expanded the number of participants and engaged speakers who could talk about reform from differing perspectives. The Papers related to that Meeting are available on the LGAT Extranet.

LGAT is currently establishing a Local Government Reform section on the Extranet to allow for inclusion of current and topical information as we progress through these dialogues.

In June, LGAT surveyed councils with regard to their intent. It was clear at that time, that while there was a reasonable level of interest in both mergers and resource sharing across the Sector, there was difficulty in progressing to some firm proposals and identifying partner councils. Further, a number of councils agreed it was important to first undertake some benchmarking work in order to inform any future proposals.

It will be difficult in that context to meet the Government's timeframe however it is clear that conversations are progressing in many municipalities, not stagnating.

Budget Impact

Nil at this point.

Current Policy

Support for Members through this process is an agreed priority for the Association.

MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED

8 GOVERNANCE

8.1 Motion – Council Customer Service Charter Council – Dorset

Decision Sought

To alter section 339F (4) Local Government Act 1993 from requiring a council to review its customer service charter at least once every 2 years to within 12 months after a council election.

Background Comment

Dorset Council reviewed the Dorset Council Customer Service Charter in March 2015.

Dorset Councillors noted during the review that given Councillors are now elected for a four year term it would be logical to extend the review requirement from two years to four. Dorset Council is therefore proposing that the review period be changed to within 12 months after a council election.

This is consistent with the current requirement for the code of conduct and extends the review period to four years based on the current electoral cycle.

LGAT Comment

This seems a sensible proposition in line with other review requirements.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

Reviewing customer service charters within 12 months of a council election is a reasonable proposal that aligns with the review period of other major council documents such as the strategic plan, financial and asset management plans and councils' code of conduct.

The Local Government Division is planning a select review of the *Local Government Act 1993* with a focus on red tape reduction. The review is expected to commence during the 2015-16 financial year. The proposed amendment to section 339(F) will be taken into consideration as a part of the review.

8.2 Motion – Administration of General Managers Roll Council – Hobart City

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania urge the State Government to support the transfer of the administration of the General Manager's Roll to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Background Comment

Currently the Tasmanian Electoral Commission manages and maintains the electoral rolls for Federal, State and Local Government elections. Given the knowledge and expertise of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission staff in managing and maintaining electoral rolls and, for the sake of consistency across all levels of government, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission should also administer the General Manager's Roll.

LGAT Comment

There is general support for this proposition and this matter was raised in the LGAT Electoral Act Submission.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

It is unlikely that the Government will support the proposal to transfer management of the General Managers' roll to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Consideration of this issue will need to occur in the context of the outcomes of the ongoing Legislative Council Committee inquiry into the administration of the *Electoral Act 2004* and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

8.3 Motion – Eligibility for Inclusion on General Managers Roll Council – Hobart City

Decision Sought

The Local Government Association of Tasmania urge the State Government to review the eligibility for inclusion on the General Manager's Roll to better capture all citizens, inclusive of refugees and permanent residents living in a local government area.

Background Comment

A review of the eligibility for inclusion on the General Manager's Roll will enable the better capture of all citizens living in a Local Government area.

LGAT Comment

Anecdotally there appears to be a high level of support for this proposition from Members which would be good to ratify through passing a motion. The matter was raised in brief in the LGAT submission to the Legislative Council Sessional Committee, Government Administration B: Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

Currently, a person is eligible to nominate for a Local Government election if they are on the General Managers' roll for the relevant electoral area, or on the electoral roll for the House of Assembly in respect of an address within that electoral area.

A person is eligible to be on the General Managers' roll if the person is an owner or occupier of land in the electoral area or is nominated by a corporation to vote in respect of the electoral area on behalf of the corporation. This eligibility requirement effectively does not exclude refugees and permanent residents.

The Government acknowledges the Hobart City Council's view that the General Managers' roll should better capture all citizens, including refugees and permanent residents living in a Local Government area.

Consideration of this issue will need to occur in the context of the outcomes of the ongoing Legislative Council Committee inquiry into the administration of the *Electoral Act 2004* and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. The matter will be considered prior to the next Local Government elections.

8.4 Motion – Compulsory Local Government Elections Council – Hobart City

Decision Sought

The Local Government Association urge the State Government to consider making Local Government elections compulsory and that voting take place at the ballot box.

Background Comment

The Hobart City Council has supported the move to compulsory voting by attendance at the ballot box for Local Government elections for some years. The Council's view is that the underlying principles that support compulsory voting include:

- Increasing participating in local democracy;
- Engaging the full electorate;
- Building the relevance of Local Government, and
- Providing consistency across all levels of government.

LGAT Comment

Significant electoral reform, in relation to Local Government, was enacted last year with the move to all-in, all-out elections, four year terms for Mayors and Deputy Mayors and the waiving of the requirement of Mayoral candidates to have served 12 months as a councillor. This resulted in a significant shift in the makeup of elected members (14 new Mayors and around 90 new Alderman/Councillors).

The General Management Committee of LGAT, agreed in December 2014 that the Association would support exploration of other possible areas of electoral reform during the next year or two. Members have already commenced informal conversations about issues such as compulsory voting, postal versus ballot voting and disclosure of campaign donations and the Association will formalise the debate in the months ahead.

At this stage, there are no formal recommendations associated with these areas, but the matters of compulsory voting and postal vs ballot box voting have previously been debated and the formal position on record is that compulsory voting is not supported (by majority vote) nor is a move to ballot box voting. The Association is yet to test whether this general view has shifted in light of the returns last election. This motion provides that opportunity.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Government has no plan to introduce compulsory voting in Local Government elections by postal ballot.

The previous Government considered and consulted on this matter in 2012, as part of the *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2013*. As a result of consultation, the introduction of compulsory voting for all councils by postal ballot was included in the *Local Government (Elections) Bill 2013*. The Bill was passed by Parliament with the provisions relating to compulsory voting removed.

8.5 Motion – Disclosure of Candidates Political Donations Council – Hobart City

Decision Sought

The Local Government Association of Tasmania urge the State Government to support the expansion of the Local Government Act and Regulations to require candidates to disclose political donations.

Background Comment

Tasmania is the only state in Australia that has no requirement for Local Government candidates to disclose who funded their campaign.

While regulations under the Local Government Act 1993 limit political advertising to \$5000 for candidates for a councillor position or \$8000 for those contesting elections both as councillor and Deputy Mayor or Mayor, there are two large loopholes:

- The first is that the advertising spending limit for the 2014 Local Government elections only applied for expenditure incurred between 14 August and 28 October, and;
- The second is that there are no restrictions on whom donations can be accepted from and the identity of donors remains a secret no matter how much they contribute.

The only disclosure requirement for candidates is that within 45 days of the declaration of the election results a statement must be submitted from candidates detailing what campaign advertising they paid for. These returns are available for public inspection for 12 months following an election.

Tasmania is inconsistent with other States in relation to its approach in dealing with electoral donations. In other jurisdictions in Australia the matter of disclosing political donations is addressed by State legislation and requires that candidates provide some form of disclosure to an appropriate body.

LGAT Comment

Anecdotally there appears to be a high level of support for this proposition from Members which would be good to ratify with a motion. The matter was raised in brief in the LGAT submission to the Legislative Council Sessional Committee, Government Administration B: Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The State Government is not planning any changes to the requirements for Local Government candidates to disclose political donations.

Any consideration of this issue would need to occur in the context of the outcomes of the ongoing Legislative Council Committee inquiry into the administration of the *Electoral Act 2004* and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. This matter will be addressed prior to the next Local Government elections.

8.6 Motion – Elected Member Training Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That all Councillors as a requirement of being elected to Council are to within six months of being elected undertake training courses in the following areas:

1. Meeting Procedure
2. Planning

Background Comment

The Local Government Association of Tasmania provides numerous courses during the year for elected members and some of these have provided some basic information that will up-skill councillors to help them perform their tasks as a Councillor. It is unfortunate, possibly due to work commitments, many of the courses have to be cancelled due to lack of participation or possibly lack of interest but as a minimum it should either be enshrined in legislation or as a policy of Councils that a course in meeting procedure and planning should be a minimum requirement once becoming an elected member of Council.

LGAT Comment

The Local Government Association has re-established a professional development calendar that provides Local Government specific training for Elected Members and Local Government Staff. As part of the calendar and to align with the all in all out elections, LGAT facilitated an intensive one day Local Government 101 session for elected members and provides regular elected member professional development workshops.

The sessions are extremely well received and since the elections over 50% of newly elected members have attended at least one of the sessions. Topics at these sessions include planning and meeting procedures. The Local Government Division is also working on some on line professional development modules for elected members.

Mandated training is not a requirement of elected members at the State level.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

Local Government elected members are currently not required to undertake any training although a range of training opportunities are available.

Compulsory training for elected members has been proposed in the past. The State Government would prefer to support an environment that focuses on continuous improvement rather than taking a narrow focus on mandatory training.

At this stage, the State Government does not intend to mandate training for Local Government elected members, instead trusting that Local Government elected members will self-select for training where required

8.7 Motion - Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request a change to the Local Government Act 1993 for the conduct of Local Government Elections by allowing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be elected by Council.

Background Comment

The last Local Government Elections were held under the new procedures, that is all in all out election for all council positions, and also for a four year term.

It would now appear appropriate to consider the following so as to help minimize the current confusion in the voting for Mayor and Deputy Mayor and also voting for them as a Councillor.

This could occur by utilizing one of the following procedures:

To not hold elections for Mayor or Deputy Mayor but instead hold elections for the number of councillors for the City or Municipal area and then from those elected appoint one of their own to the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

If adopted the Council at its first meeting would call for nominations and conduct a secret ballot on the same night with the count being undertaken by the General Manager.

In saying the above and based on the fact that there is no requirement for the person to have any experience in Local Government, then it would now seem to be appropriate that Local Government elect one of their own to be the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, in the same way as the leader and deputy leader of Major Political Parties are elected.

That at each Council election there would be two statutory positions those being Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Electors would be asked to vote on those positions.

There would also be held at the same time an election for Councillors for each City/Municipal Area.

This process means that a person standing for the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor does not have to also stand for the position of Councillor. The down side being that if you are not elected to the statutory position (Mayor or Deputy Mayor) you are not elected to Council.

LGAT Comment

LGAT agrees that there is public confusion about the need to elect a person as both Mayor/Deputy Mayor and Councillor and the solution is not clear.

There are pros and cons to popularly elected Mayors as described in the 2012 Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government Paper: Australian Mayors: What Can and Should They Do?

The merits of popular election include the “value and importance of having a personal mandate to enable them to appeal directly to constituents, to represent a diverse range of community interests, to work more effectively with central governments, business and other key partners, and to exercise more influence within the council organisation, both in negotiations with other councillors and with senior management”.

A further argument is that “elected mayors have provided more visible and accountable ‘facilitative leadership”.

On the converse side, risks of popularly elected mayors identified included: “personality politics and the potential for candidates with greater resources to ‘buy’ the mayoralty, the mayor might veer ‘out of control’, running a purely personal agenda, or conversely that there could be gridlock between the mayor and an opposing majority of councillors”.

There are risks also around indirectly elected Mayors including increased likelihood of party politics, factions and perpetual lobbying/election mode (when Mayors are elected every 12 months). This could be countered by ensuring a term of not less than two years but as ACELG notes, “it is difficult to see how indirect election for extended periods would be democratically justified or how it would make a significant difference in practice, since the mayor would still lack a personal mandate”.

Consideration could also be given to changing electoral processes so that candidates could run for Mayor/Deputy Mayor or Councillor but not both (and or a combination with indirectly elected Deputy Mayors). This however brings the risk that a fear of losing position on council might reduce the number of potential Mayoral candidates and would likely give greater value to incumbency.

Finally, another option is to make a greater community educative effort at election time, now only every 4 years, as a partnership between LGAT, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission and the Local Government Division.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Government does not intend to change the process for election of Mayors and Deputy Mayors.

Currently, Mayors and Deputy Mayors are popularly elected and a candidate must choose between nominating for Mayor or Deputy Mayor. A candidate must also nominate as a councillor and be successful in that position in order to take up any role as Mayor Or Deputy Mayor.

The previous Government considered and consulted on possible alternatives to the process for election of mayors/deputy mayors in 2012, as part of *the Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2013*. This included an associated discussion paper which was released to councils and to the public. At the time, the proposal to introduce ‘around the table’ election of mayors/deputy mayors received support from eight councils, however there were a range of legitimate concerns raised, which led to the view that it was not the right time to pursue this option.

The Government acknowledges that there is the remote possibility that a candidate elected as mayor/deputy mayor is unable to accept the position, due to failing to be elected as a councillor.

8.8 Motion – Composition of Legislative Council Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania pursue on behalf of Local Government the option that the role of the Legislative Council (House of Review) be undertaken by the Mayors of the 29 Council in Tasmania.

Background Comment

There has been much debate over several years in regard to Governance in Tasmania. Most of this debate in the past has related to the number of elected members to Council.

With this said the Number of elected members charged with the Governance of this state extends further than just elected members for Local Government.

The Governance structure is as Follows:

Local Government Elected Members	283
Legislative Council	15
House of Assembly	25
House of Representatives	5
Senate	12
Total	340

In an attempt to circumvent debate only on Local Government we propose that the Mayors of Local Government be empowered to take on the Role of the Legislative Council as the House of Review.

The Mayors are elected by popular vote, and now will be elected for a four year term as opposed to Legislative Councilors who are elected for a six year term. It will also reduce the number of elections required in Tasmania.

LGAT Comment

This motion was considered at the July 2013 General Meeting and was previously lost.

8.9 Motion – Constitutional Recognition Council – Northern Midlands

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association make representation to the Prime Minister requesting a referendum to facilitate the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

Background Comment

Local Government in Australia is often referred to as the “third tier” of government, with Federal and State Government the first and second tiers respectively.

Local Government was not a party to the federating process in the late 1890s and early 1900s, despite the establishment of Local Government in the 19th century.

The Australian Constitution was made law on 1 January 1901. The Constitution does not include Local Government and therefore, Local Government has no constitutional status.

The role and powers of government have changed considerably since 1901. Federal Government now collects the majority of taxation revenue (formally a state function until World War II), and has direct involvement in a wide range of community activities including, health, transport and education. Local Government’s role has expanded beyond “rates, roads and rubbish” and today provides significant community services and infrastructure.

Local Government works in partnership with the Federal Government through programs such as Roads to Recovery and is a member of the 8 COAG Councils.

Recognising Local Government by amending the Australian Constitution is critical, as the lack of constitutional recognition is detrimental to the activities and future of Local Government in Australia.

Constitutional recognition should not only be reliant on the direct funding from Federal Government to Local Government, it should also be on dignity.

Constitutional recognition is integral to federal democracy in Australia, recognising all spheres of government, local, state and federal and will hold all accountable to the Australian community.

LGAT Comment

There are a number of motions already on the books that provide similar endorsement to such an action.

LGAT fully committed to the National Campaign spearheaded by ALGA. While good traction was gained, ultimately Kevin Rudd’s call for an early election meant the plan would not proceed (it could not comply with legislative timeframes).

At the time there was bipartisan support, however it is fair to say that the Indigenous Recognition Campaign is currently front and centre with the Federal Government and there is little appetite to revisit the Local Government issue.

The ALGA Board have determined, given the changed climate, to focus instead on a campaign addressing the reduction in Financial Assistance Grants. LGAT does not see advantage in advocating for Constitutional Recognition for Local Government out of step with our National Peak body and other Jurisdictions and suggests that this matter be revisited at a later date, subject to deliberations and outcomes by the ALGA Board.

9 PUBLIC POLICY - GENERAL

9.1 Motion – Land Handbacks and Dual Naming Council – Circular Head

Decision Sought

1. Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government does not proceed with land handback within Tasmania, but proclaims STATE RESERVES, for significant, valued aboriginal heritage and cultural areas;
2. LGAT recommends that the State Government or the Nomenclature Board do not proceed with any dual naming of towns or lands without firstly being endorsed via a Motion from the appropriate Council.

Background Comment

Land hand back discriminates between Aboriginal groups.

Land hand back to the wrong Aboriginal group will create difficulties in the future as each lay claim to areas and there may never be a solution.

Land hand back stops access to land and sea areas for all Tasmanians.

Additional ongoing resources will be required to control fire and weeds.

State reserves are nominated and proclaimed to protect values. They are maintained by state land managers and also allow access and education for all people.

Land hand back will not enhance reconciliation and is not required by law within Tasmania.

Local Aboriginal groups and community are not consulted with the proposed naming within their area.

Local areas are known to be different to named areas by others.

Origin of names and importance to community are not explained to the locals for acceptance.

Reconciliation will be harder to achieve if all groups are not part of future naming.

MABO does not apply in Tasmania due to the land not being continuously inhabited by the recipients.

Land handbacks and dual naming are being done by a select few, for political purposes, and without a mandate or legal requirement to do so, without adequate consultation with local communities.

Referring to two reference books, *Beyond Awakening* by Ian McFarlane, and *Van Diemen's Land – an Aboriginal history* by Murray Johnson and Ian McFarlane, identify that nine Aboriginal territories with forty-eight tribes are mapped throughout Tasmania, and also Aboriginal names, totally different from those being bandied around at present and submitted to the Nomenclature Board by the TAC.

It is believed that until this and local communities reach consensus on these matters, the State Government would only be creating problems that may never be solved and at present our state reserve hierarchy protects heritage values.

LGAT Comment

LGAT represents Local Government on the Nomenclature Board. The Association has recently been working closely with the Office of the Surveyor General to make the Nomenclature Process more streamlined and consistent for Councils.

Rules and processes around the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy and the Nomenclature Board's Rules and Processes for Naming Places in Tasmania require consultation with the Aboriginal community and the broader community respectively. Local Government is included as part of this process as a key stakeholder. Councils may responded directly to the Nomenclature Board as part of this process and may also contact LGAT to raise issues on their behalf at Nomenclature Board meetings.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government does not support the motion put forward by Circular Head Council regarding land handbacks and dual naming.

Resetting the relationship with the Aboriginal community is a priority for the Tasmanian Government, as committed to in the Premier's March 2015 State of the State address and *Our Plan for the Next 365 Days*. The Government aims to achieve a greater understanding between Tasmanian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in a way that acknowledges Aboriginal history and culture.

The Premier is currently consulting with the Aboriginal community statewide to gain an understanding of issues that are a priority for them. The Premier is meeting with a range of people and organisations, in recognition of the fact that all members of the Aboriginal community may not be represented by the one body. This is an important step in developing a genuine partnership with the Aboriginal community.

A number of issues have already been raised and the Government is progressing an agenda across three broad outcome areas: connection to country and culture, recognition of Aboriginal people and closing the gap on disadvantage.

While the full outcome of these consultation sessions cannot be pre-empted, a number of actions have already been identified, including consideration of land return, joint land management, supporting Aboriginal tourism enterprise in Tasmania, and the continuation of dual naming.

Land Handback

The Aboriginal community has a strong connection to its land. While the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* provides for certain parcels of land in perpetuity for the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the Government is committed to considering proposals put forward by the Aboriginal community for further land return.

Any proposals regarding further land return will entail careful consideration of a range of issues including management regimes, Aboriginal heritage issues, access and stakeholder views.

Dual Naming

The Government is committed to the continued implementation of the *Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy*. This Policy allows geographical features and places to be given both an introduced and Aboriginal language name. The *Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy* provides a clear and consistent approach for the acknowledgement and use of *pakana kani* language to dual-name areas of *pakana* history.

Processes contained within both the *Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy* and the Nomenclature Board's Rules and Processes for Naming Places in Tasmania require consultation with the Aboriginal community and the broader community respectively.

The Aboriginal and Dual naming Policy is publicly available at http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csrt/0aa/aboriginal_and_dual_naming_policy and the Nomenclature Board's Rules and Processes for Naming Places in Tasmania are publicly available at <http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/place-naming-in-tasmania/rules-and-processes>

9.2 Motion – Review of Southern Tasmanian Council Authority (STCA) Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request the Local Government Board to undertake a full review of the STCA Governance and Service Delivery report undertaken by the Expert panel Chaired by Jude Monroe.

Background Comment

This report was commissioned by the STCA with Grant funding from the Australian Government. It is somewhat disappointing that after all this time the report continues to gather dust sitting on shelves in Council offices.

There is, and will continue to be, criticism on Local Government by some sectors of the community because Local Government of their own motion is not seen to seriously consider reforms unless they are pressured by other tiers of Government. This type of comment in the most part is unfounded, but if we receive funding to undertake a review and continue to ignore it we leave ourselves open to criticism.

With this in mind, and in view of the fact that much of the criticism of the report was based on the financial assumptions, it may be now prudent for an independent review of this report to be carried out by the Local Government Board.

This review may also consider some changes to the proposed Greater Hobart model, or may find that some of the criticism on the financial savings may be substantiated.

This is possibly more appropriate to consider now based on the State Government wishing Local Government to consider voluntary mergers/resource sharing.

LGAT Comment

The LGAT believes this is a matter for the collective members of the STCA to determine but is happy, if members agree, to facilitate a conversation between STCA Members and State Government about a Board Review.

9.3 Motion – Determination of the Roles of the Levels Of Government Council – Northern Midlands

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association make representation to the relevant Australian Government Ministers seeking support for the development of a consistent basis for determining whether a particular function is best carried out by Local, State or Federal Government.

Background Comment

The Northern Midlands Council is seeking support for the development of a consistent basis for determining whether a particular function is best carried out by Local, State or Federal Government.

With overlapping rules and responsibilities amongst the three tiers of government, the development of a consistent basis is not only appropriate, but necessary for Local Government to be effective. The inter-relationships must be responsive to all government agencies operating at the local level.

Subsidiary principle:

The “subsidiary” principle means that services should be delivered by the lowest level of government that has the capacity to effectively deliver them. While some functions may be best undertaken at a regional, State or Federal level of governance, higher levels of government should not perform functions that can be provided at a lower level.

The breadth of Local Government functions appear to be increasing, precipitated through Local Government responses to changing community needs, increasing community expectations, devolution of functions, particularly from State Government.

It is believed that we need to consider the current functions and how those may change in future. We need to review functions and give consideration to extending the role of Local Government into areas where it could effectively deliver on effective service.

The norm/trend is for higher tier levels of government to devolve functions to Local Government without devolving the necessary revenue capacity.

This is still an important issue to be assessed, particularly identifying how the increase in functions is impacting on the sustainability of communities and Local Government.

An Australia wide approach to determining a considered basis for determining a particular function is best carried out by Local Government, State or Federal agency if required, with the determination on an adequate policy framework to ensure productive working relationships with all three spheres of government, along with appropriate funding capacity delivered to Local Government.

LGAT Comment

If supported, the Local Government Association believes this matter would be best raised for consideration by the ALGA Board as it is a national issue.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Commonwealth Government has committed to producing a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation (Federation White Paper) and Tax Reform (Tax Reform White Paper) within two years of being in government. The Commonwealth Government has indicated that it would take the reform actions of the White Papers to the next Federal election on or before 14 January 2017.

The Commonwealth have committed to working with the states and local government on the Federation White Paper through a standing item on the COAG agenda (and through COAG Senior Officials Steering Committee meetings). Local Government is represented at COAG and on the Officials Steering Committee by the Australian Local Government Association.

COAG agreed the goal of federation reform is to improve the standard of living and wellbeing of Australians. It was also agreed that the current fragmentation of services can create confusion and affect outcomes. Improved arrangements are key to improving the quality of the services Australians receive. The objective of change has to be better services for the people of Australia. COAG also agreed that federation reform cannot be achieved by one level of government alone.

A special COAG retreat will be held in July where these issues are to be considered with a view to optimising outcomes for patients and students in particular.

10 ADMINISTRATION

10.1 Motion – Recording of Voting at LGAT Meetings Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania ensure that the vote of each Council is recorded in the Minutes including the number of votes cast by each Council and details of any proxy votes exercised.

Background Comment

The reason for this request is only for discussion and it is recognised that the Association is not bound by the same rules as Council in regards to the recording of those who voted but it is the view of the Derwent Valley that to ensure due process and the ability for the Association and those Councils who are members of it to be open and transparent that the way in which each Council voted on each resolution should be included in the Minutes of the Association.

It is also recognised that at all LGAT meetings any Council who wishes to have the way they voted recorded may do so. We recognise that it may also be difficult to administer this request but feel that it should be at least discussed and determined if there is an appropriate mechanism for the recording of the way each Council voted.

At the meeting in November 2014 there was discussion on this matter more in line with the difficulty to administer, and the fact that councils have the right now to request the way they voted recorded in the minutes.

There was also debate in regard to the view that having the vote recorded allowed Councils considering similar motions at a latter stage, knowledge in regard to how Councils may vote and therefore providing Councils the opportunity to lobby prior to the meeting to gain support on their motions.

It also gave Councils the opportunity to talk to like minded councils in regard to the development of future motions for LGAT meetings.

LGAT Comment

The concerns previously raised by LGAT are noted in the background, namely the difficulty in administering this and the fact that councils have the right now to request the way they voted recorded in the minutes.

10.2 Motion – Video Conferencing at General Meetings Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania consider changes to the Rules of the Association to allow for General Meetings by skype video conferencing to the three regional locations.

Background Comment

Some councils are currently investigating video conferencing of their Council Meetings as well as looking at ways Councillors can become involved with Committee Meetings by video conferencing.

As this technology is continuing to be improved and, based on the NBN network now rolling out in Tasmania, it would now be prudent for General Meetings of the Association to be conducted by this method into the three regions.

This will minimize travelling times and will also enable more councillors to be able to attend these general meetings and gain a better understanding of how decisions are made, based on the further debate on the motions at the meeting. It would also give those members of Council who find travelling to Launceston difficult, the opportunity to attend.

LGAT Comment

Councils recently considered the matter of videoconferencing in relation to Council Meetings as part of the review of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations.

The feedback from Councils was as follows:

It would be fair to say, that the majority of councils still feel that this should not be allowed until a number of specific issues are considered and addressed. These include defining the circumstances that would justify the use of virtual attendance, the period of notice required of a councillor, the ability to deal with defined 'emergency' situations, a cap on the individual use of the virtual attendance option, a definition of 'instant electronic communication' and what forms are deemed sufficient for purpose.

However two elected members and two councils made specific representations, seeking that the opportunity not be closed off with one suggesting at least the option to opt in under s37 of the Regulations "A council may determine any other procedures relating to meetings it considers appropriate". They argued that prohibiting virtual attendance on the basis of technology uncertainty is extreme and that virtual attendance should be allowed on a limited basis in special circumstances decided by the council in response to a formal request of an elected member. Virtual attendance at meetings is accepted in many other areas of business, volunteering and medicine so it seems inequitable that those wanting to maintain involvement in council business are denied the opportunity because of physical location.

The reasonable expectation that Aldermen are present active and accessible within the community that they serve is the underlying objective in preferring/ requiring meeting attendance in person. Notwithstanding this, it is considered that it would be useful for Councils to have the ability to enable such participation to occur and there is scope to place some limitation on an Alderman's use of electronic meeting attendance (ie based on extenuating circumstances, temporary in nature limitation on the extent of the periods of use etc) so that it is not able to be used as a simple alternative to the more representative and favourable "physical" attendance at meetings.

Given the lack of consensus about videoconferencing for Council Meetings where no more than ten are required to vote, and each vote is of equal weight; and where those physically attending the meeting are in a relatively confined space it is easy to imagine that General Meetings undertaken virtually would be logistically challenging. There are only four General Meetings a year, one of which is our conference. The April General Meeting showed the potential benefits that can be obtained with greater interactivity at meetings and more use of meaningful speakers and LGAT would rather focus on improvement through that path.

11 FINANCE

11.1 Motion – Rates on Commercial Development in Exempt Areas Council – Huon Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request the State Government to review Section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to make commercial development in the exempt areas in sub-section (1) subject to the payment of general rates, special rates or averaged area rates and be specifically excluded from the exemption.

Background Comment

Section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides that all land is rateable except for specified land which is exempt and includes land held or owned by the Crown amongst others that is national park, conversation area, nature recreation area, nature reserve, regional reserve, state reserve or game reserve or within the meaning of the *Nature Conversation Act 2002*.

While the Crown as owner of the land may agree to pay general rates on the land under Section 87(2) of the Act, there is no obligation to do so.

The current State Government has been progressing tourism investment opportunities in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, national parks and reserves under a policy of unlocking Tasmania's nature areas to allow for "exciting new tourism experiences" that are complimented by sensitive and appropriate tourism infrastructure.

The government is currently going through an expression of interest process in respect of tourism investment opportunities.

The proposal has raised the issue in relation to rating of development in those areas.

In accordance with Section 87 as set out above, any development in these areas are *prima facie* exempt from the payment of rates.

While some of these developments may be in remote areas they will still have the potential for impact on Councils in relation to Council provided infrastructure and services. These impacts include general Council support particularly economic development and tourism aspects and infrastructure services which may include road networks and town infrastructure.

There is also an equity issue in relation to such developments. Similar commercial developments, not within these areas, are liable for payment of full general rates.

These developments have the potential for positive impact for Councils in increased tourism and exposure. It is though, considered important that such developments are on the same footing as other commercial development opportunities and it is considered appropriate to request a review of Section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to exclude commercial developments on exempt land as being exempt from the payment of rates.

LGAT Comment

There have been a number of relevant previous motions. For example:

- 2011 *That the financial reform process adopted between the State Government and councils ten years ago be reviewed.* Carried
- 2013 *That the Local Government Association request the State Government under its current review of the role of Local Government, undertake a review of the financial relationship between State and Local Government.* Carried
- 2014 *That the Local Government Association of Tasmania pursue with the newly elected Liberal Government the rating of Hydro and also the rating of all Crown Land that is leased for commercial developments including National Parks and Reserves.* Carried.
- 2014: *That the Local Government Association of Tasmania pursue with the newly elected Liberal Government a review of the Financial Relationship between State and Local Government.* Lost

There has been consistently no support from State Government for review.

LGAT notes that it is true that the financial reforms were negotiated in good faith a decade ago with a commitment to simplification and transparency. When the review took place in the early 2000s, the net result was that, in large part, councils would pay state taxes and charges and the State Government would pay rates to councils. Exemptions were made on each side of the ledger for charges associated with national parks, recreational parks, etc.

The analysis demonstrated that there would be a significant windfall to Local Government in this process. The review had been conducted on the basis of revenue neutrality being agreed as an outcome. The means by which this was "artificially" achieved was to exclude particular charging from the process. While several possibilities were available it was the exclusion of Hydro rates that was ultimately resolved. The impact and reach of this decision was considered in the context of how the reforms would not only affect the sector but the individual councils.

In the broad scheme of things Local Government benefited only marginally from the cross transactions to the extent of some \$2million per annum.

However it is not clear as to why there should not be a review a decade on as circumstances have likely changed considerably. In undertaking negotiations in good faith it was always envisaged that there would be slight changes to land holdings on both sides but the extent of transfer proposed under the Forestry IGA arrangements were never envisaged. It is also unclear as to why new power generation assets continue to be quarantined from rating.

The Association is of the view that there is merit in reviewing the financial arrangements, not on the basis of unbundling them but, on the basis of returning to the initial principles of simplification and transparency.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The State Government is not planning to review the rating provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or considering any changes to current rating practices relating to the payment of rates on State owned land.

11.2 Motion – Payment Of Rates On All State Owned Land Council – Break O'Day

Decision Sought

That LGAT asks the State Government to pay rates on all State owned land, including National Parks, Reserves, Conservation Areas, etc.

Background Comment

The State Government has set the precedent by paying rates for Forestry. Now with camping fees, National Park entry fees and leases being paid for ventures in National Parks, the State Government has a revenue stream like Forestry.

Councils such as Break O'Day have huge areas of State owned land which limit our rates base. Councils provide access to these areas with Council owned roads and bridges. This is compounded when Forestry roads are not being maintained, and the responsibility is falling onto Councils to maintain them as they provide access to some of our tourism icons and also have private residences on them.

LGAT Comment

Comment is as per Item 11.1 above.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

As part of the Statewide Partnership Agreement between the State and Local Government on Financial Reform signed in 2003 the *Local Government Act 1993* was amended. These amendments required State Government to pay council rates on crown land, apart from certain types of reserves, roads, bridges and associated infrastructure. The reforms also resulted in councils paying all State Government taxes including payroll and land tax.

The State and Local Government Financial Reforms were negotiated in good faith with a commitment from both levels of government to the aim of simplifying and making financial relations more transparent.

The reforms were underpinned by a criterion of revenue neutrality for both levels of government based on the 1999-00 reference year. The SLGFR context was always a "no regrets" initiative with no expectation that revenue neutrality would be either sustained through time or subject to periodic review.

It is noted that by the time that the legislation took effect on 1 July 2004, State taxes had reduced and council rates increased relative to 1999-00 revenue neutrality reference year, such that rather than being revenue neutral the reforms resulted in a material positive net financial transfer to Local Governments from the State Government.

Subsequent reductions in state taxes, such as reductions in land tax in 1 July 2010 and increases in payroll tax thresholds in 1 July 2013 would have further favourably impacted Local Government.

The State government does not support the motion.

In relation to the maintenance of Forestry roads the State Government has commenced a review of the existing road network within the Future Potential Production Forest (FPPF) lands to identify the range and extent of existing uses and the priorities for ongoing management. The State Government has formed a Steering Committee to develop and implement a Tourism Supply Strategy. The Steering Committee will, among other things, address the ongoing maintenance of roads that were previously maintained by Forestry Tasmania or Gunns that are of significance for tourism.

The Government will not consider any changes to current rating practices relating to payment of rates on all State owned land, including National Parks, Reserves and Conservation Areas as, stated above, they are considered to be non-commercial and provided for the public good.

11.3 Motion – Review of Financial Relationship with State Government Council – Derwent Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association request the State Government under its current review of the role of Local Government, undertake a review of the financial relationship between State and Local Government.

Background Comment

Some ten years ago the Financial Management Act was enacted which made changes to legislation relating to the taxing arrangements in place for State and Local Government.

During this time some tax exemptions for Local Government were revoked and the non-payment of rates by Government Agencies was also revoked. Some council's received a financial advantage at that time but this has in many cases eroded over time.