



Local Government Association Tasmania

GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA



**Local
Government
Conference**

**Wrest Point
Hobart**

Wednesday 26 July 2017

**Commencing
11.00am**

**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

10.30	Coffee on arrival
11.00	General Meeting The AGM will commence immediately following the conclusion of the General Meeting .
11.30	Rosalie Woodruff MP Tasmanian Greens Member for Franklin Local Government Portfolio Holder
12.00	Madeleine Ogilvie M: Tasmanian Labor Party Member for Denison Shadow Minister Local Government & Public Planning
12.30	The Hon Peter Gutwein MP Tasmanian Liberal Party Treasurer Minister for Planning and Local Government
1.00	Lunch

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* DENOTES ATTACHMENT

1 MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the special General Meeting held on 11 May 2017, as circulated, be confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 May, 2017 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS

Decision Sought

That the agenda and order of business be confirmed.

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

3 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on activity since the last General Meeting, 24 March to 23 June 2017 inclusive.

Meetings

- Commissioner Glenorchy City Council
- LGAT General Meeting (April)
- TasWater – meetings, teleconferences
- General Management Committee – May Meeting, Teleconferences
- TasWater Campaign Steering Committee
- ALGA Board Meeting
- ALGA Regional Cooperation and Development Forum
- ALGA National General Assembly
- Mayors Professional Development Day
- LGAT Strategic Planning
- Property Council – Policy Committee

Media/Communication

- Radio, print and television on:
 - TasWater - Legality
 - Financial Assistance Grants
- The Pulse

- Media releases: State Budget; TasWater Legal Advice; George-Town/West Tamar; State of the Regions Report
- Op Ed: TasWater

Other

- Local Government Professionals National Conference – Panel

4 CEOs REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on activity since the last General Meeting, 24 March to 23 June 2017 inclusive.

Key meetings and events

- ALGA Board Meeting
- ALGA CEO Meeting
- ALGA National General Assembly
- ALGWA National Conference Dinner - Launceston
- Audit Office re LGAT Audit process
- Brighton Council – Digital RoundTable
- Chief Officer's Forum - Hobart
- Chief Owner Rep- regular discussions
- Commissioner Glenorchy City Council
- Cradle Coast Authority – input into strategic planning
- Deputy Secretary State Growth – Road Issues
- Director of Local Government regarding iPlan
- Director of Local Government regarding review of councillor allowances
- DPIPWE on cat management
- General Management Committee Meeting (May)
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- Government House – LGAT received an award as an Army Reserves Employer
- Jeremy Rockliff (Minister) regarding cat management
- LGAT 2IC Workshop
- LGAT Assist Board Meetings
- LGAT General Meeting (April)
- LGAT Special General Meeting – TasWater (May)
- Local Government Division re Code of Conduct Review
- Local Government Division, regular monthly meetings
- Local Government Professionals National Conference (Hobart)
- Local Government Professionals Tasmania Board Meetings
- MAV Insurance Board
- Mayors Workshop - Launceston
- National Disability Service
- OzHelp re Mayor's Workshop
- Peter Carr Advisory
- Planning Reform Taskforce
- Premier's Local Government Council Officials Meeting
- President – regular discussions

- Property Council – Policy Committee
- RDA Tasmania Committee Meeting
- Rosalie Woodruff MP regarding land use planning
- Secretary DPIPWE, general catch up
- Sharing Accommodation Working Group
- TasWater

Strategic Policy Activity

- Code of Conduct review – discussion paper
- Grant application preventative health
- Input into future work agenda for the Planning Taskforce
- LG Amendment Bill - Submission
- Rating crown lands – legislation successfully passed.
- Sharing accommodation
- TasWater - extensive

Media and Messaging

- The Pulse Newsletter
- Print and radio regarding:
 - Planning
 - TasWater
 - Non payment of rates
 - Cats
 - Climate Change
 - Air BnB
- ALGA #Endthefreeze thunderclap
- Media releases TasWater, State of the Regions, State Budget, Georgetown/West Tamar
- Op Ed – Rate Capping

Organisational

- Annual Plan development
- Budget preparation
- Design Annual Report
- Early stage implementation of SharePoint
- Finalising conference program
- GMC Elections
- LGAT staff structure review
- LGAT Strategic Planning – EOI for consultant, staff session, GMC session, prep and review.
- Planning for 2IC Forum, General Manager's workshop and Mayors' Professional Development Day
- Policy Director Performance Review
- Preparation for General Meetings and GMC
- Subscription modelling
- Women and Leadership Australia – Final Course Component

5 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following information.

At **Attachment to Item 5** is a schedule of business considered at the meetings held on 7 April and 11 May 2017 and the status thereof.

6 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Contact Officer: Dion Lester

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 6**.

7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS *

Decision Sought

That Members note the reports for March, April and May 2017.

Background comment:

Monthly reports to Councils that briefly outline the Associations activities and outcomes for the previous months are at **Attachment to Item 7**.

8 ITEMS FOR NOTING

8.1 Ownership of Taswater Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note that a verbal update will be provided on the day.

Background Comment:

Subsequent to the 11 May 2017 Special General Meeting, the General Management Committee formed a special Steering Committee to strategically guide LGAT's advocacy efforts in this space.

A verbal report will be provided on the outcomes of the Steering Committee discussions to date as well as any further information that the Government may provide at the PLGC scheduled for 28 June.

Budget Impact

This currently forms a significant workload in a time when a number of significant reform agendas are in play. LGAT has secured additional support as required through use of a consultant to support media activity.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic Relationships
- Priority Area 2: Sector Profile & Reform

8.2 Review of the Local Government Act * Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background Comment:

At **Attachment to Item 8.2** is a copy of the LGAT Submission to the *Local Government (Targeted Review) Amendment Bill 2017*.

Matters raised by the Local Government sector are due to be discussed at the Premier's Local Government Council on 28 June 2017.

LGAT has sought informal feedback from Mayors and General Managers on three specific issues, namely the use of Ministerial Orders, the Mayoral function "to oversee the councillors" and eligibility to stand for Local Government following a dismissal.

Feedback will be provided on these issues, and the progress of the Bill at the Meeting.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Priority 1: Strategic Relationships

Priority Area 2: Sector Profile & Reform

**8.3 Code of Conduct Update
Contact Officer: Dion Lester****Decision Sought****That Members note the progress of the Code of Conduct review.****Background Comment:**

At the February 2017 General Meeting, Members were provided background on the Code of Conduct legislation, received a report from the Director of Local Government on the Code of Conduct and noted that the Minister, through the Premier's Local Government Council, had committed to a twelve month review of the Code of Conduct legislation.

On 1 May, the Minister wrote to all Mayors advising that he has requested LGAT take carriage of the Review and report. In subsequent discussion with the Local Government Division it was agreed that the Division will be seeking feedback from Code of Conduct Chairs, Panel Members and the Executive Officer; while LGAT would seek feedback from Local Government. The advice from LGAT Members, Panels and the Division will be jointly considered in developing recommendations for the Minister.

At the time of writing, final work was occurring on the discussion paper to go out to councils seeking initial feedback. It is intended that once draft recommendations are formed (from the initial round of feedback), these would be provided to councils for review and further feedback (likely September) in order for the final recommendations to be endorsed at the November General meeting.

LGAT is aware, at a high level, of some concerns. These include:

- The legality of the Model Code;
- The extent (or lack of) to which Chairs are applying frivolous and vexatious powers;
- The weight given to unsubstantiated claims;
- The lack of interaction with Council or LGAT with regard to training requirements;
- The application of training sanctions to a whole council when the complaint is against individuals;
- The lack of interaction/advice from General Managers in relation to complaints being determined;
- The experience/consistency (or lack of) of the panellists and/or Executive Officer;
- The application of procedural fairness and natural justice processes;
- The appropriateness of Code of Conduct panels for matters which have other avenues for appeal (eg planning decisions);
- The cost of determining a complaint; and
- The role of the Local Government Division.

At this stage, the Association does not have a lot of detail on these matters, and more information will be sought as part of this process.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic relationships;
- Priority Area 2: Sector profile and reform; and
- Priority Area 4: Sector capacity.

8.4 Land Use Planning

Contact Officer: Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That members note the progress of the planning reform and the key issues for the Local Government sector.

That members also note the progress of the Planning and Building Portal.

Background Comment:

Now that the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) have been declared it is Local Government's responsibility to develop the Local Provision Schedule (LPS) for their respective municipal areas.

Broadly speaking this will involve a number of key steps for councils. They are:

- Development of individual and regional workplans;
- Review of the Regional Land Use Strategies and minor updates to correct inconsistencies with SPPs and to capture any recent strategic planning processes that have been through a community and council endorsement process;
- Preparation of the LPS zone maps;
- Development of any local area objectives, Special Area Plans, Particular Purpose Zones and Site Specific Qualifications;
- Preparation of Code mapping or lists as required; and
- Development of the required supporting documentation.

It has been estimated that this work will take the quickest councils at least five months. However, very little work has commenced yet as critical State Government supplied documentation is still being prepared.

Since the release of the SPPs (in late February) the State Government, via the Planning Policy Unit (PPU) and Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC), has or is proposing to undertake a number of activities designed to support Local Government in the preparation of the LPSs, this has included:

- Regional workshops with council staff to outline the proposed approach;
- Establishment of a LPS Steering Committee, which LGAT sits on;

- Development of support material such as guidelines and other advisory documentation; and
- A statewide workshop on the Agricultural mapping and Natural Assets Code.

At the time of writing not all of the required support material had been provided by the State Government, although the expectation is that this should all be released by mid July.

Each of the three regional groupings of councils have prepared work plans for the development of their Local Provision Schedules. These plans have been submitted to the State Government for endorsement. Once endorsed councils can then commence the preparation of their individual LPSs in earnest. The endorsed work plans will also release the financial assistance for each region promised in the recent State Budget.

Key Issues:

- The development of Local Provision Schedules is likely to require significant resources;
- To date the State Government has not been efficient or well organised in the development of the necessary processes and support material to enable councils to commence the development of their LPSs;
- There are still a significant number of unresolved questions from Local Governments perspective;
- The approach taken by each of the regions is not consistent; and
- Local Government will bear the brunt of implementation and community angst in relation to the new provisions.

Planning and Building Portal (IPlan Stage 2)

LGAT sits on the project steering committee for the Planning and Building Portal Project, which is the extension to the successful IPlan Project. The funding of this second stage was LGAT's number one priority for the 2016-17 Budget.

The project is being delivered by the Department of Justice and has begun with a review of the business case, meeting with relevant stakeholders, undertaking jurisdictional analysis and market research.

To date there has been Local Government consultation to establish an initial understanding of the technical and business processes within each council. The purpose was to identify where each council is at in terms of systems, IT support, online options, and planning, building and plumbing processes (at a high level). The Project Team has another round of visits scheduled for July - early August and will be contacting those councils that they haven't already met with shortly. The primary focus for the next round of visits is to better understand processes in the planning area of councils.

In parallel, the Project Team is working with a consultant to document the building, plumbing and demolition requirements in a way that can be used by a software system (i.e. as a schema). The objective of this is to capture the rules in a way that either the general public, or a permit authority, can work through a checklist/decision tree style enquiry which would assist to identify the category that the work falls within and the associated requirements e.g. is it notifiable or permit required, who must be engaged, what additional documents are required etc. The project team will soon be commencing work with building surveyors, permit authorities and Consumer Building and Occupational Services staff to inform the content of the enquiry process.

In addition, the project team has released a request for information (RFI) from potential software providers. The RFI will close on 10 July, 2017. Once responses are received,

there will be a period of time where these will be reviewed and it is hoped they will assist to inform the requirements specification. The aim is to have the specification out for tender by the last quarter of this year.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources, noting this currently forms a significant workload.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic Relationships
- Priority Area 2: Sector Profile & Reform
- Priority Area 5: Land Use Planning & Environmental Sustainability

8.5 Visitor Accommodation Changes

Contact Officer: Dr Katrena Stephenson

That the Meeting note the concerns raised by LGAT in relation to change to Visitor Accommodation approvals.

Background

Currently ANY property that is to be used for visitor accommodation requires a planning permit.

The State Government initially mooted, through the draft State Planning Provisions, a 'no permit required' approach for anything less than 42 days per year but Local Government did not support that as compliance would have been very difficult to manage.

LGAT suggested the divide should centre primarily around whether a property was the principle place of residence or not (up to a certain scale). That is, no permit required for those principally interested in sharing their primary residence and meeting new people while supplementing their existing incomes in a small way, versus others interested in listing properties on sites such as Airbnb primarily for commercial gain. This position was articulated in a position paper provided to Members through our General Meeting process last year. LGAT did not support a blanket exemption as from a land use and infrastructure planning perspective it is important to know where this accommodation is.

The two categories proposed by the Government (own home up to four bedrooms, and own home with more than four bedrooms/investment property less than 300m²) represent not only a relaxing in relation to planning permit processes but also building owner requirements.

It is estimated that over 600 existing properties will benefit from this relaxation. That being said, there are some building requirements, accounted for through a self declaration process which is similar to that now required of commercial building owners in relation to maintenance under the changed Building Act. The compliance triggers also primarily sit with the Building Act but may also rest with the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act.

The accommodation industry had hoped that through the State Planning Provisions of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme a trigger for requiring a permit would be that the applicant had an ABN. We did not support that on the basis that an ABN is not an appropriate planning trigger.

The Minister then engaged with us regarding this new intermediate category. The concerns raised with him were:

- What would the new combined process look like and how would that be managed by councils?;
- What would the self-certification/declaration entail and what liability for councils?; and
- We would not support a flat fee approach as the cost of planning application assessment varies across councils based on volume (note: this has been partially resolved through setting an upper limit on fees rather than a flat fee).

The Government convened a Reference Group to support implementation but it would be fair to say that LGAT has been frustrated and disappointed by the slow pace of work. Councils have only been marginally engaged and a commitment to establish a Local Government implementation working group was not honoured. With a 1 July start date, councils only received the information sheets and the application form on Monday 26 June. This does not give them long to consider the process or fee structure.

That being said, LGAT has been advised that these will be distributed promptly, that all information will be on a central portal (Justice Website), that there will be a public information campaign from 1 July and that there will be a dedicated officer for an extended period from 1 July to deal with operator and council questions and concerns. This process has worked well in relation to the Building Regulatory Reform which also had a short lead in time for councils in terms of implementation.

There has been feedback from commercial accommodation operators expressing concern at what they feel is unfairness in easing of the regulations in that it poses an opportunity for people to compete in the accommodation market without paying commercial accommodation rates.

While the impact on rates paid will vary across councils depending on rating policies, some properties will change classification from commercial to residential. Currently the Valuer General relies on notification from councils (typically change of use permit issued) to update the classification (from residential to commercial). If properties are in the no permit required category they will have to advise the Valuer General in order to affect the data provided to councils which is used to set rates. It is not anticipated many properties fall into this category. There will be advice on this matter in the information sheets that are being finalised.

The Association notes the potential risks to housing affordability and welcomes the commitment to a review of impacts within two years.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:-

Priority Area 5: Land Use Planning & Environmental Sustainability

8.6 Preventative Health

Contact Officer: Penny Finlay

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background Comment:

To follow on from previous work to support Local Government in action on preventative health, LGAT held a workshop for all Tasmanian councils on 30 May 2017. There were representatives from 20 different councils, with 4 councils, Clarence City, Burnie, Glenorchy and Central Coast Councils, presenting their current work. Presentations were provided by LGAT and the Department of Human and Health Services.

Some key issues raised in the presentations included:

- Significant activity is occurring within Local Government in Tasmania in the preventative health arena.
- The *Local Government Act 1993*, at S.20, notes a council has the function to 'provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community'. The current legislative framework provides for flexibility and innovation but many of those who work in Local Government would like greater recognition of the key role played by Local Government and greater clarity about our sphere of influence.
- At a national and international level, the focus is on what can be done to address chronic diseases given that they make up 61% of the burden of disease in Australia with 31% due to preventable factors. It is recognised that local action to address risk factors is an effective approach.

At the workshop, it was suggested the next steps should be:

- Gaining recognition and legitimacy for Local Government undertaking preventative health work, both inside and outside of councils;
- Resourcing actions that will promote the health of local communities;
- Promotion and branding of preventative health programs and initiatives in a way which will reach target populations; and
- Sharing knowledge about what is effective & what works.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic Relationships
- Priority Area 2: Sector Profile & Reform
- Priority Area 4: Sector capacity

8.7 Strategic Plan & Annual Plan *
Contact Officer: Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the new LGAT Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and the 2017/18 Annual Work Plan.

Background Comment:

In 2012 LGAT developed a five year strategic plan which, while significantly reviewed in 2015, was due to be fully revisited. This is particularly imperative in the context of ongoing and significant reforms impacting upon the sector (e.g. Local Government Act, Feasibility Studies, Building and Planning, TasWater) and with State Government and Local Government elections both likely to occur in 2018.

In December 2016, LGAT released a Member survey to aid us in assessing whether we are meeting member expectations and also in flagging concerns and priorities for the sector. At the February 2017, General Meeting a workshop was held with those that attended to further describe the challenges and opportunities facing the sector over the next few years and what LGAT could do to assist.

Since that time, LGATs General Management Committee and staff have been pulling this background information together and developing a clear and compelling Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 and an Annual Work Plan for the 2017/18 financial year.

A full copy of the Strategic Plan will be provided at the Meeting but the Vision Statement and Annual Work Plan are included at **Attachment to Item 8.7** for reference.

Collectively, they will provide the basis for resourcing decisions and work planning by the LGAT CEO and staff, however these plans are not intended to comprehensively describe all the work that LGAT undertakes or reflect all the activity within councils and we expect that both will be reviewed regularly in order to appropriately reflect the social, economic and political environments within which councils are working.

LGAT Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

The Strategic Plan contains:

1. A long-term Vision of success for LGAT – *“Vibrant Tasmanian communities”*;
2. LGATs Central Purpose – *“Help Tasmanian Councils to be the best they can be for their communities”*;
3. Our Core Functions (from the Local Government Act);
4. Five proposed Key Focus Areas, which are
 - a. *Facilitating change across Local Government*;
 - b. *Building Local Government’s reputation*;
 - c. *Fostering collaboration*;
 - d. *Promoting financial sustainability*; and
 - e. *Underpinning Local Government capacity and capability to deliver*.
5. Key performance indicators for each focus area;
6. A short-list of critical Priorities for the next twelve months that fulfil our core Purpose and address our Key Focus Areas; and
7. The values LGAT will strive to be known by.

Annual Work Plan 2017 - 18

The Annual Work Plan provides the more detailed actions LGAT will undertake to fulfil its Strategic Plan and in particular the critical priorities as indicated. In addition to the critical priorities, the Annual Work Plan acknowledges the ongoing role LGAT has in representing Local Government interests in key policy priority areas of State and Federal Governments.

Annual Plan 2016 – 17

A report on the progress against the 2016 – 17 Annual Plan can also be found at **Attachment to Item 8.7.**

Budget Impact

An external consultant was used to support the Strategic Plan preparation, with a total cost of \$5,825.00 (ex GST). The staff resourcing required in preparation and follow up was substantial, but this is a critical task.

Current Policy

The current Strategic plan has five priority areas, listed below:

- Strategic relationships;
- Sector profile and reform;
- Financial sustainability;
- Sector capacity; and
- Land use planning and environmental sustainability.

8.8 National General Assembly of Local Government

Contact Officer: Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the National General Assembly and the State of the Regions Report.

Background Comment:

The ALGA Regional Cooperation and Development Forum and National General Assembly were held in Canberra from 18-21 June. The theme this year was "Building Tomorrow's Communities" in recognition of the role of Local Government in investing in people and places with a goal of more productive and liveable communities.

In addition to presentations from key Federal politicians such as Fiona Nash (Minister for Local Government and Regional Development); Stephen Jones (Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government), Bill Shorten (Leader of the Opposition) and Angus Taylor (Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation), there were speakers on building liveable communities; technology and building tomorrow's communities; engagement through social media and governance in a digital age (see www.alga.asn.au for more information).

One hundred motions were considered, including several Tasmanian motions. Hobart City Council's Australia Day motion garnered significant debate.

The annual State of the Regions Report was also released, this is the 20th edition of this report commissioned by ALGA and prepared by National Economics. The *State of the Regions: Pillars of Growth Report*, has found that infrastructure deficiencies have played a part in making it harder for struggling regions in Australia to increase their productivity, create jobs and improve outcomes.

This year's report builds upon the accumulated knowledge from previous reports, providing a coherent framework for analysing regional development and notes there is a growing expectation that councils will take an increasingly significant role in regional economic development, from planning through to implementation.

The authors of the *State of the Regions* Report note that economic growth is founded on productivity increases and identify the pillars of regional growth as skills formation, capital investment, knowledge creation and the formation of supply chains. They also note that resources and opportunities vary markedly from region to region.

Based on 19 years of reports, the authors have developed some key insights (stylized facts) and while noting they don't apply equally to all regions, many will be of particular interest to Tasmanian policy-makers.

These include:

- High income economies now depend on innovation as the core driver of long-term economic growth;
- The capacity to innovate depends on knowledge and networks at the regional level;
- Infrastructure deficiencies and a lack of investment in telecommunications and transport make it difficult for low productivity or high unemployment regions to increase productivity;
- Low productivity regions are rapidly ageing;
- Tourism exports are an important driver of economic activity and employment in many regions but the net benefit from tourism for the majority of regions is relatively low;
- Market mechanisms will not reduce inequality of economic performance between regions. Therefore, public policy has a key role in maximising overall economic growth of the nation.

The data in the State of the Regions report reflects what is largely understood about Tasmania. That is:

- We have a greater than average proportion of people on income support and this is significantly greater when it comes to the disability pension. Relative to the rest of Australia, we have the lowest household disposable incomes and household wealth and we have a high proportion of single person households;
- Tasmania has had negligible population growth in the last few years and the unemployment rate across all regions sits between 11 and 12 per cent for 2017;
- Local Government rate collections in Tasmania are no more than the Australian average;
- We have seen some growth in construction rates between 2012-2014 and 2015-2017 (around 11-12% in the North and South and 5% in the North West) and particularly high rates in the new residential constructions in the Southern region; and
- The authors note that liveability and jobs go hand in hand and if patent applications are a sign of innovation and creativity, then Tasmanian regions rate poorly compared to others across Australia.

The report confirms that metropolitan core regions, their residents and workers, have been gaining increasing shares of national income, but regions which are distanced from metropolitan centres have suffered decline and the gap is growing. There is a need to supercharge local area productivity through mobilising State and Local Government resources and through the private sector leveraging off this Government's investment.

Members should also note that Mayor David O'Laughlin, President of ALGA will be speaking at the LGAT Conference.

Budget Implications

ALGA Membership fees are funded through LGAT Subscriptions.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic Relationships
- Priority Area 2: Sector Profile & Reform
- Priority Area 4: Sector capacity

8.9 Policy Update

Contact Officer:

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on current policy activity.

Street Lighting LED replacement projects

The Northern Lights project is rolling out as planned. The installation began in February 2017, and at 5 June the project was 44% complete with 3,391 lights replaced. Meander Valley is the first council to have their installation completed and works are continuing in Launceston where around 60% of lights have been changed over. Work will commence in George Town in July.

Launceston and Meander Valley Council are also working with TasNetworks to trial some major road LEDs with the hope that they may be available in the coming years as a replacement option.

The Southern and North-West councils have had business cases completed for the roll out of LEDs and are considering their options. Many of the councils have workshopped the business case with senior managers and elected members. A number of the councils in the north west have committed to progressing to a detailed feasibility study with Central Coast Council committing to implement the roll out. A critical mass of at least 2000 lights is needed to support the roll out in a region.

The southern councils are exploring the opportunity of accessing funding for the project through the State Governments Accelerated Infrastructure fund.

Renewal Local Government Public Lighting Contract

In July 2014, non-metred public lighting became contestable. As a result, LGAT facilitated a competitive procurement process for the sector, which achieved significant savings across the sector (approximately \$500K per annum). LGAT is again facilitating a similar process with the current contract coming to an end on 30 June 2017. Goanna Energy

has been engaged to run the Request for Price process with the retailers.

There has been some delay in the re-contracting due to the Government's decision in May to intervene in the energy market. As a result, there was a delay in Hydro releasing the wholesale price of energy to retailers.

At the time of writing it is likely that Councils will be in a position to make a decision regarding re-contracting or going back to tariff around the 30 June 2017.

Emergency Management

Significant reform is continuing to occur in the emergency management space. Much of this has been driven by recommendations to come out of the Justice review into Tasmania's Emergency Management Arrangements and additional reform is likely to emerge as a result of the Flood review. At the time of writing the State Government had not responded to the review.

Key recommendations to come out of the Flood Review which may impact on Councils include:

- Municipal committees develop and or review flood related sub plans of the municipal emergency management plan every two years;
- Councils include a weblink for the public to their municipal emergency management plan and community safety information;
- Councils and SES educate the community regarding BOM flood warnings;
- The flood warning consultative committee (that many council officers sit on) consider the merits of delineating the Ouse river as a separate catchment from the Derwent River basin;
- Subject to funding, that the flood warning consultative committee investigates the hydrological matters and advice received during this review;
- The flood warning consultative committee review flood classification levels in the service level specifications with BOM specifically relating to flood level triggers on gauges;
- The BOM and the flood warning consultative committee in consultation with gauge owners review flood gauges and develop a program to update data used to support hydrological modelling. This should include reviewing gauge maintenance before and after floods;
- In the event of a major emergency, a government department be appointed to coordinate infrastructure repair to the extent that funding allows, for the whole state;
- The organisation responsible for the construction, maintenance and ownership of bridges review their design guidelines and, if necessary, update them to specifically include consideration of debris and flood impact on bridge design; and
- The Riverine flood hazard code is finalised and approved as soon as practicable as part of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

LGAT will continue to lobby the government to fund the implementation of these recommendations and to better fund the State's capability in planning for, and responding to, floods.

Guide to Minute Taking Handbook

As part of LGAT's commitment to councils to develop best practice tools and resources, we have prepared a *Guide to Minuting Taking Handbook* to provide guidance in best practice minute taking.

This handbook is based on the requirements from current legislation and has had input from those within the sector and the Local Government Division. It is currently available on the LGAT website for council's use.

To support this, currently in development is an example set of fictitious minutes that provide visual guidance on how to best record council meetings in accordance with the handbook and legislation.

For councils wishing to be refreshed on minute taking and agenda preparation, the Tasmanian Training Consortium are running an Agenda and Minute taking course in Hobart on Friday 10 November. To register please follow the link [here](#).

Any feedback post release of this handbook should be made to the LGAT Contact Officer in the first instance.

Rating Amendment Bill

On 23 June the *Local Government Amendment (Rates) Bill 2017* received Royal Assent.

This Bill, initiated at the request of the sector, amends the Local Government Act to:

- Clarify that exemptions from non-service rates under section 87(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993* do not apply to Crown land that is subject to leases, and licences that confer a right to exclusive occupation and are used for commercial or private use;
- Provide an exemption from non-service rates for unallocated seabed Crown land and seabed Crown land within municipal areas that supports a marine farming lease made under Part 4 of the *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*;
- Extend the definition of municipal area to include land that adjoins municipal areas in certain circumstances;
- Validate current and previous rates notices that were issued in relation to land previously subject to an exemption under section 87(1)(b) of the Local Government Act, other than those rates notices issued to the Crown; and
- Amend section 120 of the Local Government Act in relation to the liability of rates, specifically in relation to Crown land leases and licences.

Parliament amended Clause 9 of the Amendment Bill to exclude from validation any rates notices that are the subject of current court proceedings. The court proceedings must have been initiated before 14 March 2017, which was the day the Amendment Bill was introduced to the House of Assembly.

The progression of this Bill highlights the effectiveness of the PLGC process and collaboration between LGAT and the Local Government Division. It has taken some considerable advocacy effort to progress with the need to allay a number of concerns along the way. LGAT wishes to acknowledge the hard work of the Division staff in this regard.

By way of background, most councils have traditionally levied general rates on marine facilities in the municipal area which are on or adjacent to crown land based on valuation and property identification data from the Office of the Valuer-General. These properties exist on valuation rolls. The application of rates has been undertaken on the belief that

the rating exemptions provided for under the *Local Government Act* supported the intentions of the 2003 financial reform agreement between State and Local Government, which was not to provide rating exemptions for private or commercial benefit from the use of such land.

Further, there has been support to date for amendments to clarify that land that is partially or wholly outside of the municipal boundary but a logical extension of the parcel of land can continue to be rated. The amendments will address the concerns around marine leases without creating any rating problems. This is an important issue as it removes doubt regarding a council's power to rate certain land. The amendment to the *Local Government Act* will ensure that structures and development beyond the municipal area are included within the municipal area, meaning that it is clear rates can continued to be charged.

Building Act

In March LGAT wrote to the Minister for Building and Construction, the Hon. Guy Barnett, to raise the significant concerns voiced by members in relation to the recent commencement of the Building Act 2016 ('the Act') and related instruments. Essentially the new arrangements have caused significant confusion both within the sector and more broadly across the building industry and the general public since the new legislation commenced in January 2017.

Since April, 26 of the State's 29 councils have met with Consumer and Building Occupational Services (CBOS) within the Department of Justice to discuss specific concerns in relation to the implementation of the Act. In addition, Building Surveyors' and Permit Authorities' Forums held in Launceston in April were well attended and the feedback from the sector has been more positive.

CBOS has re-established technical reference groups (e.g. Local Government, building surveyors, plumbers) to assist them with identifying areas of the Director's Determination and prescribed forms that require additions and amendment. LGAT is involved with the Local Government reference group, along with several councils. This group met in early May and will reconvene in the second half of the year.

CBOS has made some significant changes to the suite of prescribed forms that relate to building and plumbing work and have worked closely with councils and practitioners to streamline processes.

From observation at meetings and forums there appears to be a positive and constructive relationship between council officers and the CBOS staff and the earlier teething issues appear to be settling.

LGAT's Policy Director continues to meet with the Director of Building Control on a fortnightly basis to work through the issues raised by the sector. LGAT will liaise with councils over the coming months to ensure that any residual concerns are addressed. LGAT, via the Premier's Local Government Council, has indicated that we believe a review of the Act later this year is still warranted.

Cat Management

The Tasmanian Government announced in its May budget ongoing funding of \$360,000 per annum to support the implementation of the Cat Management Plan in partnership with Local Government.

LGAT has met separately with both Minister Rockliff and DPIPWE officers to discuss how this partnership would be managed.

DPIPWE proposes that three regional officers will implement action plans to be developed in consultation with LGAT, DPIPWE and key stakeholders including the hosting councils. These roles are likely to be located within a council in each of the North, North-West and South, and the officers will work across the region to deliver education and support to change attitudes and behaviours in cat ownership.

In meeting with Minister Rockliff he stated that he did not support containment of cats but that changes to the legislation would include compulsory microchipping and desexing. The role of the regional officers will be to work with councils about how to manage complaints on nuisance cats but with a major focus on education rather than compliance.

Weeds

Extra funding for weeds management was announced by the Tasmanian government in the May budget. The package includes \$2 million to improve weed, pests and invasive species management.

DPIPWE is developing an action plan that includes three new Invasive Species Officers (weeds and vertebrate pests). The positions will be located in each region (Devonport, Launceston and Hobart).

The roles will be on the ground, working in collaboration with councils as well as the various industry groups and landowners. The officers will be involved in the broad range of tools from awareness/engagement through to compliance.

LGAT will provide input into action plans and ongoing collaboration with Local Government.

Waste Management

At the May Premier's Local Government Council meeting, the State Government advised that they would not be introducing a waste levy but that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) would be updating the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy (TWRMS). The draft Strategy was expected to be released by mid 2017 with a three to five year time horizon. It was likely to be project and action based in the first instance.

It was anticipated that the updated TWRMS would address issues such as a Container Deposit Scheme, waste tyres, the C-Cell and organics. With other issues under consideration including (but not limited to) asbestos, E-waste, plastics, litter, household hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste, industrial and commercial waste and waste tracking.

At the July 2016 LGAT General Meeting, members moved that LGAT re-establish the Waste Reference Group (WRG) to develop recommendations for Members, with respect to the TWRMS and/or a waste levy. The WRG consists of representatives from each of the three regional waste authorities and the LGAT Policy Director.

At the November 2016 General meeting, members moved that LGAT reconfirm its commitment to the introduction of a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected by public and private landfills, as endorsed at the Local Government General Meeting in July 2012.

In late 2016 the WRG determined that it was strategically important that a "statewide waste strategy" from a Local Government perspective be prepared. This document will be used as our main tool to engage with the EPA. The completed strategy was presented at the April 2017 General Meeting and provided to the EPA shortly after to inform the update of the TWRMS.

LGAT has met with the EPA to discuss the initiatives we put forward and we now await the release of the State Government's draft TWRMS later this year. The next meeting of the LGAT Waste Management Reference Group will be on release of the draft TWRMS for comment.

At the time of writing LGAT was also consulting with councils regarding proposed changes to Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1993* to make the storage of more than 100 tonnes of waste tyres an activity subject to assessment and approval by the Board of the EPA.

Key Issues:

- There are a number of practical waste management projects that require funding;
- The State Government has advised that they would not be introducing a waste levy;
- The Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy is now seven years old and a new State-wide strategy is needed to deal with issues that are beyond the capacity of regional waste authorities; and
- There remains a need to collaboratively consider key waste issues strategically, from a whole of sector basis.

Climate Change

At the beginning of June 2017, the State Government released *Climate Action 21*, Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan for 2017 – 2021. The Plan follows the earlier draft plan, *Embracing the Climate Challenge*, released for public comment in January 2016. Climate Action 21 sets out an "aspirational emissions reduction target of zero net emissions by 2050" and actions in six priority areas:

1. Understanding Tasmania's future climate.
2. Advancing our renewable energy capability.
3. Reducing our transport emissions.
4. Growing a climate-ready economy.
5. Building climate resilience.
6. Supporting community action.

The government has committed \$3M over the next four years to implement the Plan.

The Plan recognises that Local Government is the sphere of government closest to communities and notes the sector can assist with informing and educating local communities about climate change, and considering climate change in their decision making.

Some of the specific actions within the Plan related to Local Government include:

- Working in partnership with TasNetworks, Local Government and the private sector to support the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Supporting Local Government to manage risks to new and existing settlements from coastal hazards; and
- Working with Local Government and regional bodies to embed climate change adaptation into strategic and financial decision making, through actions such as preparing tailored climate change projection summaries for each Local Government area.

LGAT Climate Change Forum

LGAT and Climate Tasmania teamed up in May to facilitate a Local Government climate change, energy efficiency and sustainability forum, hosted by the City of Hobart. The forum was open to Local Government practitioners and interested members of the public, and was well attended by elected members, Federal, State and Local Government professionals, along with scientists and consultants from inside and outside Tasmania.

This forum was designed to bring local, state and national expertise together to look at climate change risks and discuss practical responses. It provided an opportunity for attendees to hear about current climate change, energy efficiency and mitigation activities of interest and relevance to the Local Government sector.

Given the success of the day and the enthusiastic response to the forum's content and networking value, LGAT and Climate Tasmania will consider opportunities to deliver another forum, focussing on adaptation, early 2018.

Procurement

The National Procurement network (NPN) is the name given to the collective of all Australian State and Territory Local Government Association procurement arms, with access provided as a service to all LGAT members. There is no charge for councils to use the LGAT/NPN contracts.

The purpose of such a procurement service is to harness the collective purchasing power of the Local Government sector, delivering savings in time and cost to its member councils.

In Tasmania councils' benefitting from the NPN are increasing each year. For example, in the twelve month period to the end of March 2016 there was a **\$3.9m spend** and approximately **\$700,000 worth of savings for councils**. Compared with a **\$6.8m spend** and **\$1.04m savings** for the same period this financial year.

Of the 29 councils, 28 purchased items through the LGAT/NPN in the twelve month period to the end March 2017, with the key area of expenditure being the Truck category (\$3.3m) followed by the Plant Machinery and Equipment category (\$1.9m) and the Specialised Trucks and bodies Category (\$1.2m).

There is significant scope for councils to make further savings in time and money through making greater use of the LGAT/NPN.

Procurement Documents

Queensland, and subsequently South Australia and Victoria have created a comprehensive series of templates to guide councils when selecting providers through quote and tender processes and when developing contracts. The resources are designed to be used in a modular way, with parts substituted to suit circumstances. The resources were designed to help achieve good purchasing policy and procedures and in some instances to meet specific state legal requirements for good practice.

LGAT has obtained permission to use these resources to help prepare new resources for the Tasmanian context. LGAT have identified a range of template documents likely to be most relevant and developed the following draft documents:

- A request for quotation;
- General conditions of contract, for goods/services by a request for quotation;
- Conditions of tender for goods/services; and
- Conditions of tender for minor works

These resources are expected to be available in August 2017.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic relationships
- Priority Area 2: Sector profile & reform
- Priority Area 3: Financial sustainability
- Priority Area 4: Sector capacity
- Priority Area 5: Land use planning & environmental sustainability

Motions For Which Notice Has Been Received

9 ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

9.1 Motion – Public Transport Services Council – City of Hobart

Decision Sought

That the State Government be urged to increase its per capita spending on the provision of public transport services within metropolitan and regional Tasmania.

Background Comment

"The travel needs of many city centre workers can only be met by mass public transport. As Australia's urban economies have transitioned and more jobs are located in city centres, patronage on public transport has grown significantly. In the past decade, the rate of average annual growth of public transport patronage (2.4 per cent) surpassed the rate of population growth in capital cities (1.8 per cent). Additionally, the presence of public transport infrastructure attracts higher-density development, with corridors of higher density housing and commercial premises locating along transit routes. This is an increasingly common urban form change in Australian cities."

State of Australian Cities 2015

Public transport usage experienced a decline over two decades but began increasing again in 1996. Between 2006 and 2011, Australia experienced the biggest increase in public transport mode share since 1976 (Mees & Groenhart 2012). The revival in public transport usage did not include Adelaide, Canberra or Hobart. Delivering sustainable urban mobility;

Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) 2015

Tasmania has a very low public transport mode share. There is poor service coverage, low service frequency and insufficient infrastructure to lift patronage. Additional funding is required in the public transport space to improve Tasmanian's access to services, education and jobs. We cannot have growth in Tasmania without additional spending on public transport services.

LGAT Comment

LGAT notes that currently there are several State Government publications and plans that relate to the provision of public transport infrastructure and services. These include:

- Tasmanian Infrastructure Strategy;
- Transit Corridor Planning Project;
- Greater Launceston Metropolitan Passenger Transport Plan;
- Regional Integrated Transport Plans;
- Regional Land Use Strategies; and
- Tasmanian Urban Passenger Transport Framework

The Government's Tasmanian Infrastructure Strategy's long-term vision for transport infrastructure includes the objectives of delivering a public transport system which is:

- A first choice option providing a cost-effective alternative to more road infrastructure, and
- An integrated passenger transport system with appropriate services and concessions to alleviate social disadvantage.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government invests significantly in public transport networks and currently provides over \$90 million annually to support public passenger bus services across the State. The Government recognises that increased use of public transport is an important means of reducing congestion in urban centres and for providing equity of access to those living in rural areas. The Government is working to more efficiently and effectively target the allocation of its resources and is implementing a number of activities to improve public passenger transport services across the State and increase patronage.

The Department of State Growth (State Growth) is currently undertaking an extensive review of all current public passenger bus network services and providers. The review, referred to as 'Project 2018', will focus on ensuring development of the right network and the right number of buses and services to, from and between communities. Work has also commenced on investigating the potential for unifying ticketing services across individual bus operators. This 'common ticketing' would give patrons the convenience of being able to use one smartcard to pay for bus fares across multiple operators.

State Growth is continuing to work closely with councils to make existing passenger services more efficient and attractive to patrons. State Growth has already progressed work with the Glenorchy and Hobart City Councils on opportunities to optimise bus services along the main road corridor through consideration of bus priority measures and a review of bus stop locations. Providing priority for buses is a key lever available to councils to influence the take up of passenger transport.

During the back-to-school period between 30 January and 24 February 2017, a free pre-7:00am business day bus service was trialled as a specific measure to address congestion in the Hobart urban area. This initiative aimed to encourage commuters to try something different and, at no personal cost, sample a different transport mode and avoid the back-to-school traffic. During the trial, there was a 14% increase in patronage of the pre-7:00am service.

In conjunction with these initiatives, the Government is currently finalising its Transport Access Strategy to provide better integrated and coordinated transport services for Tasmanians disadvantaged through economic circumstances, disability, frailty or age. When released, the Strategy, which focuses on transport disadvantage, will be a first critical building block for a wider, more holistic approach to passenger transport in the future.

10 SECTOR REFORM

10.1 Motion – Local Government Rates, Fees & Charges Regulator Council – Burnie City

Decision Sought

That LGAT write to the Minister for Local Government seeking an investigation into the merits of introducing an independent body (similar to the prices regulator for power, water and sewerage) to be the regulator of Local Government rates, fees and charges and to oversee estimates of Capital works budgets.

Background Comment

In preparing budgets and developing asset and financial plans elected members rely heavily on the advice of their General Managers as they do not have the broad experience or necessarily time to be involved in the fine detail of determining the equitable setting of fees, charges and rates.

This should not be seen as a criticism of elected members but a statement of fact, as all are there to represent the community in the resolution of their daily issues predominantly. Elected members are presented with Budgets from the General Manager with the assistance of senior managers and the involvement of Aldermen/Councillors is generally to ensure a balanced operational budget and to adopt a capital works program in line with the available funds.

The level of challenge and justification of specific items in budgets is generally superficial, as the elected members do not have the detailed knowledge of the operation, hence relying on the General Manager. In recent years local government entities have established Audit Panels, however this can only scrutinise a single entity and not more broadly across the local government sector. An independent body to advise elected members as to the accuracy or justification of the rates, fees and charges would be beneficial for the community. An independent body could also examine the expenditure to ascertain whether the services provided are fair and reasonable.

An independent body could also consider the asset base of each Council examining the depreciation rates that are being used and the appropriateness of the capital works program.

Such an independent body of overarching supervision would allow for Statewide consistency in the setting of rates, fees and charges with an ability for Councils to argue factors as to whether the body should take into account disability factors of individual municipalities.

It would also highlight long term issues such as where Councils are not maintaining infrastructure or replacing it with a long term interest is maintaining the quality of assets.

There are models around Australia where State Government impose rate capping/pegging and this motion provides local government with an opportunity to be involved in an investigation with the Minister of Local Government before it is imposed on the sector.

LGAT Comment

A number of jurisdictions have imposed or wish to impose rate capping on Local Government. As articulated to Members in a paper to the November 2016 Meeting, evidence suggests that rate capping is not an appropriate mechanism for yielding

efficiency dividends and leads to negative and long-lasting consequences such as: loss of autonomy and flexibility in relation to determining local infrastructure and service requirements; a propensity to develop a back log of infrastructure maintenance and renewal requirements; and the potential for inter-generational transfer or burden.

While LGAT has no position on the suggestion of an independent regulator, we note that over the last few years, through LGAT, there has been significant investment in improving the sector's approach to Long Term Financial and Asset Management planning, including officer and elected member training, practice notes, maturity assessments, new legislated requirements and a focus by the Auditor General.

It should be noted that at this stage while the Property Council is calling for the introduction of rate capping, the Government has stated this is not their intent. However, in light of the highly charged reform environment this is not a guaranteed position.

The risk of an imposed rate capping model must be weighed against the risks related to a regulated model such as outlined in this motion. For example, LGAT notes the advice of the NSW Independent Review Panel on the high cost of preparing, reviewing and determining applications around rate capping relative to the benefits delivered. This may be a risk in a new regulatory environment in Tasmania and would have to be carefully contemplated in any model going forward, along with consideration of how consideration is given to local variations in service needs and preferences (based on demographic factors, geography, council's financial circumstances, the offerings of other levels of government, and conversely any service gaps, and the community's ability and willingness to pay).

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) allows councils to determine appropriate rating structures that support individual service delivery and asset management objectives. The community elects councillors to make decisions on its behalf including in relation to rates, charges and asset management. In turn, councils appoint general managers who have the capacity to provide qualified advice regarding rates, charges and asset management that aligns with councils' strategic plans.

A number of mechanisms are in place to support councils to deliver sound decision making with regard to the setting of rates and charges, and with regard to financial and asset management.

The Act requires councils to implement rates and charges policies to provide transparency in decision-making, and to educate their communities about how councils raise revenue. Rating policies are required to be consistent with councils' long-term financial and asset management plans, which are also a requirement under the Act.

Each year the Auditor-General prepares a report on the financial statements and financial sustainability of councils. In recent years, this report has included data related to efficiency including rates per head of population. There may be scope to build on the Auditor-General's analysis and reporting to further enhance transparency.

The motion proposes an independent regulatory body could have powers ranging from advisory (in particular providing benchmarking information to a council as to how its budget position and plans compare with other councils) through to regulation of rates, charges and capital expenditure. The State Government does not object to this proposal in principle, if the motion is agreed by the sector. Should the sector agree to the motion, the State Government is willing to work with Local Government to develop options as to how the regulatory body is established (or whether an existing regulator is given new powers), how it would be resourced and funded, and what new powers are to be provided.

11 SECTOR CAPACITY

11.1 Motion – Flood Mitigation Funding Council – Kentish

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the State Government to boost Tasmania's disaster resilience by providing a significant increase in funding and work with the Commonwealth Government to change the disaster resilience mitigation funding under the National Partnership Agreement back to ⅓ Commonwealth, ⅓ State and ⅓ Council contributions.

Background Comment

Kentish has a long history of major floods causing disruption to business and on-going economic and social costs to the urban and surrounding rural community.

The 2011 floods were particularly severe resulting in significant economic, psycho-social, infrastructure and environmental impacts on the community, in particular Railton where 60 houses and 14 businesses were flooded. The June 2016 flooding had a lesser impact in Railton but still resulted in a number of properties being flooded and uninhabitable houses, one of which still remains vacant, along with destruction of major infrastructure including three bridges across the Mersey River.

Following the extensive flooding of Railton in January 2011, Council was grateful to secure funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) to develop a Railton Flood Mitigation Strategy.

Engineering Consultants SEMF were engaged to review flood mitigation options for Railton and model flows and water levels. The resultant SEMF report identified flood protection measures that would, if implemented, protect Railton from major flood events in the future.

The cost of this mitigation project is \$2,465,826. Kentish Council made an application to the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Program to minimise flooding in the township of Railton and subsequently found out that only \$400,000 was available in the current Tasmanian allocation for flood studies and mitigation works. The application was unsuccessful.

In addition approximately 7 to 10 years ago the Regional Flood Mitigation programs (⅓ Federal: ⅓ State: ⅓ Local Government funding) was replaced with the National Partnership Agreement and the National Disaster Resilience program (50:50 funding).

The Tasmanian Longford flood levy was constructed under the previous program approximately 13 years ago and the cost of just over \$5 million was more than repaid when the township was protected from the June 2016 floods. The estimated cost of damage if the township had been flooded was approximated at \$12 million in 2004.

The Launceston City Council received significant funds for their flood levy project on a ⅓ (Commonwealth) ⅓ (State) ⅓ (Local Government) basis and Council understands that the funding for this project was a one-off special pledge from the Federal Government as a result of significant lobbying over a long period of time.

The issue of availability of funding for flood mitigation work/studies is significant and the limited money available through the current National Partnership Agreement will only scratch the surface.

Council believes the mitigation funding should be substantially increased and the previous model of $\frac{1}{3}$ Commonwealth, $\frac{1}{3}$ State and $\frac{1}{3}$ Local Government is the best way to fund mitigation works.

LGAT Comment

LGAT agrees that both the pool of funding for mitigation works and the current requirement under the partnership agreement for 50:50 split in contributions between the federal government and the funded organisation is inequitable, especially for smaller councils with significant risk. If funding is made available to Tasmania through future national partnership agreement or other mechanisms a more appropriate funding split should be considered as part of any grant program.

It is understood that other states provide similar mitigation programs (as agreed through their state specific partnership agreements with the Federal Government) and that some provide a more appropriate split in contributions to make it more accessible to poorly resourced stakeholders such as small councils. Some states also provide "top up" funding to the federal government funding to increase the pool of funding available to applicants.

LGAT has raised concerns in a number of forums in relation to these issues. These include the Premiers Local Government Council Officials meeting, though our budget submission to the Tasmanian Government for the 2017/18 budget, the Flood review submission and discussions with the Productivity Commission in relation to relief and recovery funding. The lack of funding for mitigation is also an area that ALGA has a strong policy position on.

The issue of the State Government using the National Partnership Funding for what, in some circumstances could arguably be considered as a core function is of concern and impacts on the availability of funding for other stakeholders. As with other jurisdictions, grant programs and funding for mitigation in Tasmania for stakeholders other than state government should be provided under different terms with a more appropriate split.

LGAT has identified this as a significant issue in the emergency management policy area.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The State Government (through DPAC - Office of Security and Emergency Management) is engaged in ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth (AGD) on national reforms to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) that are expected to be implemented from 1 July 2018. These reforms are likely to include new national funding arrangements that should allow access to additional Commonwealth funding for mitigation projects.

There is one more round of the 2015-17 of the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience (NPA), which will be launched around September 2017 and, pending any agreed changes to the Tasmanian Implementation Plan, will provide \$400,000 towards the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Program, \$200,000 for the Emergency Volunteer Fund, and \$565,000 for the State Emergency Management Program.

The Commonwealth has committed to an extension of the NPA, which will fund support programs at the same levels for 2017-18. However, no funding commitments have been made beyond 2017-18 as this is due to the need to await the outcome of the above NDRRA review.

The NPA requires Tasmania to match the Commonwealth funding contribution, but this may be cash or in-kind. The NPA requires a Tasmanian Implementation Plan, which specifies how project revenues/expenses are split. Since the start of the NPA, this has been on a 50% cash contribution through the NPA and a 50% cash or in-kind contribution from the applicant. Unlike the previous Regional Flood Mitigation Program, funding eligibility is now much broader and also includes Non-Government Organisations. To include a 1/3 State contribution under these circumstances would provide inequities in the proportion of the NPA/Commonwealth funding received, particularly for State Agency applicants who would have to pay 2/3 contribution.

Councils (or any other applicants) who have difficulty in meeting the 50% matching contribution (cash or in-kind) may seek an exceptional circumstances waiver on their grant application. Applicants also have the option of seeking/negotiating additional funding from additional sponsor agencies/organisations to further supplement grant applications.

11.2 Motion – Immunisation Programs Council – Devonport City

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the State Government to investigate the coordination of school immunisation programs being undertaken on a State wide basis, rather than being an individual council responsibility to coordinate.

Background Comment

Councils are required by the provisions of the *Public Health Act 1997* to administer an “immunisation program” and therefore under this provision, the Director of Health has determined that Council must deliver a school immunisation program.

To deliver a school immunisation program, Council must obtain the services of two registered nurse immunisers.

At present, there are a limited number of nurses who are registered as “immunisers” and the result is that planned school programs are often delayed or cancelled.

This can be critical when certain vaccine booster shots are required to be delivered within a specified period. Devonport City Council is of the view that the way the program is administered should be reviewed and coordinated at the State level.

LGAT Comment

While the Department’s Public Health Services may provide significant support to councils in the delivery of school immunisation programs, there may be opportunity to better harness this effort.

LGAT can support the issues raised in this motion by negotiating with the PHS for an approach that will assist councils with the difficulty they experience in delivering this service.

Tasmanian State Government Agency Comment

This motion asks the LGAT to lobby the State Government to investigate how coordination of the school immunisation programs may be done on a State wide basis rather than by councils. The motion is not supported by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Department's Public Health Services (PHS) already provides extensive state-wide coordination of school immunisation programs.

PHS coordinates state-wide school immunisation programs through substantial and frequent consultation with Local Government and stakeholders such as education. This activity occurs individually day-to-day and in forums held several times each year. PHS provides immunisation program guidance documents – developed in consultation with Local Government - to assist all providers to deliver efficient and consistent programs.

PHS has developed and refined state-wide supporting material such as information and consent packages for children and their parents. PHS maintains a state-wide register of authorised immunisers to support immunisation providers including Local Government. PHS coordinates access to and transport of vaccines for Local Government, and manages information about immunisation generated by the school-based programs.

Active involvement of Local Government in coordinating local delivery of school-based vaccines is an essential and appropriately local function.

The *Public Health Act 1997* includes succinct and clear requirements of Local Government:

57. Council immunisation programs

- (1) A council must develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal *area*.
- (2) *The Director may require a council to provide any information the Director determines relating to its immunisation program.*

These provisions reflect the understanding of the critical role of immunisation in ensuring the health of communities, and of the irreplaceable role of Local Government in providing locally-informed population-based immunisation services in settings such as schools.

PHS is currently participating in a program of applied research, in partnership with several other jurisdictions, to identify and implement improvements in how Human Papillomavirus vaccine is provided through school-based programs. PHS looks forward to involving Tasmanian local governments in this process, which is hoped to increase coverage of HPV vaccine from around 65% to well over 80%.

12 LAND USE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

12.1 Motion – Container Deposit Legislation Council – City of Hobart/West Coast & Clarence City Council

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the State Government to introduce container deposit legislation for the state.

Hobart City Council

The introduction of a state-wide Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) would provide an effective measure to reduce container related litter as well as increase its recovery. Local Government plays a significant role in the collection of recycling and is also responsible for cleaning up public litter and are therefore burdened with the costs associated with providing these services.

By placing a significant value on recyclable containers, a CDS will provide increased recycling and reduced littering. It will also deliver benefits to local community groups, who will become engaged in collecting containers discarded to the environment to generate revenue.

Tasmanian Local Governments are currently paying significant costs for household containers to be recycled and programs that can reduce the amount of recycling requiring collection will deliver direct financial benefits. The City supports the implementation of a state-wide CDS on the grounds of economic, environmental, and social benefits

West Coast Council

A Motion supporting Container Deposit Legislation gained Council Support. It is thought that such legislation would:

- Substantially reduce road side waste
- Reduce waste to landfill
- Provide a funding stream for the likes of Scouts/Cubs

The West Coast Council wrote to the Premier on this subject and he indicated DPIPW were undertaking a study on the NSW Legislation and looking at whether the potential exists for Tasmania.

Clarence City Council

It is noted that:

- Tasmania and Victoria are the only Australian states that have not committed to introducing a Container Deposit Scheme;
- That the West Coast Council passed a motion providing in principle support to the establishment of a container deposit scheme in Tasmania and to lobby State Government to legislate for its introduction on 17 January 2017;
- The Liberal Western Australia and Labor Queensland Governments recently committed to introducing a 10c container refund scheme and the Liberal New South Wales Government has already tabled legislation;
- Clarence's beaches and waterways are being polluted with cans and plastic bottles, which make up more than half the plastic found (by volume) on Australian beaches;

- This was highlighted in the current "Bellerive Bluff Land and Coast Care" Newsletter#84, stating that under the "I CAN-WE CAN Project" over the past 3 years they have recycled 298.5kg of cans equating to approximately 18,000 cans; with about 60 cans to the kilo, raising \$136.75; and
- This community group has conveyed this information to the Government hoping it will help advance the move for "Container Legislation".

A Container Deposit scheme could:

- Create new jobs in Tasmania, including for people living with a disability;
- Save kerbside recycling costs for Tasmanian Councils each year; and
- Benefit young Clarence residents looking for pocket money as well as schools, community groups, sporting clubs and small business enterprises.

In passing this motion the Council acknowledges that:

- A CDS is a state issue that has significant impacts on Tasmania Councils and their ratepayers;
- The State Government present draft legislation to the 2017 Local Government State Conference; and
- Clarence City Council is well placed to add its voice in lobbying for CDS as an on-going Leader in Waste and Recycling Management in Tasmania.

LGAT Comment

Historically there had been concern from the Tasmanian Local Government sector that the introduction of a CDS in Tasmania would undermine the viability of council recycling and it was not supported. However in 2013, LGAT, with funding from the regional waste bodies, commissioned a report which demonstrated the sector could be cautiously optimistic that a CDS would work in tandem with recycling programs in Tasmania.

That advice and the report was provided to the then State Government who commenced their own study in 2014. There was preference at State level to see what might transpire nationally and so we have been in a holding pattern for some time.

While some of the data and assumptions will need rechecking in relation to viability and impact, given time passed, LGAT welcomes the commitment of funds from State Government to further progress this work. We have been advised this is intended to be progressed in collaboration with Local Government, to ensure the right model to deliver the best overall waste outcomes for Tasmania. We fully support this partnership approach.

The LGAT Waste Reference Group has completed a Statewide Waste and Resource Management Strategy and provided this to the EPA to inform the update of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy. LGAT has met with the EPA to discuss the initiatives we put forward. Relevantly, the Strategy notes the lack of state government advocacy and support for implementation of national product schemes (such as CDS) has resulted in additional costs to Local Government and poor outcomes for the state. It goes on to suggest the need for statewide implementation and support of national product schemes where there is cost benefit to Tasmania.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

Under the 2017-18 State Budget, the Government is meeting its commitment to consider the feasibility of establishing a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) for Tasmania. Funds of \$100,000 have been provided to EPA Tasmania to develop a model framework for a CDS that complements mainland schemes already in place or currently being developed.

Consultation with Local Government and industry will be integral to the development of the model CDS framework for Tasmania to make sure it provides the best levels of coverage and community access as cost effectively as possible.

EPA Tasmanian will coordinate with LGAT regarding the details of the CDS modelling initiative.

12.2 Motion – Smoking at School Crossings Council – George Town

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the State Government to amend the Public Health Act 1997 to declare all school road crossings a smoke free area under section 67B.

Background Comment

Council officers have been working on a project to make all School crossings within the George Town municipal area smoke free areas. The project stemmed from a motion that was passed through the George Town Safety Committee (GTSC) after receiving a presentation from a member of the Student Representative Committee at Port Dalrymple High School.

The student leaders had observed that some parents were smoking while congregating at the school crossings while dropping off and waiting to pick up their children. This resulted in all children who needed to use the crossing being exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) or more commonly known as secondhand smoke.

In response to the informative presentation, the GTSC agreed that the health matter was important enough to investigate declaring the school crossings as smoke-free areas.

LGAT Comment

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) commends the work of George Town Council in collaboration with Public Health Services in creating awareness about the health impacts of smoking awareness at school crossings.

This motion has not previously been put to a General Meeting. LGAT notes the Government Agency comment and will be in a position to reflect the views of the membership in relation to this proposal through its regular communication with Public Health Services.

If an amendment to the Act is not supported then LGAT can support the motion via its meetings with Public Health Services and through sharing the positive collaborative results of Georgetown Council through its publications and website Better Communities Better Councils.

Tasmanian State Government Agency Comment

This motion asks the LGAT to lobby the State Government to amend the *Public Health Act 1997* to declare all school road crossings smoke free.

Tobacco Control Officers from Public Health Services (PHS) are supporting George Town Council in their initiative to establish smoke free crossings near their primary and secondary state schools.

Smoke-free laws aim to protect the health of non-smokers, including staff and patrons of businesses, from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke; reduce uptake in young people by denormalising smoking and making it less appealing; and support smokers by making it easier to quit and remain a non-smoker.

Section 67B(1)(c) of the *Public Health Act 1997* enables 'any area, including, but not limited to, a public street, that is not within private premises' to be designated smoke-free by the occupier. In the case of school crossings of public roads, it is understood the Council is the occupier. The *Tasmanian Tobacco Control Plan 2017-20* encourages the creation of new smoke-free areas by local councils.

PHS has developed a resource entitled *Declaring Smoke Free Areas A Guide for Local Councils*. This guide describes how to declare a new smoke-free area, consult with the public, provide smoke-free signs and undertake the responsibility to enforce it.

Declaring school crossings smoke-free requires Councils to engage with schools, children and parents, and the nearby community. It also provides an opportunity to link such initiatives to *Smoke-Free Generation – be a part* messages and resources (<https://www.smokefree.den.org.au>).

A blanket declaration (for example by amendment of the *Public Health Act 1997*) would first require Cabinet approval. If approved, it would still require substantial local work, including community consultation and education, preparation of maps, signage and planning and resourcing of ongoing enforcement. It is reasonable to consider such an amendment, noting that both a change to the Act, and the work to implement such an amendment, will take some time. In the meantime, PHS will continue to support Councils who wish to establish smoke-free areas around their school-crossings.

12.3 Motion – Fluoridation Act 1968 Council – Kentish

Decision Sought

That LGAT requests the State Government repeal section 13 of the Fluoridation Act 1968 (amended) which states that 'a Council must not hold an elector poll under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to the addition of fluoride to a public water supply'.

Repealing section 13 will enable the people of Tasmania to participate in information-sharing and debate and to state their informed position regarding the routine addition of fluoride to their drinking water, through a referendum

Background Comment

The fluoridation of drinking water supplies in Tasmania is regulated by the Fluoridation Act 1968. Under the Act, the need to add fluoride to a water supply is assessed by a fluoridation committee, which then provides a recommendation to the Health Minister. The Health Minister may then choose to direct the water authority to add fluoride to the water.

Tasmania was the first state in Australia to add fluoride to a public water supply, in Beaconsfield, in 1953.

Supporters of fluoride believe that topical fluoride applications promote healthy teeth and gums.

Opponents believe that fluoride, when regularly consumed over an extended period of time, is bio-accumulative and can cause adverse effects including dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, arthritic symptoms, bone fracture, and can affect many other tissues besides bone and teeth, including the brain and thyroid gland.

Lancet Neurology, vol 13, issue No 3, March 2014 (a publication of the British Medical Association) officially classified fluoride as a neuro-toxin.

LGAT Comment

The National Health and Medical Research Council (referred to below in the State Government comment) is evaluating evidence on the health effects of water fluoridation with the final Information Paper, which summarises and assesses how these research findings are relevant to Australia and Australians, likely to be released later in 2017. The Evidence Evaluation included the following activities:

1. A comprehensive evaluation of the dental effects of water fluoridation, which consisted of:
 - a. An overview of systematic reviews on the effects of water fluoridation on dental caries;
 - b. A systematic review of recent primary studies on the effects of water fluoridation on dental caries not identified in the reviews included in the overview; and
 - c. A critical appraisal of the evidence on tooth decay and dental fluorosis reviewed by the Cochrane Collaboration (Iheozor-Ejiogor et al published on 18 June 2015);
2. A systematic review of other possible health effects of water fluoridation.

Councils are encouraged to review this paper when it is published and share it with their communities in order to determine their view on the fluoridation of drinking water supplies.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

This Motion seeks the repeal of s13 of the *Fluoridation Act 1968*. This section provides that a council must not hold an elector poll under Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in relation to the addition of fluoride to a public water supply. The motion is not supported by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The 'background comment' of the Motion provides just over one line about what supporters of fluoride are said to 'believe', and six lines in two paragraphs about what opponents of fluoride are said to 'believe'.

Australia's peak medical scientific body, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), strongly recommends drinking water fluoridation as an effective and safe way to prevent dental caries across the community. The current recommended fluoridation of water is in the range of 0.6-1.1mg/L. Evidence shows that fluoridation of drinking water is especially beneficial to the dental health of children, and those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage who have reduced access to dental care. Fluoridation of community drinking water decreases the number of children with dental caries and the number of children requiring hospitalisation from complications such as dental abscesses. Children who experience significant dental caries and do not receive treatment, risk poorer educational and employment outcomes, lower self-esteem and social exclusion as adults.

There is evidence that dental fluorosis, a problem with the appearance of teeth, is caused by a high intake of fluoride from multiple sources when teeth are developing. Most dental fluorosis in Australia is mild and does not significantly affect the appearance or function of teeth. More significant dental fluorosis is associated with much higher levels of water fluoridation than that recommended by the NHMRC. There is reliable evidence that drinking water fluoridation in the range recommended by the NHMRC is not the cause of other health problems such as cancer, cardiovascular problems, neurological problems, skeletal problems, kidney problems or thyroid problems.

Therefore, aside from fluorosis, scientific evidence has effectively refuted the other putative adverse outcomes that the opponents of fluoride are said to believe, according to the 'background content'.

An extensive and current review of the health effects of water fluoridation is available on the NHMRC website (<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-topics/health-effects-water-fluoridation>). An Information Paper on this was provided for public consultation in 2016 and will soon be published, followed by an NHMRC Public Statement that updates the Public Statement of 2007.

In Tasmania, under s10 of *Fluoridation Act 1968*, the decision to require the water authority (i.e. TasWater) to fluoridate a public water supply is made by the Minister, following the Minister's consideration of the recommendation of the Fluoridation Committee (which is appointed by the Minister under the Act). Tasmania is one of only three Australian jurisdictions in which all communities of 1000 or more persons that receive a public water supply all receive a fluoridated supply. Based on the current evidence for the safety and efficacy of fluoridation, it is therefore expected that the Fluoridation Committee will continue to recommend to Ministers that they require ongoing fluoridation of drinking water supplies by the water authority.

The objective of the motion is stated to 'enable the people of Tasmania to participate in debate through a referendum.' However, an 'elector poll' is not a referendum and does not bind the council, let alone the water supply authority which must comply with the Minister's decision. There are already many avenues for members of the public to debate this issue, including existing Local Government mechanisms such as petitions and public meetings.

13 PUBLIC POLICY GENERAL

13.1 Motion – Recognition Of Australia Day Council – City of Hobart

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania be requested to lobby Tasmania's 29 councils to consider efforts they could take to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.

Background Comment

Every year there are ever increasing public rallies by both indigenous and non-indigenous people protesting against the current legislated date for Australia Day because Aboriginal people view it as Invasion Day.

Rallies held this year in capital cities drew large numbers of supporters including up to 50,000 people in Melbourne, several thousand in both Sydney and Brisbane and over 1000 in Hobart. There is a growing acknowledgement that 26 January is not a day of celebration for all Australians. The current date has only been in practice since 1994 and before that time it was celebrated on a long weekend in January.

If consideration is given to changing the date that we recognise as Australia Day it provides an opportunity to find a more inclusive date for all Australians to celebrate.

LGAT Comment

At the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (June 2017) a resolution was passed calling on the Assembly to encourage Australian councils to consider efforts they could take to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.

The Board of ALGA will be meeting in July to consider this and other Assembly resolutions and determine what action the Board will take. The ALGA Board noted the level of debate and the closeness of the result of the debate and will take these matters into consideration when determining a course of action.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government is a member of the National Australia Day Network. The Network has representation from all jurisdictions and is led by the National Australia Day Council (NADC). An Australia Day Program of events and activities for Tasmania, including support for the Australian of the Year Awards, is delivered from within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

NADC has said publicly that the Australia Day Network is committed to playing a part in the journey of reconciliation by helping all Australians to move forward with a better understanding of our shared past, and importantly how this affects the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today and how we might build a better future together. It has stated that:

“Our national day should be authentic and mature where we can celebrate and mourn at the same time. We can honour all that is great about Australia and being Australian, remember the sufferings and our shortcomings and commit to build a more cohesive and inclusive nation.”

14

CLOSE



Special General Meeting

Minutes

11 May 2017

**Windsor Park Community Precinct
Community Hall**

326 Macquarie Street, GPO Box 1521, Hobart, Tas 7000

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Home Page: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au>

**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.

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* *Denotes Attachment*



The Vice President, Mayor Daryl Quilliam welcomed Members and declared the meeting open at 1.30pm.

President Mayor Doug Chipmans apology for this meeting was noted.

Apologies were received from -

Mayor Doug Chipman	President
Mayor Tony Foster	Brighton Council
Mr Andrew Paul	Clarence City Council
Mayor Phil Vicars	West Coast Council
Mr Greg Winton	Derwent Valley Council
Mr Tim Watson	Dorset Council
Mayor Michael Kent	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Mr David Metcalf	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Mayor Duncan McFie	King Island Council
Mr David Laughher	King Island Council
Lord Mayor Sue Hickey	Hobart City Council
Mr Bill Boehm	Flinders Council
Mr John Brown	Break O'Day Council
Mr Martin Gill	Meander Valley Council

1. GOVERNANCE

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Waratah Wynyard Council/Devonport City Council

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2017, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 April 2017, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1**.

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Waratah Wynyard Council/Kingborough Council

That Members note that Business Arising will be held over until the July 2017 General Meeting.

Carried

Background:

This Special General Meeting is confined to TasWater matters.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Burnie City Council/Huon Valley Council

That consideration be given to the Agenda items and the order of business.

Carried

Background:

Delegates will be invited to confirm the agenda for the meeting and the order of business.

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 OWNERSHIP OF TASWATER

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Hobart City Council/Southern Midlands Council

That Members note the report from TasWater Chair Miles Hampton.

Carried

Dorset City Council/George Town Council

That the Chair and Directors of TasWater leave the Meeting to allow for open debate.

Lost

Dorset Council/George Town Council

That voting on this matter be deferred until the July 2017 General Meeting due to the lack of adequate information available to Members from the State Government.

Lost

Kingborough Council/Derwent Valley Council

That a Suspension of Standing Orders be implemented to allow for general discussion and debate around Water and Sewerage to allow an agreed position to be formulated.

Lost

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

That Members confirm there is no water and sewerage crisis, reject the proposed State Government ownership of TasWater and, through LGAT, urge the State Government to work cooperatively with LGAT, Councils and TasWater on the optimal water and sewerage infrastructure upgrade program to achieve the best outcome for Councils and Consumers.

Amendment Motion**Kingborough Council/Derwent Valley Council**

That Members confirm there is no water and sewerage crisis and that in the absence of a better offer from the State Government, we reject the proposed State Government ownership of TasWater and, through LGAT , urge the State Government to work cooperatively with LGAT, Councils and TasWater on the optimal water and sewerage infrastructure upgrade program to achieve the best outcome for Councils and Consumers.

Lost

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

That Members confirm there is no water and sewerage crisis, reject the proposed State Government ownership of TasWater and, through LGAT , urge the State Government to work cooperatively with LGAT, Councils and TasWater on the optimal water and sewerage infrastructure upgrade program to achieve the best outcome for Councils and Consumers.

The Original Motion was Put and Carried

Council	Response
Break O'Day Council	For
Brighton Council	For
Burnie City Council	For
Central Coast Council	For
Central Highlands Council	Against
Circular Head Council	For
Clarence City Council	For
Derwent Valley Council	Against
Devonport City Council	For
Dorset Council	Against
Flinders Council	For
George Town Council	Abstain
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	For
Glenorchy City Council	For
City of Hobart	For
Huon Valley Council	For
Kentish Council	For
Kingborough Council	For
King Island Council	For
Latrobe Council	For
Launceston City Council	Abstain

Meander Valley Council	For
Northern Midlands Council	For
Sorell Council	Against
Southern Midlands Council	For
Tasman Council	For
Waratah Wynyard Council	For
West Coast Council	For
West Tamar Council	For

Foreshadowed Motion

Derwent Valley Council

That if water and sewerage is taken over by the State Government, that Councils are reimbursed at full audited asset value.

This Motion was Withdrawn

Background

At **Attachment to Item 2.1A** are -

- A broad timeline
- A copy of the Ministers presentation
- The notes of the Treasurer's Presentation taken at the April meeting.

Key Facts in Dispute

State Government	Councils/TasWater
Local councils have sacrificed investment in our water and sewerage infrastructure for a long time in order to pay themselves dividends.	<p>Councils have a range of infrastructure which must be provided and maintained for communities and have been trying to balance the competing needs as well as increasing demands for services for many years. Nationally it is well recognised that there is simply not enough funding for Local Government to fully maintain all their assets and this is why we have lobbied strongly, collectively for a fair share of taxation revenue starting with the resumption of indexation on the Financial Assistance Grants.</p> <p>That said, councils have actually sacrificed dividends to ensure TasWater removes all boil water alerts and do not consume alerts by August 2018; and addresses all key outstanding sewerage matters within 10 years.</p>

State Government	Councils/TasWater
<p>Council will receive \$400M between 2009-10 and the end of the 10-year plan.</p> <p>The Government will fund their plan (service debt) by paying the distributions to 2025-26 from consolidated revenue and foregoing their tax equivalent and loan guarantee payments.</p>	<p>Note the word distribution. Council dividends will fall to \$3.2m by 2025-26 based on 10 year financial plan projections and agreement last year with the owners. The distribution is made up of the dividends, loan guarantee fees and tax equivalent payments. Government owned entities do not pay corporations/company tax.</p> <p>Equivalent funding from consolidated revenue could be injected into TasWater at any time. This does not require a change of ownership.</p>
<p>There is a crisis</p>	<p>The Chair of TasWater advises that <i>"At no time has the DHHS or the EPA verbally or in writing advised us that a crisis exists, nor have the EPA issued any fines for environmental damage over the last 12 months. We have been working with the Regulators to ensure that our Plan meets their expectations and at no time have they advised that our approach is at odds with the outcomes they are seeking"</i>.</p> <p><i>"Tasmania has water and sewerage challenges. This is why TasWater has developed a fully funded 10-year plan to address infrastructure upgrades which commenced in 2016"</i>.</p> <p>Last year TasWater invested more per property than any similar sized utility in Australia.</p>
<p>Government will fix the boil water alerts faster.</p>	<p>Under council ownership, TasWater has reduced the number of customers who don't receive drinkable water from nearly 8000, down to about 1600.</p> <p>It is projected that the remaining customers will receive drinking water by August 2018, well before the Treasurer's plan could take effect.</p>
<p>Sewer overflows to the environment are seven times the national average.</p> <p>Only 1 of 78 sewerage treatment plants achieved full compliance with regulatory discharge limits.</p>	<p>The State Government's supporting data does not compare like for like. For example, compared to other states the regulatory triggers for reporting sewage discharge are much lower in Tasmania than other States and so reports of non-compliance are far more likely.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the reporting period, major floods, bushfire and drought contributed to the extraordinary discharges.</p>

State Government	Councils/TasWater
<p>Unplanned interruptions to water supply have increased.</p>	<p>TasWater has a significant capital program underway with hundreds of projects – spikes from rain, drought then issues with pipes breaking – periods of drought and floods can materially affect the number of unplanned interruptions.</p> <p>Spike in 2014-15 reflected a very dry period which typically drives and increase in the number of breaks.</p> <p>Key quotes section 5th dot point notes “TasWater lags well behind its mainland counterparts in relation to regulated discharge limits.” Note P25 of EPA report also notes “...of a similar size”, and then has a general note on Page 26 that the comparison is to utilities that are primarily serving metropolitan areas where as we are serving a mix of metro and regional areas. This point is equally applicable from the water comparisons made.</p>
<p>Councils can leverage from cash reserves.</p>	<p>Councils must (under legislation) fully fund the depreciation of their assets, this is not something required of State Government. They cannot be used as a consolidated fund.</p> <p>Councils reserves are aligned to their 10 year asset management and financial plans. Generally, there are clear rationales for the holding of funds linked to the long term considerations of depreciation, maintenance, renewal and replacement of assets.</p> <p>The Government is well aware of the impact of the statutory requirements on cash reserves. When Bryan Green suggested use of council reserves in 2012 Rene Hidding commented “isn’t this your greedy money-grubbing letter an attack on council’s very existence”.</p> <p>The cash reserves figure remains fairly constant year on year.</p>
<p>The capital plan can be delivered in half the time (5 years)</p>	<p>The Government have recently clarified that the plan would be delivered in seven years, ie three years earlier rather than the 5 years originally announced. TasWater analysis suggests that even a three-year acceleration would significantly increase the debt levels and render TasWater unsustainable. In all likelihood it puts the quality of planning and delivery at risk too.</p> <p>This has been modelled using the latest available information from the Government and still shows that debt levels would be increased to \$1.48B and that a further \$160M would need to be funded from other sources. If funded from consolidated revenue this means a likely impact on other Government services such as health and education.</p>

State Government	Councils/TasWater
The Government can borrow at a lower rate.	TasWater already borrow through TasCorp at the same rate as the Government. There is nothing to stop the State Government sourcing more money for water and sewerage under a Local Government ownership model if it chooses to do so.
1000 new jobs will be created	There is no data to back this assertion and it is unlikely there is enough specialist skill in Tasmania to support an accelerated program.
Councils will receive 50% of distributions after 2026.	The Treasurer intimated (at the 11 April Meeting) there would be no dividends with profit to be directed back into TasWater. Further he indicated the Government would likely continue to forgo their share of tax equivalent payments and would expect Local Government to do similar.
The Government will prevent privatisation through the legislation.	The current ownership model effectively prevents privatisation.
The Government will cap price increases at 2.5%	Pricing is currently set by the independent regulator and cannot be capped by owners. Such a move is at odds with the national water initiative and further escalates the risk to TasWater's viability. The latest national report states that when compared to like utilities TasWater charges per customer are the lowest despite having the highest level of capital investment.
TasWater will become a GBE which can be directed by the Minister.	This gives the Minister of the day considerable power without direct controls or scrutiny and is unlike other GBE's in this regard. The likelihood of 'pork barrelling' and/or bad policy from the 'Government of the day' is increased. The constraints on scrutiny and public provision of information are well illustrated by the recent committee hearings around Hydro. The new directorial powers would likely require amendment of the GBE Act and may have repercussions for all GBEs.
The detailed data needed for modelling has been embargoed by TasWater and is not available to the Treasurer.	On the 25 January 2017 Treasury was advised in writing by TasWater that they would be happy to provide details of the capital plan to all relevant parties including the Treasurer and sought contacts to arrange provision of the plan and an appropriate time for discussion of the detail.

Key questions for councils

1. Does the State Government's proposal:
 - a. Offer a genuine improvement on the current TasWater plan?
 - b. Ensure that Tasmanians will not be loaded with significant future debt?

- c. Provide manageable price increases for consumers over both the short and the long term?
 - d. Ensure the long-term viability of TasWater?
 - e. Provide an opportunity to build local employment and capability?
 - f. Provide guaranteed returns to those communities who have invested in the infrastructure?
 - g. Guarantee the same rural/regional service provision?
 - h. Ensure an appropriate level of community influence and scrutiny?
2. Can the suggested outcomes under the State Ownership model (namely, faster delivery, cap in price increases, returns to councils, no privatisation) be achieved under Local Government ownership?
 3. What are the key advantages of State Ownership compared to Local Government ownership of TasWater?
 4. What are the key risks of State Ownership compared to Local Government ownership of TasWater?

LGAT Perspective

Implications for owners :

- Reduction (likely loss) of future revenue/no return on investment in assets
- Likely increased pressure for forced council amalgamations
- Reduced influence and scrutiny, transparency and accountability at the mercy of the Government of the day

Implications for communities:

- Reduced access to owners
- Reduced advocacy by owners for local service provision
- Likely increased long-term costs
- Risks to rural/service provision in the longer-term
- + Prices capped in the short term
- + Capital program timeframe reduced by three years

Political implications

- Minister of the day has significant direct influence and reduced accountability
- Consolidated funds being diverted from other key areas
- + Accountability shifts from Local to State Government, councils may stop getting blamed.
- + End of recurring political attacks

LGAT has been analysing all data received, as it is received. Initially, at face value, ignoring the poor process and intense posturing by the State Government, it seemed there might be some value in the change of ownership proposition, with many of Local Government's key concerns seeming to be addressed; with the added bonus of an end to the election cycle TasWater politics and no further ability to blame Local Government for any perceived failure.

However, the Treasurer's presentation at the last General Meeting, outlined mechanisms for achieving their 7-year delivery that would appear to be able to be delivered without changing ownership of TasWater. This would allow Local Government to receive a return on their

investment beyond 2026. That is, further debt could be leveraged and serviced through the provision of direct funding to TasWater (or to councils) from consolidated revenue; regulatory changes which allow greater pricing influence from owners and more appropriate compliance requirements. This assumes that the Government are correct in their judgement regarding debt levels and the impact on sustainability, which is a key area of dispute raised by TasWater.

There is also the matter of the missing detail. While councils understand the current funded TasWater capital plan, the same level of detail has not yet been provided by the State Government.

LGAT concurs with the Chair of TasWater when, in his letter of 21 April 2017 (**at Attachment to Item 2.1B for reference**), he urges Members to decide, one way or the other, at the 11 May Meeting. Waiting for more information, including a Bill, will place the sector at a disadvantage if Members decide at that point they wish to challenge the ownership proposal. Given the intensity of the Government's campaigning on this issue, the public and the Members of Parliament (particularly the Legislative Council) are likely to have already come to a decision, limiting the effectiveness of any late advocacy by LGAT.

In the absence of a majority of councils being clearly for or against the proposal, LGAT has had to take a narrow advocacy approach, supporting the Chief Owner Representative and focussing on the disappointing process, the plan in place, the lack of detail from the State Government and the use of distributions for key council infrastructure and services. This approach is time limited and has a high risk of becoming dissatisfactory to all Members in the near future.

Budget Impact

Largely being undertaken within current resources, noting this currently forms a significant workload in a time when a number of significant reform agendas are in play. LGAT has secured additional support as required through use of a consultant to support media activity.

Depending on the preferred direction of the Members, LGAT will address any resourcing issues through the budget process.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Strategic Relationships
- Priority Area 2: Sector Profile & Reform

2.2 OWNERSHIP OF TASWATER

Council Brighton

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania formally rejects the proposed takeover of TasWater by the Tasmanian State Government and urges the State Government to work cooperatively with LGAT, Councils and TasWater on the optimal water and sewerage infrastructure upgrade program as determined by TasWater to achieve the best outcome for Councils and consumers.

This Motion was With Drawn

Background

Brighton Council is firmly of the view that the State Government's move to takeover TasWater is more based on politics rather than serving the best interests of ratepayers and the Tasmanian community.

Councils must base decisions on facts and on this issue, the known facts are being provided by TasWater based on its actual management and operation of Tasmania's water and sewerage business. On the other hand, we have the questionable forecasts and short-term promises made by the Treasurer. Councils should not be misled by the, at times, flimsy forecasts and doubtful political promises. The real issue for Councils, in the event of a State Government takeover, is the loss of revenue required to fund essential community services. Brighton Council's firm belief is that Tasmania's water and sewerage services are not in crisis. This has been stated authoritatively and repeatedly by TasWater. Some 99.2% of Tasmanians currently have access to potable water and this will rise to 100% by August 2018 – the proposed time of the State Government takeover. Turning to sewerage, despite the Treasurer's claims, no concern or complaint has been received from the environmental or health authorities.

TasWater is successfully implementing a fully and responsibly funded infrastructure upgrading program over 10 years that will ensure all Tasmanians enjoy the highest standards of water and sewerage services. This will also provide the optimum return to Tasmania in terms of employment and economic activity, as well as restraining TasWater and council rate increases.

In contrast, to date, the State Government has provided no substance to back up its plan, nor explained how the infrastructure upgrading work can be completed in a reduced timeframe or outlined how costs will be reduced. The brief detail provided by the Government shows that under its plan, TasWater will be saddled with debt to the point where it will be unsustainable and Tasmanian ratepayers, or taxpayers, will pay substantially more.

The Treasurer has said that the water and sewerage infrastructure is owned by all Tasmanians and not councils. However, councils have invested a great deal of ratepayers' money over many years and are entitled to receive a return on this investment.

In the short-term, Mr Gutwein has promised that the \$20 million annual payments to councils (already reduced by the decision of TasWater) will be directly funded from the State Budget. This is hardly a promise cast in stone and unlikely to be legislated. Presumably it will be reviewed at every budget and be at the whim of the Treasurer/Government of the day, with no surety of its continuation.

In the medium term, the Treasurer has said that councils will receive 50% of the total value of returns after 2024/25, but he went on to say that we have "eight years to get ready for life without dividends."

He also said the Government would be investing its share of dividends into new infrastructure and said that councils should do so as well. Assuming his takeover bid is successful, we could imagine Mr Gutwein saying "the situation is far worse than we expected so we need to put this money back into the GBE."

So, we should be under no misunderstanding. The future will see revenue to councils from our TasWater investment cut significantly, if not removed altogether and rates will need to rise to provide the current level of services such as parks, sporting grounds, roads, footpaths, waste collection etc. Equally certain is the fact that councils, not the State Government, will suffer the wrath of ratepayers for any rate increases.

Compounding the financial loss, in the longer term, Councils will miss out on revenue from TasWater's increased profit levels as the corporation matures and grows.

Under this threat and based on this information, councils cannot consider Government funding with any certainty in our long-term financial plans.

For Brighton, the loss of TasWater dividends is equal to almost 10% of rate revenue and the position could be similar for most Councils (**refer Table of Figures below**). LGAT members would be aware that Brighton Council made the unanimous decision to oppose the takeover largely based on this loss of revenue and its effect on Brighton ratepayers and its community.

Brighton urges LGAT members to consider the full implications of this situation on each council, its ratepayers and its community and not mildly accept the Treasurer's dictate, and give up a revenue stream that could materially assist funding future operations and services. Brighton commends this motion to you and looks forward to LGAT members' support.

Data Provided:

Annual payments from State Budget for 2018/19 - 2024/25 if TasWater becomes a GBE

Council	% Distribution	Estimated loss
Launceston City	13.62%	\$ 2,724,000
Clarence	11.06%	\$ 2,212,000
Glenorchy	10.86%	\$ 2,172,000
Hobart	10.86%	\$ 2,171,000
Kingborough	6.16%	\$ 1,232,000
Devonport	5.46%	\$ 1,092,000
Central Coast	4.77%	\$ 954,000
Burnie	4.14%	\$ 828,000
West Tamar	3.28%	\$ 656,000
Brighton	3.08%	\$ 616,000
Waratah Wynyard	2.81%	\$ 562,000
Meander Valley	2.78%	\$ 556,000
Northern Midlands	2.34%	\$ 468,000
Huon Valley	2.12%	\$ 424,000
Glamorgan Spring Bay	2.07%	\$ 414,000
Break O'Day	1.94%	\$ 388,000
Latrobe	1.91%	\$ 382,000
West Coast	1.81%	\$ 362,000
Sorell	1.62%	\$ 324,000
Circular Head	1.58%	\$ 316,000
Derwent Valley	1.36%	\$ 272,000
George Town	1.13%	\$ 226,000
Dorset	0.97%	\$ 194,000
Southern Midlands	0.76%	\$ 152,000
Central Highlands	0.51%	\$ 102,000
Kentish	0.44%	\$ 88,000
King Island	0.33%	\$ 66,000
Flinders	0.18%	\$ 36,000
Tasman	0.05%	\$ 1,000
Total		\$ 20,000,000

As these distributions will not be legislated it is probable that they will not be honoured due to "budget pressure". After 2014/15 it is probable that there will be no distributions to councils.

LGAT Comment

See Item 2.1.

It is suggested that related motions be consolidated/incorporated together.

3. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the Vice President declared the Meeting closed at 3.05pm.

General Meeting - 7 April 2017		Action
Item No	Item	
2.1	That LGAT and member Councils lobby the Minister for Infrastructure for improved roadside vegetation management on State Government controlled roads	Refer Item 6 Follow up of Motions
2.2	That LGAT lobby the State Government for a more coordinated approach to weed management so that DPWPWE does not need to duplicate work done by Councils; and that all relevant agencies collaborate to map weeds across Tasmania and develop an action plan that can be implemented whenever weed infestations are reported by the community.	Refer Item 6 Follow up fo Motions
2.3	That Members note the Minister's presentation and agree that further input will be sought from Councils as to the way forward That LGAT convene a Special General Meeting on Tas Water following the Owners' Representative Group Meeting on 11 May and invite Miles Hampton to address the Meeting That in the first instance the information provided by the Treasurer be provided to TasWater with a request that it prepares revised financial modelling based on the relative information now available. The Owner Representative Group be encouraged to strongly consider providing permission to TasWater to interact with Treasury to ensure proper modelling of the takeover proposal being put by the State Government	Refer Item 8.1
3.1	Planning Reform	Refer Item 8.4
3.2	Health Forum	Refer Item 8.6
3.3	Policy Update	Refer Item 8.9
3.4	Building Act	Refer Item 8.9
3.5	Air BnB	Refer Item 8.9
3.6	Annual Plan	Refer Item 8.7
3.7	Review of the Local Government Act	Refer Item 8.2

Attachment to Item 5

General Meeting - 11 May 2017		Action
Item No	Item	
2.1	That Members confirm there is no water and sewerage crisis, reject the proposed State Government ownership of TasWater and, through LGAT , urge the State Government to work cooperatively with LGAT, Councils and TasWater on the optimal water and sewerage infrastructure upgrade program to achieve the best outcome for Councils and Consumers.	Refer Item 8.1

Follow Up of Motions Report

Report to the General Meeting

LGAT has streamlined its reporting on Motions which have been passed at General Meetings.

This report details motions where LGAT is still pursuing an outcome.

Local Government Legislation	
That the LGAT request a change to the Local Government Act to ensure a Mayoral vacancy does not trigger a by-election if the vacancy occurs within 12 months of an election.	Passed: July 2014 Notes: LGAT has raised with the division but it is not currently part of the targeted review. There are a still opportunities to review it through other avenues.
That LGAT request the Local Government Division 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.	Passed: July 2015 Notes: Was not able to be included in our review submission but will be raised out of session.
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.	Passed: July 2015 Notes: Was considered as part of the review but no final determination at this stage.
The Local Government Association of Tasmania urge the State Government to review the eligibility for inclusion on the General Manager's Roll by reviewing the definition of occupier to better capture all citizens, inclusive of refugees and permanent residents living in a Local Government area.	Passed: July 2015 Notes: Was considered as part of the review but no final determination at this stage
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.	Passed: July 2015 Notes: Was Considered as part of the review but no final determination at this stage
That LGAT request the State Government to amend the Local Government Act and Regulations, consistent with legislation associated with the Legislative Council (Sect 162 of the Electoral Act 2004) to prevent donations to or expenditure by Local Government election candidates involving political parties which endorse and/or support that candidate.	Passed: October 2015 Notes: Was Considered as part of the review but no final determination at this stage
Environment	
<p>1. That the Meeting note that:</p> <p>a) At the May 2016 Premier's Local Government Council meeting it was announced that the Government will not be introducing a state-wide levy on waste; and</p> <p>b) LGAT will be re-establishing the waste management reference group to provide a mechanism to allow for strategic consideration of waste issues across the state.</p>	Passed: July 2016 Notes: The LGAT Waste Reference Group has completed a Statewide Waste and Resource Management Strategy and provided this to the EPA to inform the update of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy. LGAT has met with the EPA to discuss the initiatives we put forward and we now await the release of the State Government's draft

<p>2. That the Meeting agree that the LGAT, supported by the Waste Management Reference Group, develop recommendations for Members, with respect to a waste levy and/or waste strategy.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy later this year.</p> <p>The next meeting of the LGAT Waste Management Reference Group will be on release of the draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy for comment.</p> <p>This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p>That Members note the issue of waste tyres remains unresolved and seek that LGAT continue to lobby the State Government to develop an effective solution to tyre storage and disposal in Tasmania, which might include the introduction of a regulated tyre levy in Tasmania for end of life tyres.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2016 Notes: The updated Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy (under development by the EPA) will include a waste tyre strategy. In addition, at the time of writing the EPA was consulting formally with the sector on proposed changes to Schedule 2 of EMPCA to make the storage of waste tyres over 100 tonnes a Level 2 activity and assessed by the Board of the EPA.</p> <p>This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania be requested to consult with the regional waste management bodies (and other relevant bodies) for the purpose of:</p> <p>a. Identifying the extent of problems associated with the disposal of car wrecks/car bodies. This recognises the lack of disposal options given the current steel recycling market (or lack thereof); and</p> <p>b. In conjunction with the regional bodies, determine what cost effective options can be considered to address and manage the issues identified.</p> <p>Note: Consideration should be given to an option for car enthusiasts to access these car wrecks/car bodies for sourcing parts and/or bodies for restoration purposes.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2016 Notes: The LGAT Waste Reference Group has completed a Statewide Waste and Resource Management Strategy and provided this to the EPA to inform the update of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy. In that Strategy, it is noted that there is an absence of baseline data which inhibits a detailed analysis of the quantity and source of materials being landfilled versus illegally dumped across the state. In the absence of empirical data it is difficult to determine the extent of the problem, however each regional waste authority has been contacted to determine what anecdotal information is available. This information will be collated in late 2017.</p>
<p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania and member councils;</p> <p>i. Work with the State and Federal Governments and key stakeholders to ensure a coordinated approach to reduce the instances of Tasmanian Devil and native wildlife fatalities on Tasmanian roads through informed projects such as installation of emergent virtual fencing technology and community programs to inspire a change in driver behaviour.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2016 Notes: LGAT met with the Director and staff from the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program (STDP) during March. From this meeting, it is evident that the Program is already heavily engaged with a number of councils. However, it has been recognised there is opportunity to expand this engagement. LGAT has prepared a plan for greater collaboration between local government and the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. Once signed off by the STDP, this plan</p>

<p>ii. Support coordination initiatives such as installation of virtual fencing in Devil roadkill hotspot areas, to assess effectiveness and make informed decisions about the installation pattern. (LGAT support for this could be through promotion of projects/case studies, encouraging councils to engage in projects etc.)</p> <p>iii. Work together to access grant funding to support on the ground projects to reduce native wildlife fatalities on Tasmanian roads.</p>	<p>will be implemented by LGAT, with the support of interested councils.</p>
<p>That the State Government be requested to develop an agreed set of clear protocols with Local Government clarifying the split in responsibilities between the two levels of government in regard to enforcement under the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2016 Notes: LGAT and the EPA have jointly commenced work on developing an MOU between LGAT and the EPA; identifying how the various roles and responsibilities of Local and State Government are best defined and also to trigger, where necessary, a review of the regulations or further training to improve clarity and consistency.</p> <p>This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania reconfirm its commitment to the introduction of a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected by public and private landfills as endorsed at the Local Government General Meeting in July 2012.</p>	<p>Passed: November 2016 Notes: The Statewide Waste and Resource Management Strategy prepared by the LGAT Waste Reference Group indicates that the establishment of a statewide waste levy should be an immediate high priority action for the updated Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy. LGAT is now waiting for the draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy to be released for comment prior to determining next steps.</p>
<p>That LGAT lobby the State Government for a more coordinated approach to weed management so that DPIPWE does not need to duplicate work done by Councils; and that all relevant agencies collaborate to map weeds across Tasmania and develop an action plan that can be implemented whenever weed infestations are reported by the community</p>	<p>Passed: April 2017 Notes: In the May 2017 budget the state government announced \$2million extra funding over 4 years to reduce the risks and impact of pests and diseases in the environment.</p> <p>DPIPWE will be employing 3 Invasive Species Officers (weeds and vertebrate pests)– one position in each region (Devonport, Launceston, Hobart). These officers will be working with councils, various industry groups and landowners. LGAT will provide input to DPIPWE regarding collaboration with councils and action plans.</p>

Planning and Building	
Roads and Infrastructure	
<p>1. That LGAT write to the responsible minister requesting that they seek changes to national electricity laws and regulations so that public lighting providers are required to better inform Local Government of the cost of existing and new public lighting. This should include disclosure of the generation, transmission and distribution charges associated with individual public lighting types, as well as the residual value of public lights. This information is a critical requirement for business case assessments of more efficient and environmentally sustainable public street lighting options.</p> <p>2. That LGAT enter into discussions with Networks Tas to obtain further information about the generation, transmission and distribution charges associated with individual public lighting types, as well as the residual value of public lights.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2014 Notes: LGAT is continuing to work with TasNetworks on a number of projects including the current LED efficient street lighting replacement program. TasNetworks are providing significantly greater transparency on all components on public lighting.</p> <p>LGAT has organised a date in August for council consultation in relation to the pricing reset for public lighting for the 2019-24. This meeting will detail the cost breakdown of public lighting costs and will provide councils with an opportunity to advocate in relation to potential changes to the way the cost is determined.</p> <p>This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p>That LGAT and member Councils continue to lobby the Minister for Infrastructure for improved roadside vegetation management on State Government controlled roads</p>	<p>Passed: April 2017 Notes: Not yet commenced.</p>
Emergency Management	
Local Government Business and Finance	
Other matters	
<p>1. That LGAT undertake subscription modelling for consideration by councils.</p> <p>2. That the focus of the modelling is to be aligned with practice in other jurisdictions and considered by General Managers at their September 2016 workshop.</p> <p>3. That any change to the subscription formula be agreed in principle by March 2017 to align with the LGAT Budget process, with formal adoption at the 2017 AGM.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2016 Notes: Initial work on options has commenced, see Agenda item this meeting.</p> <p>This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p>That LGAT, on behalf of its membership:</p> <p>(a) endorse the activities of the Keep Me Posted Campaign, which is raising awareness about the tendency of large corporates charging people who still wish to receive a paper version of information or bills: and</p> <p>(b) support the campaign via the supporters page of Keep Me Posted website and through media opportunities which may arise.</p>	<p>Passed: November 2016 Notes: LGAT has endorsed the Keep me posted campaign and is noted as a key supporter on the keep me posted website. LGAT has also promoted the campaign through our website.</p> <p>This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>

<p>That LGAT Supports the entitlement of all councillors in Tasmania to be provided with a hard copy or electronic copy of the electoral roll for their Local Government Area, including the General Manager's Roll for that area, with regular updates; and</p> <p>That LGAT calls on the Tasmanian Government to put forward the legislative changes necessary to give effect to this entitlement, noting that details such as the regularity of updates, permitted uses of the roll and how the costs of providing the roll will be funded; and what safeguards will be put in place to ensure copies of the roll are transmitted securely are matters to be determined by the Tasmanian Government in consultation with Local Government</p>	<p>Passed: February 2017 Notes: Not yet commenced.</p>
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Key LGAT Activity – March 2017

LGAT Member Survey – Regional Breakfasts

LGAT is interested in your feedback on the Regional Breakfasts. The survey deadline is **12 May**, and can be completed by following this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRMKMZJ>.

The survey will take you less than 5 minutes, but it is an important feedback process for LGAT and will also help us in planning the next series of Regional Breakfasts, so please respond.

Issue in Focus

On the 7 March, the Tasmanian Government announced they would take over TasWater from 1 July 2018. Both the proposal and the processes around that have resulted in significant new activity for LGAT as we have worked to critically review the proposal, sought more information, responded to the deluge of commentary and interest, provided information to our Members (via Mayors and General Managers) and a range of stakeholders and planned for the Treasurer to attend the LGAT General meeting on 7 April.

In inviting the Treasurer to attend we have sought detailed information on:

1. How the Government plans to address the key risks associated with attempting to complete TasWater's 10-year capital program more rapidly.
2. How the government can cap price increase to no more than 3.5% and still service the projected debt levels, while sustaining the ongoing program.
3. How the financial returns to the owners (and their communities) can be sustained and improved beyond 2025.

At face value the State Government's proposal seems to address many of the key concerns of the Local Government sector and through LGAT, the sector has indicated a willingness to consider the proposal, while also indicating more detailed information was needed to ensure appropriate due diligence.

To guarantee an outcome that is in the best interests of communities, councils want to first determine that the Government's proposal:

- Offers a genuine improvement of the current TasWater plan;
- That the accelerated program can feasibly be delivered;
- Does not load Tasmanian's with significant future debt;
- Does not risk unmanageable price increases for consumers;
- Does not undermine the long-term viability of TasWater;
- Ensures an opportunity to build long term local employment and capability;
- Provides guaranteed returns to those communities who have invested in the infrastructure; and
- Does not risk rural/regional water and sewerage service provision.

The 7 April General Meeting will be the first step for the sector to collectively consider information provided, critical information gaps and further questions, and the way forward.



Policy/Project Activity

- Business cases for the LED role out project completed
- Consultation on potential amendments to S.57 (5) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act*
- Consultation on Tasmanian Planning Scheme Zone and Code Application Frameworks
- Consultation on the rating of commercial operations in primary residences (for Sharing Economy Working Group)
- Correspondence to the Minister for Building & Construction on building reform
- Finalisation of the Local Government Waste Reference group Waste Strategy
- Follow up submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets
- Mandatory Data Breach Notification Bill (Federal) advice
- Planning for Local Government climate change forum in May
- Preparation for LGAT Strategic Planning activities
- Project development for strategic funding opportunities
- Research for value capture paper to be delivered under Annual Plan
- Researched intellectual property risk management strategies for councils.
- RFQ for renewal of public lighting contract released
- Secured speakers for Annual Conference
- Submission on Local Government Act Amendments - Rating Bill
- Submission to Tasmanian Energy Security Taskforce

Media and Communications

- Better Councils Better Communities television advertisement – screening continued
- Better Councils Better Communities web videos - used by West Coast Council to support a visit by students from St Joseph's School
- *LG Focus* article (March edition) – A Year of Change for Tasmania
- *LG Noticeboard* - Launched on LGAT website
- *LG Tas* bulletin (March edition) - Distributed new bi-annual publication
- Media Release – TasWater (7 March)
- Media Release - TasWater (8 March)
- Media Release – TasWater (9 March)
- Opinion Piece for *The Advocate* – TasWater (23 March) on behalf of TasWater Chief Owners Rep
- Opinion Piece for *The Examiner* – TasWater (23 March) on behalf of TasWater Chief Owners Rep
- Opinion Piece for *The Mercury* – TasWater (23 March) on behalf of TasWater Chief Owners Rep
- *The Pulse* e-newsletter (21 March)



Training and Development

- Community Engagement Online Workshop
- Crown Solicitor's Office training – Understanding MoUs, Heads of Agreement, Intergovernmental Agreements
- General Managers Workshop

Meetings

- Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania – Amendments to the *Aboriginal Relics Act*
- Access and Inclusion – City of Hobart, Glenorchy Council and Clarence City Council
- ALGA Board Meeting (President, Vice President)
- Australian Local Government Association Climate Change Officers Network – State Associations Meeting (Brisbane)
- Climate Tasmania – planning session for Local Government climate change forum in May
- Commissioner, Glenorchy City Council
- Consumer Building and Occupational Services (Department of Justice) – teleconferences (x 2) to discuss building reform
- Cradle Coast Authority – Regional Innovation Champion workshops (x 2)
- Cradle Coast Authority Planners Technical Reference Group – Presentation on the Local Provision Schedule (LPS) process
- Department of Justice – Planning and Building portal stakeholder engagement
- Department of Justice – Planning and Building Portal Steering Committee
- Deputy Secretary State Growth - roads matters
- DHHS re Health Promotion conference proposal – Arts and Health
- DHHS, Glenorchy Council, YMCA, Sax Institute - Glenorchy Prevention Tracker
- Director LINC Tasmania - review Archives (teleconference)
- DPAC - Active Ageing Consultation
- DPAC - Open Data
- DPIPWE - National Data Disaster Damage Assessment requirements
- EO Launceston Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Government House presentation to LGAT as supportive Army reserves employer
- Infrastructure Tasmania – Value Capture mechanisms and opportunities in Tasmania
- Institute for Public Administration Australian – events committee meeting re 2017 calendar
- Interagency Working Group on Drugs
- Kingborough Council Development Services
- Lean Forum
- LED Streetlighting project teleconference



- LG Focus (Kimberley Thomson) – Tas case study for LG Focus publication
- Local Government Division – Consolidated Data Collection changes and human resource metrics for councils
- MAV Risk Managers' Forum – Presentation on LGAT activities
- National Disability Services – introduction meeting
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (teleconference) – national harmonisation program for heavy vehicle access
- Nomenclature Board – regular quarterly meeting
- Northern Planners Technical Reference group – Presentation on the Local Provision Schedule (LPS) process
- Northern Regional Planning Management Committee – Presentation on the Local Provision Schedule (LPS) process
- Save the Tasmanian Devil Program – Exploration of opportunities for collaboration with Local Government
- Secretary DPIPWE – general catch up
- Skills Tasmania - Regional skills development to support economic development
- Southern Planners Technical Reference Group - Local Provision Schedule discussion
- Southern Planners Technical Reference Group – Presentation on the Local Provision Schedule (LPS) process
- State Emergency Management Committee
- Strategic Grants Workshop – how can LGAT secure sectoral funding
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office and Climate Planning – re Tasmanian climate change governance project
- TasNetworks Customer Consultative Committee
- Tasplan – engagement and sponsorship opportunities
- TasWater – responding to the State Government's Proposal
- UTS National Disability Project – resource development for LG
- WALGA - emergency risk tool



Key LGAT Activity – April 2017

Issue in Focus

Supporting councils' consideration of the Government's proposed takeover of TasWater has continued to be a significant task for the Association this month. The Treasurer, Peter Gutwein presented to the April General Meeting and the TasWater Chair, Miles Hampton will present to the Special General Meeting to be held on the 11th May. It is fair to say that there are a number of facts in dispute and a lot of critical questions for councils to consider in relation to organisational and community benefit. What will be important is for councils to have had critical conversations so that their delegates at the LGAT Meeting are able to make decisions on how the sector should proceed.

LGAT Annual Conference

Planning for the 2017 LGAT Annual Conference (26-27 July) is now well underway. This month, LGAT finalised the exciting line-up of conference speakers and sponsor packages. The full Conference Program is now available on the LGAT website, and electronic and hard copies will be forwarded to all councils. Registrations are required by 3 July.

Local Government Awards for Excellence

Entries are now invited for the 2017 Local Government Awards for Excellence. Copies of the Award Guidelines and Entry Form have been forwarded to all councils and are available on the LGAT website. All councils are encouraged to nominate a suitable project. Entries must be received by COB on 2 June.

Policy/Project Activity

- Advocacy in relation to potential changes to abandoned motor vehicle protocols by Tasmanian Police
- Collation of feedback from the sector on Audit Panels
- Completion and provision of the LGAT Waste Reference Group Statewide Waste Strategy to the EPA
- Consultation on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme Zone and Code Application Framework
- Development of digital maturity survey of Local Government
- Development of minute takers handbook
- Development of partnership sponsorship prospectus for LGAT communications activities
- Feedback on Air BnB planning directive and permit form
- Input into Cradle Coast Strategic Planning
- Input into the recovery component of Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements
- Input into review of the Local Government consolidated data collection
- Investigation of whole of sectoral positions vacant on-line advertising contract
- LGAT Staff strategic planning session
- Ongoing work on LED replacement program
- Planning for "2IC" Workshop to be held in May
- Planning for Local Government climate change forum to be held in May
- Planning for Preventative Health Workshop to be held in May



- Progression of whole of sector Employee Assistance Program
- Project for shared procurement of energy for public lights started
- Provision of Local Government planning reform ideas into Planning Reform Taskforce agenda
- Provision of briefing note for meeting with the Energy Ministers advisor regarding energy prices
- Review and input of project proposal for UTAS and Australian Council of National Trusts
- Review of consultation material for the Department of Justice Planning and Building Portal Project
- Sectoral consultation on potential changes to s57 (5) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act*
- Sectoral submission on the Dog Control Amendment Bill
- Sectoral survey on Regional Breakfast format
- Update to Related Parties Model Policy
- Update to Workplace Behaviours Toolkit and scoping of next stages
- Work on National Local Government HR Conference speaker sourcing and program

Media and Communications

- Better Councils Better Communities TVC & development of additional stories for LGAT website
- Media on TasWater, Climate Change Forum, Gaming Legislation, Land Use Planning, and possible West Tamar and George Town Council merger
- Pulse Newsletter - April
- Scoped and commenced LGAT website analytics
- Supported ALGA #Endthefreeze thunderclap
- Update of the LG Noticeboard

Training and Development

- Mayors Professional Development Day 6 April
- Finalising speakers for the LGAT Annual Conference

Meetings

- ALGWA Conference Dinner
- Australian Local Government Association – heavy vehicle route assessment tool discussion
- Bureau of Meteorology - engagement with Local Government
- City of Hobart – council climate change priorities and planning for forum in May
- Clive Attwater (Australian Electric Vehicle Association) – climate change forum planning
- Consumer Building and Occupational Services – Local Government permit authority workshop
- Consumer Building and Occupational Services, MBA, HIA, RIA – implementation of the Building Act



Key LGAT Activity – May 2017

Issues in Focus

- On the 11th May, following a decision (through our General Meeting process) to oppose the State Government's proposed takeover of Local Government's water and sewerage assets, Member's charged LGAT with leading a campaign against the takeover. This will involve some careful juggling to maintain effective advocacy on policy and legislation agendas being pursued by the State Government and has significant resourcing implications for LGAT. Work has commenced in relation to sourcing expert support and in developing a strategic campaign approach.
- On the 25th May the State Government released the 2017/18 Budget. In relation to Local Government, perhaps the most significant announcement was \$7.3 million of funding to facilitate the expansion of the Northern Economic Stimulus Loans Package state-wide. This will enable up to another \$60 million in loans for Local Government. In addition, the Budget contained an extra \$300,000 to assist councils in developing their Local Provision Schedules and \$360,000 per annum ongoing to assist with the implementation of the Cat Management Plan.

Policy/Project Activity

- Advice to DPIPWE regarding proposed changes to the Tasmanian Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan
- Analysis of procurement spend under the National Procurement Network by Tasmanian councils for the 12 months to end March 2017
- Consultation on changes to Biosecurity Legislation. Response to be finalised in June
- Developed a council officers contact database, to assist LGAT with sectoral communication
- Developed contract and tender documentation templates and general advice on procurement
- Development of a proposal for State and Local Government co-funding arrangement for further road network assessments on local roads
- Development of a project funding submission to the Commonwealth for preventative health improvement in Tasmania
- Development of an approach to identifying and negotiating collaborative strategic projects in Tasmania that build on Tasmania's current circumstances and result in positive benefits for regional communities
- Development of briefing note on Major Projects Approvals legislation
- Development of the 2017 – 2020 LGAT Strategic Plan
- Discussion with DPIPWE and DPAC regarding Impact Damage Assessment App and relief and recovery funding requirements.
- Discussion with DPIPWE regarding Cat Management Plan
- Discussion with TasNetworks regarding LED role out projects and tariff reform
- Engagement of Goanna Energy for shared procurement for retail energy price for unmetered public lighting
- Finalising partnership sponsorship prospectus for LGAT communications activities



- Input into the development of ALGA's submission to the Senate Committee inquiry into the outcomes of the National Disability Strategy
- Investigation of whole of sector Employee Assistance Program
- Investigation of whole of sector Online Job Advertising package
- Investigation on the statewide extent of illegal dumping of car bodies
- Liaising with Jeff Roorda and Associates (JRA) regarding development of strategic asset management templates for councils
- Liaison with Councils to update on LED project including council status and TasNetwork LED discussions
- Liaison with State Emergency Service regarding Municipal Emergency Management Risk Project
- Presentation at the EU World Cities Session
- Provision of briefing material to councils in relation to State Budget
- Research and development of a summary paper on value capture for councils' information
- Sought interest from Councils in the potential uptake of the LGAT/National Procurement Network Fuel contract, currently under development
- Submission on draft legislative amendments (LUPAA) to facilitate the development of Tasmanian Planning Policies
- Submission on Draft Local Government (Targeted Review) Amendment Bill
- TasWater - information sharing, data analysis, General Meeting preparation, media, campaign planning
- Work on National Local Government HR Conference speaker sourcing and program
- Working with communications consultant to improve LGAT communications approaches
- Working with State Growth and National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to plan a state-wide workshop in June on a new access portal for Local Government road managers

Media and Communications

- President Op Ed TasWater (all papers)
- Letter to editor TasWater
- Media Releases: Expansion Economic Stimulus, State Budget, Special General Meeting TasWater, LGAT Meritorious Service Awards, Restoration of indexation of FAGs
- Print/Radio/TV on TasWater, Climate Change, Building Regulation, State and Federal Budget, Container Deposit
- Refreshing of the New Better Councils Better Communities stories
- Analysis of the Better Councils Better Communities TV advertisement and website
- Focus group testing of the Better Councils Better Communities TV reach and response with school groups engaging with LGAT in careers event



Training and Development

- Local Government Climate Change, Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Forum
- "2IC" / Emerging Leaders Workshop
- Preventative Health Workshop
- Presented at the Create Your Career careers expo in Burnie

Meetings

- Agricultural Land Mapping and Natural Assets Code Workshop
- ALGA/National Local Government Associations Group - National HR Conference planning teleconference
- ALGA/National Local Government State Associations - 9th National Local Government Cultural Forum
- ALGA Associations' CEOs Meeting
- ALGA - National Disability project being conducted by UTS
- Australian New Zealand School of Government - Applied Learning Seminar - Public Value
- Audit Office and Local Government Division – Enhancing the support material for Audit Panels
- Beacon Foundation - LGAT presentation at Creating My Career, 3 events for high school students in Burnie Launceston and Hobart.
- Brighton Council Digital Roundtable
- Carr Advisory – Smart Cities
- City of Hobart Access Committee - response for national submission into whole of journey disability access
- City of Hobart – presentation of opportunities through purchasing via the LGAT/National Procurement Network.
- Clive Attwater (Australian Electric Vehicle Association) – update regarding electric vehicles, fleets and charging stations
- Consumer Building and Occupational Services - Local Government Reference Group for building legislation
- Consumer Building and Occupational Services – Fortnightly meeting with peak bodies to discuss the Building Act reforms
- Department of State Growth – Tasmanian Planning Policies
- DHHS - Health Promotion Activity linking Arts and Health
- DHHS - preventative health funding proposal to Commonwealth Government
- DHHS - preventative health project with funds of \$250,000 transferred to LGAT end May
- DHHS - Participation in the Dynamic Simulation modelling, reducing the risk of harm from alcohol for Tasmania.



- DPIPWE – Primary Industry Activities Protection Act
- Emergency Management Reforms Projects Output Steering Committee.
- Flood Review team - draft recommendations of the review into the June Floods.
- Launch of COTA's *Tasmania Active Ageing Plan*
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting
- LGAT General Management Committee Meeting
- LGAT Strategic Planning Session with GMC
- LGAT Special General Meeting, TasWater
- Local Government Professionals Australia Chief Officers Forum
- Local Government Professionals Australia National Conference (Hobart)
- Local Government Division - Regular Monthly Meeting
- Local Government Professionals National Congress
- Local Provision Schedule Steering Committee
- Minister Grooms Office – Economic Development
- Minister Rockliff - budget announcements and legislative changes to Cat Management Plan.
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – teleconference with State Governments and Associations nationally regarding current state of access portal development, planning for activation sessions in each state
- NCCARF (National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility) – CoastAdapt training
- North West IT Consortium – Shared Service Platform
- Office of Security and Emergency Management - relief and recovery.
- Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator Customer Consultative Committee.
- Planning Policy Unit – Local Provision Schedules and Planning Reform more generally
- Planning Reform Taskforce
- RDA Tasmania Meeting
- Southern Councils Group - response for national submission into whole of journey disability access
- Southern Planners Technical Reference Group - Local Provision Schedules
- State Emergency Committee Collaborative Leadership sub- committee
- State Growth Learner Driver Mentor Program Funding Panel – allocation of funding for 2017-18 program year
- STCA / Waste Strategy South – LGAT Waste Reference Group and Strategy
- Tasmanian Archives Office – Updating archiving guidelines
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office & Climate Planning - Inception meeting for the steering committee for Climate Resilient Councils project
- Tasmanian Planning Commission - Local Provision Schedules
- TasWater – regular meetings



- TCCI Budget Breakfast
- Treasury - State Budget Lock Up
- Vendor Panel Operations Manager - e procurement licencing arrangements for Tasmania.
- WALGA - Microsoft LGAT/National Procurement Network contract currently under development
- Wise Lord and Ferguson – input into the Fire Permit System review



- Department of Health and Human Services - funding options for preventative health
- Director of Local Government - review of councillor allowances
- Director of Local Government – Planning and Building Portal
- Emergency Management Reform outputs steering committee - implementation of justice review recommendations
- Energy Consumers Australia Forum
- EPA – Waste
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- Glenorchy - Prevention Tracker
- Institute of Project Managers – Project Management Training
- Institute for Public Administration Australia (IPAA) (Tas) – State Council Meeting
- IPAA Awards Committee – reshaping awards for 2017
- IPAA Events Committee – 2017 events calendar
- John Smithies (Cultural Development Network) - National Local Government Cultural Forum
- LGAT General Meeting
- Local Government Professionals Board
- Local Provision Schedule Steering Committee – inception meeting
- MAV Insurance Board
- National Disability Services - use of Tasmanian companies and possible promotion to Councils
- National Local Government Cultural Forum – Executive Teleconference re NLGCF work program
- Office of Security and Emergency Management - recovery activity and reform
- Other State Associations – teleconference re National HR Conference 2017
- Page Seager – Workplace behaviours toolkit
- Rosalie Woodruff - planning legislation
- Southern Planners Technical Reference Group – Local provision Schedules
- Tasmania Police – abandoned vehicles roles and responsibilities
- TasNetworks Pricing Reform Working Group
- TasPlan – partnership opportunities
- TasPorts – lands use planning
- UTAS – Urban to rural migration
- UTS - Local Government Disability Interface project



Local Government Association Tasmania

Submission

Local Government (Targeted Review) Amendment Bill 2017

May 2017

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Introduction

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT / the Association) is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the representative body for Local Government in Tasmania.

The objectives of LGAT are:

- To promote the efficient administration and operation of Local Government in the State of Tasmania;
- To watch over and protect the interests, rights and privileges of municipal Councils in the State of Tasmania;
- To foster and promote relationships between Local Government in the State of Tasmania with both the Government of Tasmania and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia;
- To represent the interests of the members of the Association generally, and such matters as may be referred to the Association by its members; and
- To provide such support services to the members of the Association as the Association may by resolution in meeting determine.

LGAT is aware of, and fully supports, those councils that have made their own submissions to the consultation process.

Where a council has made a direct submission to this process, any omission of these specific council comments in the LGAT submission should not be viewed as lack of support by the Association for that specific issue.

General Comments

The Local Government Association of Tasmania would like to thank the Local Government Division staff responsible for progressing the review of the Local Government Act, for the ongoing opportunities to provide input, including through participation on the Steering Committee.

Many of the suggested amendments are supported but in some key areas, LGAT Member's feel there is simply not enough detail to understand the potential implications of the changes. In particular, and as detailed below, the capacity for the minister to issue orders, albeit sectorial, is of widespread concern, despite the legislation requiring consultation with the sector.

LGAT cannot support these amendments without further work and detail being provided to councils and refers to our submission of 2016 which noted it is "important that there be an increased focus on guiding appropriate processes and behaviours but that this did not necessarily need to sit within the legislation itself. It was noted that use of guidelines may improve transparency on some matters".

Several councils noted that it appears that because of the performance of a few, the Minister is calling for significant and cumbersome changes to an Act that has generally operated very well for more than 20 years.

The issues at hand suggest a greater need for guidance and education rather than prescription as it is questionable as to whether such direction would really resolve issues that stem primarily from poor relationships and/or a lack of professionalism.

As LGAT noted in our 2016 submission, all councils suggested there should not be a need to "throw the baby out with the bathwater".

Another area of concern, based on insufficient detail and a lack of previous consultation, related to the provisions around gifts and benefits. As outlined in the **table at Attachment 1**, LGAT does not support this amendment without first consideration of the proposed changes to the regulations.

In relation to the proposed requirements around model financial statements there is first a need to clarify the intended focus. Councils are supportive if this is a matter of delivering a consistent format and identifying key matters to be addressed, but do not endorse requirements beyond that (see Table).

In relation to the suspension of councillors, the majority of councils indicated support for the changes. However, based on feedback, LGAT believes it is important to develop further clarity on the process and communicate that prior to the Bill being debated (see Table).

Finally, the sector cannot support the proposed amendments to 339E as it currently stands because the suggestion is too open ended, lacks clarity as to what is intended and potentially has a very broad scope. Further detail/clarification is required (see Table).

Specific Areas of Concern

Ministerial Orders – Generally

There is no real support for the use of Ministerial Orders as outlined, primarily because of the uncertainty as to what they might contain and how they will apply. The Orders are perceived as giving the Minister an extraordinary new level of power with little scrutiny and no recourse.

These amendments would introduce the potential for greater executive powers to the Minister and a capacity to become closely involved in the internal relationships of a Council and applying these as directions to all councils. The level of use of Ministerial Orders being proposed in the changes throughout the Act are of considerable concern across the sector.

While a Local Government Minister is working with the sector, an order would be issued following a consultative and collaborative approach, however if there were conflict between the Minister and the sector there could well be problems around the power of the Minister to issue orders.

Councils appreciated that the discussion paper mentions there are no draft orders at this stage and it should be noted that they must be developed in consultation with the sector. However, a clear majority stated they could not support the change without advice on the content of the orders, which are yet to be drafted.

Further, councils noted that it was unclear as to whether the Minister could proceed with an Order in clear opposition to the views of the sector or how disputes would be dealt with.

This feedback is consistent with that provided in an email from LGAT to the Local Government Division on 26 July 2016 where the concept of Ministerial Orders was tested with General Managers, Mayors and Councillors through face-to-face workshops and email and is also consistent with feedback from the technical reference group.

It was recommended by one council that Ministerial Orders should be used as a mechanism available to the Minister arising from properly instructed and constituted reviews rather than day to day matters and, based on the feedback from LGAT Members, this is likely to be a more acceptable approach.

Orders in relation to functions of Mayor/Elected Members

These changes are strongly opposed in the absence of clarification and detail with respect to the potential subject matter of the Ministerial Order, as well as the scope or reach of the order.

Particularly concerning would be for this provision to enable the expanding of this important statutory role. The necessity to introduce Ministerial Orders is considered questionable by most councils with a broad agreement that Local Government, as an industry should not operate on such prescriptive instruction.

The Act should be drafted in such a way as to provide sufficient clarity as to the roles and functions of the position without the need for further Ministerial imposition. For example, changes proposed to Section 27 are well drafted to achieve this outcome.

It was noted by a number of councils that the introduction of Ministerial Orders has the potential to further dilute the ability for a council to function autonomously and could result in unnecessary and unhelpful, increased prescription and direction by the Minister.

Whilst there may have been some recent issues experienced in councils that have led to these proposed amendments, the concern is the level of power proposed to be provided to the Minister without scrutiny through the Parliament.

The necessity to introduce Ministerial order questionable. It drives the Local Government industry into prescriptive instruction.

Orders in relation to functions/appointment/performance management of General Managers

These changes are strongly opposed in the absence of clarification and detail with respect to the potential subject matter of the Ministerial Order, as well as the scope or reach of the order.

Generally, councils indicated it should not be necessary for the Minister to be able to issue orders around the appointment, and certainly not the performance, of the general manager. This is the domain of the council not the Minister.

Having to issue orders relating to the functions of the general manager and the need to specify the manner in which the general manager must liaise with the mayor is a reflection of a dysfunctional relationship. This should not be a situation that necessitates the Minister issuing orders but rather a situation for the council to address.

The basis of selection and performance appraisal is a matter for Councils to determine. This may be based on unique circumstances and outcomes being sought. Councils' discretion should not be fettered, constrained or narrowed by processes based on legislative prescription. This would be a significant diminishing of the autonomy of councils and may add significant costs to many councils.

More than one council noted that the introduction of this executive Ministerial power is "a gross interference with the operations and discretions of a Council and drives the Local Government industry into prescriptive instruction".

Further, it is noted that the Local Government Act and other legislation make clear the responsibilities and functional powers of the General Manager. There is no ambiguity in this context and the need for Ministerial executive powers in such matters is unnecessary.

LGAT and member councils are supportive of the development, in collaboration between State Government and the sector, of model processes and procedures guiding best practice.

Orders in relation to liaison between Mayors and General Managers

These changes are strongly opposed in the absence of clarification and detail with respect to the potential subject matter of the Ministerial Order, as well as the scope or reach of the order.

Ineffective liaison is felt to be clearly a performance management issue for the council to deal with and not through the "instructions" of the Minister.

"The treatment of the industry as a whole by these measures is likened to a "hammer and nut" approach to deal with matters that have come about by the inadequacy and insufficient scope in the current legislative provisions to deal with specific performance reviews of some councils".

Again, it was suggested that the measures proposed to be introduced should be dealt with within and confined to the provision relating to such Board reviews and inquires and should not cover all the prescriptive activities and the exercise of discretions by councils.

Without any real suggestion of the level of expectation, there is concern that processes could be made overly complex or burdensome, particularly for smaller councils or that rather than encouraging genuine relationships and positive outcomes, the whole process would become an administrative exercise rather than a productive engagement.

Councils operate quite differently in the complexity and scale of operations and an order for ALL councils could be difficult for some.

Other Issues Raised

- One council suggested it was time to reconsider the popular election of mayors and that round the table elections would be more likely to ensure the mayor has the support of the majority of councillors.
- One council has sought consideration of restrictions on donations Local Government electoral candidates are permitted to receive and consideration of the potential for conflict of interest from developer donations.

This particular aspect of donations has not been considered by LGAT Members, although in 2015 LGAT sought consideration of a requirement to disclose political donations.

Summary

The key area of concern for councils in relation to the proposed amendments is the extensive use of Ministerial Orders, particularly given the lack of detail on their likely content. These provisions are not supported. LGAT suggests consideration of constraining the use of Orders to matters arising from properly instructed and constituted reviews rather than day to day matters and based on the feedback from LGAT Members, this is likely to be a more acceptable approach.

Practice notes, guidelines, tools and templates issued by the Director of Local Government (in partnership with LGAT, the Integrity Commission and others as appropriate) could encourage best practice and improved consistency across many of the areas of concern.

There is a need to avoid changing relatively well functioning legislation to address a few isolated issues and rising significant unintended consequences for many.

Concerns or reservations were also raised in relation to amendments regarding:

- Gifts and donations;
- Model financial statements;
- Suspension of councillors;
- Defining senior positions; and
- Petitions.

Attachment 1: Table 1

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
Interpretation		
Section 3	Interpretation	Generally supported but see comments on new processes later.
Municipal Areas		
Section 16	Boundary Adjustments	Generally, because of the reference to minor adjustments, councils were supportive however some sought further clarity around the definition of 'minor' and the actual administrative processes. One council indicated they would like more time to consider this matter subsequent to clarification being received.
Mayors and Deputy Mayors		
Section 27	Role of the Mayor	No significant concerns were raised by councils in relation to these proposed changes although one council notes that the meaning of liaison is somewhat ambiguous as it can be either: 'co-operation on a matter of mutual concern' or 'to act as a link to assist communication between people or groups'.
Subsection 27(2)(a)	Deputy Mayors	No concerns raised.

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
Section 27A	Ministerial Orders - Function of the Mayor	Not supported - See introductory text
All Elected Members		
Section 28AA	Ministerial Orders	Not supported - See introductory text
Audit Panel Members		
Sections 53, 54A, 55B, 338A, 339 and 339A	Audit Panels	No concerns raised
Gifts and Donations		
Part 5A Section 56A	Requirement to Notify of Gift/Donation	Feedback was mixed and a significant number of councils did not support this change. Specifically, it was noted that there is no detail around what will be prescribed in the regulations and therefore it is unknown at this stage what impact the proposed new section to the Act might entail. This is particularly noted because this aspect has not previously been subject to consultation. This undermines what appears to be in principle support from the majority of councils, many of whom have a long standing commitment to the practice of a gifts register. Further at least one council noted that notification to the General Manager was not supported. The policy council has in place already requires such declarations to occur.
Part 5A Section 57	Gifts and Donations Register	

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
		<p>Without being able to view what is proposed under the Regulation amendment this matter cannot be fully considered; however, as a new mechanism it could be in conflict/overlap with already (recently) established regulatory provisions and supporting governance frameworks adopted by councils.</p> <p>LGAT would also note that the practice of establishing and maintaining gift registers is widespread across the sector, in part because of the work LGAT undertook in 2015 in relation to a model policy and template declaration form and register form. LGAT is happy to provide a copy of these documents if requested.</p> <p>LGAT does not support this amendment without first consideration of the proposed changes to the regulations.</p>
General Manager		
Section 61A	Ministerial Orders – Appointment and Performance	Not supported - See introductory text
Section 61B	Appointment of Acting General Managers	No concerns raised
Section 62A	Ministerial Orders – Functions	Not supported - See introductory text
Section 62B	Ministerial Order – Liaison	Not supported - See introductory text

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
Section 65	Written advice Qualified Persons	No significant concerns raised but a few councils noted that there is no clarification around what is qualified advice and when it is required and that clarification of how this will work in practice may also be required.
Annual Report		
Section 72		No concerns raised
Model Financial Statements		
Section 83A	Model Financial Statements	<p>Few concerns raised by councils. It was noted that model financial statements are a good initiative but that they should only be used as a guide given the interpretation and application of accounting standards is not always clear cut and that the Auditor-General forms an opinion only. On that basis, mandating adoption of statements which are merely reflecting opinion is perceived by some as a retrograde step given that the final responsibility for preparation and fair presentation of the financial report always rests with the entity concerned.</p> <p>Clarification is sought on the specific intent and scope of the accounts and implementation in practice. There is concern that the nature and scope of proposed model financial statements are not considered and it is not clear whether the model financial statements provide only a consistent format and identify what matters need to be addressed by Councils, or whether they seek to establish mandatory policy interpretations of accounting standards.</p>

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
		<p>The latter would not be supported, since standards are indeed open to interpretation. The phrase, "to be used by Councils" requires clarification – at the margins, each Council will have differing disclosure requirements. It should be made clear the extent to which model accounts may or may not be modified to suit specific circumstances.</p> <p>Supported only with clarification that the focus is on delivering a consistent format and identification of key matters to be addressed by Councils.</p>
Local Government Board		
Section 214A	Scope of Review	These changes are supported
Performance Improvement Directions		
NEW Part 12B	Performance Improvement Direction	These changes are supported although it was suggested by one council that there should be a right of reply on the direction given.
Board of Inquiry		
Subsection 215(5)	Suspension of Councillors	The majority of councils support these changes. It was noted that it is unlikely these changes will affect many councils and that they likely stem from recent Board of Inquiry experiences.

1-1-11

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
Section 217	Requests for Information	Two councils noted they were unable to support this amendment without further detail in relation to the process involved and LGAT believes this is an important aspect to consider prior to the Bill being debated. No concerns raised.
Section 225	Result of Inquiry	Supported
Section 226	Dismissal of Councillors - Individuals	Supported.
Section 226(1A)	This section has been amended to further clarify what is intended by the phrase "operation of the Council".	Supported
Sections 230 and 231	These 2 sections have been amended to clarify that the commissioner is only appointed when <u>all</u> of the Councillors are either dismissed or suspended.	Supported
Election Dates		
Sections 260, 269 and 274	Elections All the dates under these sections have been increased by 1 week.	Supported

ACT AMENDMENTS

The People who Lead and Serve our Community

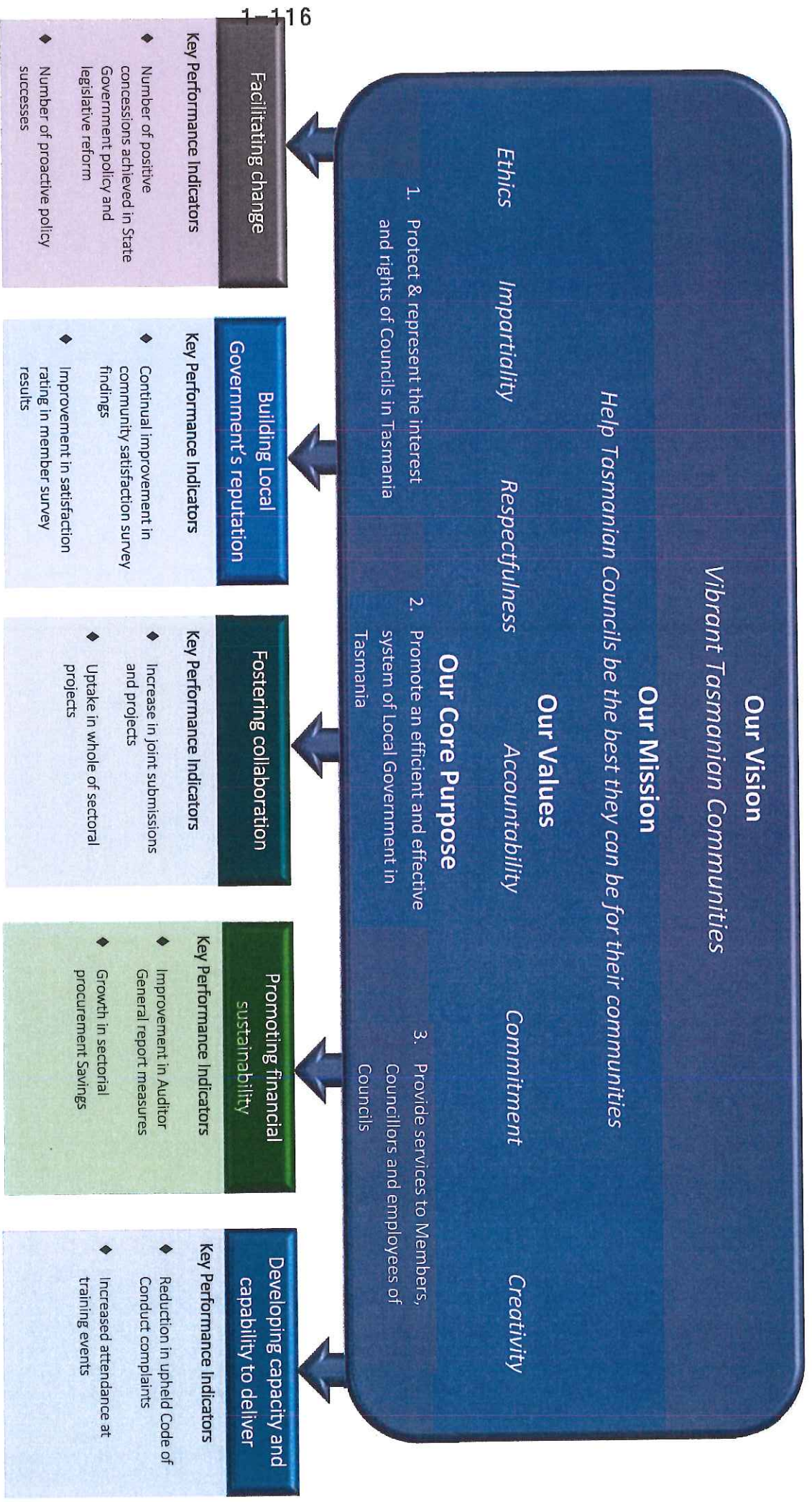
Reference in Act	P Amendment	Comments/Recommendations
Electoral Advertising		
Subsection 278(3)	This subsection has been amended to delete "broadcast" as it is unnecessary duplication with an exclusion described in Subsection 278(4)(b).	Supported
Performance Improvement Directions		
Section 341	Immunity from Liability	Supported Note: drafting error in the proposed amendment for S342 (2) – addition of the word "or" is unnecessary.
References to Act		
Section 348A	This section clarifies references within the Act to orders and regulations and their status.	No concerns raised
Office of Councillors		
Schedule 5, Clause 3(f)	This amendment is designed to address an unintended technical consequence that arises from the current operation of Schedule 5, Clause 3 (Vacation of Office).	The proposed change to the provisions are supported, however the drafting needs to be simplified.

Additional Matters

The following have not been included in the draft amendment Bill however are being considered for inclusion. These have been identified since the conclusion of the Steering Committee's recommendations to the Minister and are generally aimed at strengthening existing provisions, rather than introducing materially new provisions. The Department of Premier and Cabinet would appreciate your feedback on these additional matters.

Reference in Act	Details on the Amendment	
Section 339A (Misuse of Office)	Considering clarifying this provision so that it also includes an "attempt" to procure, the doing, or not doing anything to gain an advantage or to avoid a disadvantage.	No concerns raised
Section 339E (Complaints against non-compliance or offence)	<p>Considering clarifying this provision so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Director of Local Government has the power and ability to refer such matters of non-compliance to third parties or other investigative authorities where the Director considers the matter may more appropriately be handled within their jurisdiction; the matters which the Director can investigate are clarified; and the Director, in determining the procedure for handling complaints or investigating matters, can also authorise a person to undertake an investigation. <p>These amendments could make the investigation provisions clearer.</p>	<p>Councils felt unable to support this as currently stands because the suggestion is too open ended, lacks clarity as to what is intended and potentially has very broad scope.</p> <p>Further detail/clarification is required by the sector.</p>
Financial Administration	Considering including a similar provision to the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i> that allows General Managers to continue to run the Council and expend funds until the Council adopts the estimates in the situation where a Council does not approve its estimates prior to 1 July of any year.	No concerns raised
Financial Administration & Section 3 (Interpretation)	Considering including a definition of "senior positions" within a Council as it is currently not defined and could be further clarified to avoid confusion.	<p>Some councils have reservations about this amendment because there is a risk, given reporting relationships, that in small Councils the introduction of the definition would remove protection of personal privacy for holders of non-senior positions.</p>

Reference in Act	Details on the Amendment	
Petitions (Part 6)	<p>Considering including within the Act a power to prescribe for online petitions. This recommendation was made by the Steering Committee, however, there are practical difficulties in implementing this recommendation, including the cost of information technology to validate the process. This amendment would require further detail and prescription under a future amendment to the regulations.</p>	<p>Further consideration may be required.</p> <p>There is in principle support to progress consideration of this issue but noting that a clearer understanding of how it may work is required in order for councils to give due diligence to the proposal.</p> <p>It was suggested that at this stage recognition of electronic petitioning should only be by way of an empowerment provision and not a mandatory requirement on all Councils. Potentially it is a resourcing imposition for smaller Councils.</p> <p>Validity of participants remains a key consideration. Any suggested advancement of online petitioning platforms and the governing and operational parameters required would need to be worked through at industry level in the first instance.</p>



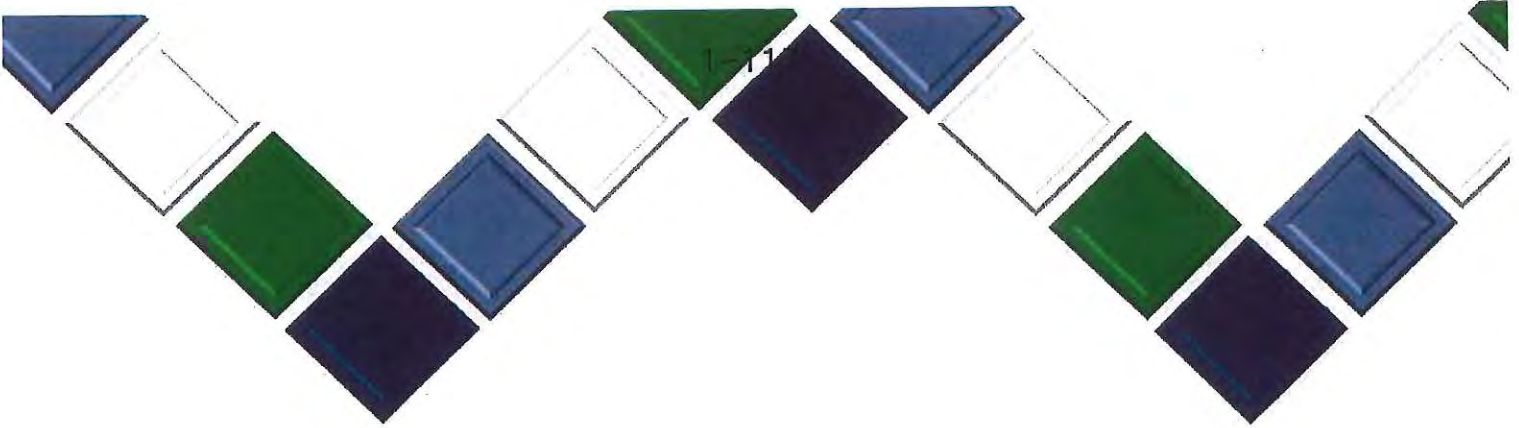
To achieve this plan, in the next 12 months (2017-2018) we are committed to completing the following priorities:

1. Influence the State Government agenda for Taswater
2. Shape the Code of Conduct Review
3. Drive the planning reform agenda
4. Build upon the resources available for Elected Members and staff
5. Prepare communities and councils for the Local Government elections in 2018
6. Position the Local Government agenda in the State Government election
7. Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader Community
8. Ensure LGAT systems and IT are fit for purpose
9. Host an excellent Annual Conference, AGM & General Meetings
10. Continue to expand the Procurement Program



Local Government Association Tasmania

WORK PLAN 2017-2018





Overview

LGAT has been the peak body for Local Government in Tasmania for over 100 years, we are the voice of Local Government to other governments, stakeholders and the wider community. LGAT advocates for the interests and rights of councils, promotes the efficient operation of Local Government and fosters strategic and beneficial relationships on behalf of the sector.

Strategic Plan

The LGAT Strategic Plan provides the overview for the direction of the Association for the next three years, it forms the basis on which this work plan is developed. The Strategic Plan contains five key focus areas for the 2017 to 2020 period, they are:

- Facilitating change across Local Government;
- Building Local Government's reputation;
- Fostering collaboration;
- Promoting financial sustainability; and
- Underpinning Local Government capacity and capability to deliver.

The Strategic Plan also contains our critical priorities for the next 12 months.

Work Plan 2017-18

This document is the LGAT Work Plan for 2017–18. It constitutes the key activities LGAT will undertake over the 2017–18 financial year to progress our strategic plan and, in particular, the critical priorities for the organisation.

The following table maps our critical priorities for the next 12 months against each of our five Key Focus Areas.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Key Priorities 2017 - 2018

	Facilitating Change	Building LG's Reputation	Fostering Collaboration	Promoting financial sustainability	Developing Capacity and Capability to
1. Influence the State Government agenda for TasWater	✓	✓		✓	✓
2. Shape the Code of Conduct Review	✓				✓
3. Drive the planning reform agenda	✓				✓
4. Build upon the resources available for Elected Members and staff				✓	✓
5. Prepare communities and council for Local Government Elections in 2018	✓	✓			✓
6. Position the Local Government agenda in State Government Elections		✓	✓	✓	
7. Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader community		✓			
8. Ensure LGAT systems and IT are fit for purpose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Host an excellent Annual Conference, AGM and General Meetings		✓			✓
10. Continue to expand the Procurement Program			✓	✓	✓

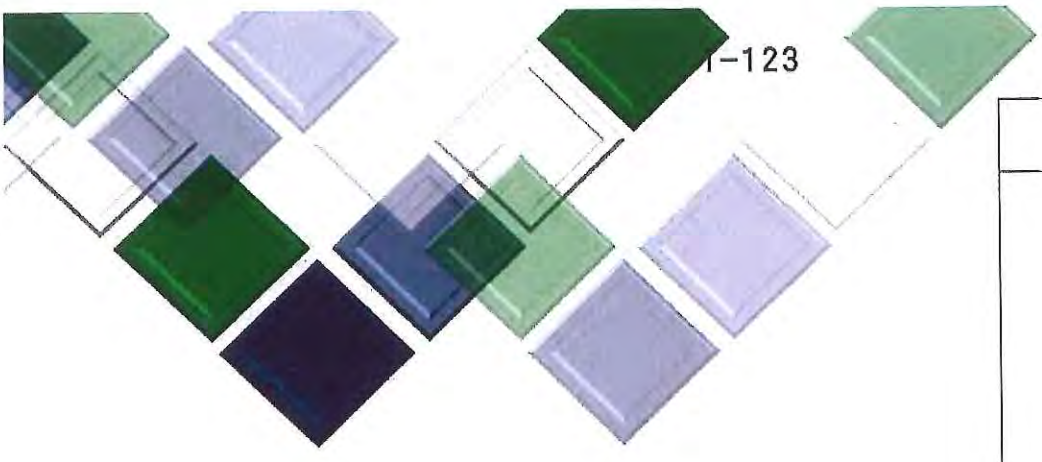
In order to deliver on each of these critical priorities we will undertake a number of actions, each of these are outlined below:

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Actions
1.	Influence State Government agenda for TasWater	1. Councils retain ownership or gain significant concessions if State Government ownership model is implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prepare and implement a specific project plan involving engagement with the Legislative Council, community and other key stakeholders to achieve this priority.
2.	Shape the Code of Conduct Review	1. LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Play a central role in the review, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing discussion paper for the sector; • Collate and summarise sectoral responses; • Facilitate follow up activities (e.g. workshops) with the sector, to confirm recommendations; • Lobby for implementation of changes sought by the sector.
3.	Drive the planning reform agenda	1. Specific member survey indicated councils feel well represented by LGAT. 2. LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue active participation on relevant steering groups. ◆ Work to ensure that the interests of Local Government sector are advanced and protected through the current planning reform process. ◆ Advocate to State Government on other planning issues of sectoral concern. ◆ Deliver land use planning and planning authority training material and programs for elected members as requested. ◆ Incorporate good planning outcomes delivered by councils into a strategic marketing campaign.

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Actions
4.	Build upon the resources available for Elected Members and staff	1. Increased utilisation of LGAT prepared resources (web and extranet hits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deliver the forward training program for elected members and staff, and continue to identify future requirements and opportunities. ◆ Leverage off collaborative alliances, such as LG Pro, in delivering integrated professional development opportunities. ◆ Identify, promote and, where available, secure grant funding for training and sectoral capacity building. ◆ Develop online training for councillor inductions, staff training and identification of council election induction material. ◆ Continue to facilitate the appropriate allocation of staff resourcing and support to deliver the LGAT Assist Program. ◆ Continue to support councils with respect to Audit Panels and Workforce Planning.
5.	Prepare communities and Councils for Local Government Elections in 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continual improvement in community satisfaction survey findings 2. Improvement in satisfaction rating in member survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prepare a specific project and consultation plan for active engagement of the community and councils, to be rolled out through 2017/18. ◆ Each member council to have received at least one visit from a LGAT representative this financial year. ◆ Identify and promote Local Government networking opportunities to provide better cross sectoral information sharing and support.
6.	Position the Local Government agenda in the State Government election	1. Number of Local Government initiated policies adopted by political parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prepare and implement a specific project and consultation plan for engagement with the political parties prior to the Election. ◆ Maintain and strengthen existing relationship with State Government and other key non-government entities, such as other peak bodies. ◆ Continue to represent Local Government interests in key policy priority areas of State Government as they relate to the sector.

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Actions
7.	<p>Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader community</p>	<p>1. Increased exposure to LGAT and council produced stories via LGAT's communication channels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regular engagement, communication and interaction with member councils via a range of activities and mediums. ◆ Strategically highlight positive Local Government activities and successes via appropriate communication methods. ◆ Facilitate Local Government representation on government and community boards and committees to ensure representation and a voice for our sector. ◆ Provide a central point of contact for external stakeholders who wish to communicate with the sector ◆ Undertake statewide community satisfaction survey.
8.	<p>Ensure LGAT systems and IT are fit for purpose</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Embed ICT strategy, including maximisation of SharePoint opportunities for process improvement. ◆ Switch across to NBN and VOIP services
9.	<p>Host excellent Annual Conference, AGM and General Meetings</p>	<p>1. Delivery of the Conference on budget 2. Conference feedback providing an overall rating of good or excellent from >70% of survey responses. 3. Increased General Meeting agenda items for decision or discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deliver the LGAT Annual Conference. ◆ Invite key government/industry/community decision-makers to Local Government events to build relationships and mutual understanding. ◆ Facilitate discussion at General Meetings to enable active engagement and decision-making by members on key issues.

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Actions
10.	Continue to expand the Procurement Program	1. Growth in sectoral procurement savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prepare and implement a specific project and consultation plan for procurement. ◆ Continue to work with MAV Procurement to support and build LGAT's procurement capacity. ◆ Work with the National Procurement Network (NPN) and Tasmanian councils to develop and implement improved procurement practices ◆ Continue to progress whole of se for energy contracts and energy efficiency projects which deliver financial savings for councils.



In addition to these critical priorities, LGAT will continue to represent Local Government interests in key policy priority areas of State and Federal Governments. During this plan period, active areas are expected to include:

Areas for continued focus	Actions
Smart Cities Agenda	Monitor and inform councils of opportunities under the Federal Government's Smart Cities Agenda. Opportunistically partner to deliver projects for councils.
Roads and Infrastructure	Continue to inform and advocate for councils to support delivery of their NHVR. Continue to build capacity in relation to financial and asset management.
Preventative Health	Deliver the Preventative Health Project Work to leverage additional funding for this area.
Environmental Management	Clarify regulatory roles and responsibilities with the EPA.
Local Government Reform	Monitor the progress of feasibility studies and support councils with tools and analysis as required Collect feedback on proposed changes to the Local Government Act and advocate the sector's views. Advocate against non-productive reform agendas such as rate capping.
Climate Change	Support councils in understanding and responding to climate risks through information and training provision. Advocate for adequate resourcing and tools for councils. Work through ALGA to address the issue of liability.
Emergency Management	Support councils with risk assessment, planning and developing community resilience through sharing information, and advocating for change, support and funding.

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LGAT Annual Plan Progress Report



PA1 Strategic Relationships				
Action	Output	Measure / Target	Progress	Comment
Regular engagement, communication and interaction with member councils via a range of activities and mediums.	Timely and meaningful communication with our members;	Positive response (>70% support) in membership engagement survey to methods of communications;		The 2017 LGAT Member survey had 81 responses, with over 70% from elected members, and 27% from GMs and senior staff. The most common engagement was in the form of receiving information (79%), with the LGAT News and Pulse have 82% and 88% of responded reading respectively.

<p>Continue to review and where required enhance our member and external communications.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategic Communications Plan, including amendments to format of the LGAT News and Pulse.</p>	<p>Increasing access and hits on to LGAT online presence (website, Extranet).</p>	<p>The Strategic Communications Plan key actions are complete. New formats for the magazine (LGATs), the Pulse and Noticeboard have been implemented. The LGAT webpage has been updated and the Better Councils Better Communities pages created.</p> <p>Monitoring during the campaign period, per month, indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGAT Website: 3000 visits • BCBC Community Stories: 290 pages viewed • Pulse: 122 views • Noticeboard: 111 views
<p>Each member council to have received at least one visit from an LGAT representative each financial year.</p>	<p>Council visits</p>	<p>Every council visited once per year.</p>	<p>Council visits completed throughout the 2016/17 financial year were: Central Coast, Break O' Day, Sorrell, Launceston,</p>

				<p>Northern Midlands, Kentish, Latrobe, Kingborough, Glenorchy, George Town, Central Highlands, Southern Midlands, Huon Valley, Hobart, Flinders and West Coast, Brighton, Waratah/Wynyard and Circular Head are scheduled for July.</p>
<p>Deliver the LGAT Annual Conference.</p>	<p>Successful delivery of the Conference on budget.</p>	<p>Delivery of the Conference on budget and with an overall rating of good or excellent from >70% of survey responses.</p>		<p>Preparation for the 2017 Conference is progressing well. The conference venue, speakers and sponsors are confirmed and registrations are coming in.</p>
<p>Continue to facilitate the appropriate allocation of staff resourcing and support to deliver the LGAT Assist Program.</p>	<p>Maintain timely determination of all loan applications</p>	<p>All eligible loan applications determined in accordance with the LGAT Assist Loan Policy</p>		<p>To the end of June, LGAT Assist has provided a total of 53 loans for a value of \$328,2000. 4 funeral Grants for a value of \$14,000 and University bursaries for \$10,000</p> <p>100% of all loans have been approved in accordance with the LGAT Assist Loan</p>

<p>Provide a central point of contact for external stakeholders who wish to communicate with the sector.</p>	<p>Appropriate external content included within communications in line with strategic objectives.</p>	<p>Sector relevant external content in communications; Positive response (>70% support) in membership engagement survey to external content of communications</p>		<p>Policy</p> <p>Work on the new website noticeboard is complete and it has gone live. The membership engagement survey was undertaken at the beginning of 2017, prior to the changes to the LGAT communication methods. However, the initial feedback on the changed content focus of the various publications has been extremely positive.</p>
<p>Represent Local Government interests in key policy priority areas of State Government as they relate to the sector. Participate in and seek representation on State forums</p> <p>Demand sufficient consultation periods</p> <p>During this plan period priority areas are expected to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Reform; • Emergency Management & climate change; • Sectoral Reform; • Economic development; • Preventive health; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government Budget submission; • Submissions on legislative changes, discussion papers and reviews developed in consultation with the sector; • Representation at Legislative Council, Tasmanian Planning Commission, Working Groups and steering committees as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation by councils in the process; • State Government adhering to the Consultation Partnership. 		<p>LGAT has provided submissions on a significant range of State Government documentation. The LGAT website provides a list and copies of all public submissions.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy; • Infrastructure; • Cat Management. 			
<p>Represent Local Government Interests in key policy priority areas of Federal Government as they relate to the sector. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indexation of Local Government Financial Assistance Grants; • The direct funding relationship between the Commonwealth and Local Government; • Elected member taxation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Government Budget submission; • Submissions on legislative changes, discussion papers and reviews developed in consultation with the sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils participation in the process; • Tasmanian interests are represented in ALGA submissions. 	<p>LGAT has provided input in the ALGA National General Assembly on a range of matters.</p> <p>In addition, LGAT provided direct submission on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of the RDAs. • The National Local Government Report 2015-16 • The Australian Regional Tourism Network's report on the Contribution of Local Government to the Australian Tourism Industry; • Input to ALGA Rating Paper; • Remote Housing Review; • Regulation for drones;

<p>Facilitate Local Government representation on government and community boards and committees to ensure representation and a voice for our sector.</p>	<p>Local Government representation.</p>	<p>All board and other positions successfully filled.</p>		<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government's value capture discussion paper. <p>Recent board positions include: Emily Brown (City of Hobart) to the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC), and Deb Mainwaring (Circular Head) to the Community Support Levy Grants Advisory Group.</p>
<p>Invite key government/industry/community decision makers to Local Government events to build relationships and mutual understanding.</p>	<p>Key decision makers attend a range of LGAT events.</p>	<p>Positive response (>70% support) in membership engagement survey to speakers at events throughout the year.</p>		<p>The April General Meeting had the Treasurer and CEO of Primary Health Tasmania present, while the May Special General Meeting had the Chairman of TasWater.</p> <p>The 2017 LGAT Member survey indicated 52% and 50% of respondent's main form of engagement with LGAT has been training / professional development and attendance meetings</p>

<p>Maintain and strengthen existing relationship with State Govt. & other key non-govt entities. Specifically LGAT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain cooperative arrangements with LGPro, the STCA, NTD & CCA, RDA Tas; • Collaborate with the Governance Institute, PLA, Engineers Australia and IPWEA for specific activities; • Collaborate with other peak bodies, such as TasCoSS, HIA, MBA and others as appropriate on key areas of joint concern; • Continue our strong collaboration with ALGA and other State associations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Budget and other submissions when and as appropriate; • Established principles for cooperation with identified organisations; • Ensure the Federal advocacy agenda is prosecuted locally. 	<p>Delivery of at least five (5) joint submissions or events throughout the year.</p>	<p>Joint submissions / events delivered through the year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TasCoSS, HIA, the Heart Foundation, the MBA and others to develop joint State budget priorities; • DHHS, PHT, CCA, NTD and the Heart Foundation submission to the Federal Government on a preventative health project for Tasmania; • The Climate Network to deliver a state-wide climate change workshop; • Other State Associations to plan and deliver the 2017 National HR Conference in November; and • Tasmanian Audit Office, Governance Institute
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<p>Identify & promote Local Government networking opportunities to provide better cross sectoral Information sharing and support.</p>	<p>Strong attendance at networking events.</p>	<p>Positive response (>70% support) in membership engagement survey to networking events.</p>		<p>and Local Government Division to deliver regional Audit Panel Workshops.</p>
<p>Facilitate discussion at General Meetings to enable active engagement and decision-making by members on key issues.</p>	<p>Council engagement on topical issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased GM agenda items for decision or discussion. • Attendance of relevant speakers to 50% of General 		<p>The April General Meeting had the Treasurer and CEO of Primary Health Tasmania present, while the May Special General Meeting had the Chairman of</p>
				<p>The 2017 LGAT Member survey indicated 52% and 50% of respondent's main form of engagement with LGAT has been training / professional development and attendance meetings respectively.</p>

<p>Continue active membership on the DPAC/LGAT Disability working group and work with LGD to provide recommendations to local government on disability strategies.</p>	<p>Improve disability access through collaboration with the Local Government Division and councils.</p>	<p>Meetings. Project outcomes facilitated through liaison with councils.</p>	<p>TasWater. A statewide Universal Access Forum for the Building Industry was delivered in September 2016, with implementation of the Disability Action Strategy completed in December. The DPAC/LGAT project was completed in early 2017. LGAT continues to support councils meeting and sharing information. LGAT also provided comment on ALGA's submission to the Senate Inquiry into the outcomes of the National Disability Strategy and the UTS Local Government Interface project- Sector Resource.</p>
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PA2 Sector Profile and Reform

Action	Output	Measure / Target	Progress	Comment
Strategically highlight positive local government activities and successes via appropriate communication methods. Such as: TV, print media, social media, LGAT publications and events.	Delivery of Better Councils Better Communities TVC campaign	Completed by January 2017		The Better Councils Better Communities TVC successfully screen for 3 months and "reached" about 80% of the viewing audience.
	Preparation of website material to support Better Councils Better Communities campaign.	Increased website traffic when ad is played.		LGAT web page visits up by 50% during campaign. Better Councils Better Communities total page views went from 0 to 724 during campaign.
Work with the Local Government Division to ensure appropriate data collection, identification of key sectoral performance indicators and analysis and reporting.	Workforce data collection transitioned from LGAT to LGD.	Completed by June 2017		The key questions from the LGAT Workforce data collection is now within the CDC.
Advocate for the Local Government sector and the communities it serves through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current Local Government reform process; The review of the Local Government Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils participation in the process; LGAT membership on steering committees and working groups in order to influence outcomes; Preparation of appropriate tools and research to support council participation and 	Two (2) relevant pieces of support material (research articles or tools) produced for sector.		LGAT continues, through our CEO and President, to be engaged in the steering committee for the review of the Act. The State Government is yet to finalise the legislative changes, so is has not been possible to date to prepare support material. This is expected to occur in late

	<p>also advocacy work.</p>			<p>2017. Through the member engagement survey and the strategic planning workshop at the February General Meeting it was noted that sectoral reform should be one of LGAT's main priorities in the new strategic plan.</p>
<p>Continue to progress key initiatives of the Role of Local Government Project to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of Local Government. Reinvigorate the Economic Development Working Group (EDWG).</p>	<p>EDWG reformed and key initiatives established and immediate priorities commenced</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>		<p>The Role of Local Government Project has finished. While there is not an appetite with State government to reform the EDWG, LGAT continues to work on initiatives to support Local Government's role in economic development.</p>
<p>Prepare discussion paper on the Sharing Economy.</p>	<p>Sectoral position established</p>	<p>Provided to the November 2016 General Meeting</p>		<p>Complete and available on the LGAT website under reports & submissions / discussion papers. It is worth noting that State Government's policy position has been informed by the LGAT paper.</p>

PA3 Financial Sustainability					
Action	Output	Measure / Target	Progress	Comments	
Support councils in implementing Audit Panel requirements.	Joint training delivered for Audit Panels with the Governance Institute;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training delivered by June 2017 • Councils have an increased awareness of the role and responsibilities of audit panels 		Workshops were delivered during September in Launceston and Hobart. Feedback on the sessions was extremely positive.	
Continue to develop best practice case studies and fact sheets for councils, including items on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Budgeting process; • Participatory democracy and engagement; • Minute taking; and • Strategic asset management plan 	Development of one case study / fact sheet per quarter.	4 pieces of new support material produced per annum.		A survey of the sector on what further tools and support is required has been undertaken and the LDG has committed to the preparation of further support material in late 2017.	
				Minute Taking handbook complete and available on the LGAT website under reports & submissions / guidelines. The Council budgeting and participatory democracy papers have been combined into a piece on	

<p>templates.</p>		<p>LGAT plays a key role in the process.</p>	<p>participatory budgeting, which is complete and available on the LGAT website under reports & submissions / discussion papers. Strategic Asset Management Plan templates have been developed and trialled with four Tasmanian councils. JRA has been commissioned to undertake modelling and as at June 2017, modelling work to generate the graphs and reports for the SAMIP template is underway.</p>
<p>Work with the State Government to ensure Local Government is represented in the implementation phase of Infrastructure Tasmania's State Roads Audit Report.</p>	<p>State Government decision making takes into account the policy position of Local Government.</p>		<p>LGAT receives regular updates from Infrastructure Tasmania (ITas) in relation to its activities, including forestry roads, road trades and strategic network management. As at June 2017 ITas is liaising with councils directly in relation to the range of actions and recommendations listed in the audit report.</p>

<p>Work with State Government and other stakeholders to identify funding opportunities for further development of local/regional strategic road and bridge networks for heavy vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded heavy vehicle networks established; Strong relationship and collaborative approach with State Growth appropriately maintained. 	<p>Funding options for upgrades identified.</p>	<p>THE LGAT State Budget submission included a request for funding from the State Government. LGAT is currently liaising with State Growth and councils in considering co-funding opportunities for additional work.</p>
<p>Work with the National Procurement Network (NPN) and Tasmanian councils to develop and implement improved procurement practices, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard documentation and templates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for Tender Template; Request for Quotation Template; Expression of Interest Template; Goods and Services Tender Template; and Minor Works Tender Template. Access to training programs; Value for money locally based purchasing ; and Whole of Sector analysis of procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard tender and contract documentation available to councils: Tas Councils' interests represented through the NPN; Training session delivered. 	<p>Standard documentation produced and training delivered by June 2017;</p> <p>10% increase in total council spend on NPN.</p>	<p>Draft documentation is complete and going through a review and consultation process, with the expected release date being late early August. The need for training will be assessed once the documents have been released.</p> <p>Total spend for the 12 months to end March 2017 by councils - \$6.8m vs \$3.9m for same period to end March 2016.</p> <p>An increase of 74% from end March 2016 to end March 2016.</p>

<p>& expenditure patterns.</p>			
<p>Continue to work with MAV Procurement to support and build LGAT's procurement capacity. Formalise partnership approach via establishment of MOU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGAT's procurement profile raised; • Deliver savings for Tasmanian Councils via procurement; • MOU established. 	<p>10% increase in total council spend on MAV Procurement;</p>	<p>For 12 months to end March 2016, compared with the same period to end March 2017 238% increase on MAV/LGAT contract spend.</p>
<p>Continue to work with councils to identify and capitalise on opportunities for energy efficiency and financial savings. Expand the successful Northern Street Lightening Project across the State to interested councils.</p>	<p>Establishment of further energy efficiency and cost saving opportunities, such as bulk energy purchase by councils</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017.</p>	<p>Councils have agreed to renew the bulk purchase of energy for public lighting. A request for quotation has been developed and we are awaiting submissions.</p>
<p>Establish research notes outlining shared services opportunities and benefits and</p>	<p>Information related to shared services.</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>	<p>Preliminary research has commenced, considering</p>
	<p>Expansion of Northern Street Lightening Project to other interested councils across the state.</p>	<p>Interested councils signed up to participate in LED replacements program by June 2017.</p>	<p>Business Cases for the NW and Southern Councils complete. Individual councils now considering their options.</p>

<p>disseminate to councils. Support those councils requiring assistance to implement shared services arrangements.</p>			<p>the two feasibility studies released so far. Studies in the NW and North of the State are yet to be completed and the shared services work will rely in part on the findings of those reports, still to be finalised.</p>
<p>Establish and document the benefits of Lean Thinking for local government and determine if a Pilot Project is warranted.</p>	<p>Information related to Lean Thinking benefits for local government in Tasmania.</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>	<p>A paper has been finalised in relation to the use of Lean thinking and other continuous improvement tools in the Sector. The analysis finds that although Lean is useful, it is not the only tool and there is no one size fits all.</p>
<p>Prepare discussion paper on Value Capture and its benefits in Tasmania.</p>	<p>Paper on Value Capture</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>	<p>Summary paper complete and available on the LGAT website under reports & submissions / discussion papers.</p>

P44 Sector Capacity					
Action	Output	Measure/Target	Progress	Comment	
Continue to support the sector in workforce planning via targeted policy and program development.	Roll out of the Tasmanian Workforce Planning Guidelines.	June 2017	█	Training sessions for councils across the three regions delivered. Scoping of further support currently underway.	
			█	Detailed council consultation has indicated the vast majority of councils have an existing EAP in place. Further investigation is occurring regarding what further value LGAT can provide.	
Set up a whole of sector Employee Assistance Program (EAP).	Panel of providers established.	June 2017	█	Training calendar developed and delivered throughout the year.	
			█	Waiting on finalisation of LG Act review recommendations from LGD prior to preparing induction material.	
Deliver the forward training program for elected members and staff and continue to identify future requirements and opportunities.	Induction materials updated following LG Act review;	June 2017	█	Ongoing	
			█	A workshop with representatives from 21 councils was held on 30 May.	
Leverage off collaborative alliances, such as LGPro, in delivering integrated professional development opportunities.	Support Code of Conduct training for elect members;		█		
			█	Regional Breakfasts during the past 12 months covered emergency management and road safety.	
Continue to deliver a LGAT breakfast speaker series for members on a regional basis.	Exposure and interaction with key leaders and decision makers	Two series' of regional breakfasts successfully delivered per year	█		
			█		

<p>Identify, promote and where available, secure grant funding for training and sectoral capacity building.</p>	<p>Funds secured throughout the year.</p>	<p>Funds secured</p>	<p>The scoping of being "grant ready" has commenced with LGAT being successful in gaining some funding from the State Government for preventive health activities. A plan for securing funding to deliver increased support for energy / electricity was unsuccessful.</p>
<p>Develop sectoral support tools and resources, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise workplace behaviours toolkit • Audit of capacity to enable gaps to be addressed. 	<p>Final workplace behaviours toolkit available to councils</p>	<p>June 2017</p>	<p>The final tranche of polles has been provided to the sector and the Crucial Conversations presentations have been delivered and very well received. Work has commenced on further tools to support implementation.</p>
<p>Develop online training for Councilor Inductions, staff training and identification of council election induction material.</p>	<p>Training and induction material available for staff Pre- election material and training and induction material for elected members</p>	<p>June 2017 January 2018</p>	<p>Staff Training and induction PowerPoint has been finalised. Several Online learning systems have been reviewed however a suitable system has yet to be determined. Pre -Election material and training and induction for elected members to be finalised once the review of the Local Government Act has been completed.</p>

PAS Land Use Planning & Environmental Sustainability

Action	Output	Measure / Target	Progress	Comment
<p>Work to ensure that the interests of Local Government sector and the communities it serves are advanced and protected through the current planning reform process through taking a leadership role in responding on behalf of the sector to State Government reform.</p>	<p>Development of sector wide responses to anticipated policy reforms, such as major project approvals, Tasmanian Planning Policies and third party appeal rights.</p>	<p>As required by State Government delivery.</p>		<p>Active engagement with Justice and the TPC is ongoing. The CEO & Policy Director now participate on the Sharing Economy and Local Provision Schedule Steering Committees respectively.</p>
<p>Lobby State Government to respond to the sectors view on State-wide planning system reform across the areas of planning policy, regional strategies, Planning Appeal tribunal process, subdivision legislation and discretionary application advertising.</p>	<p>State Government, key interest groups and community appreciation of sectors priorities.</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>		<p>The Local Government reform priorities have been highlighted to the State Government and they have accepted the priorities are sound and can be supported, however the timing and precise approach may vary. The same priorities have been accepted and included in the recommendations of the Planning Reform Taskforce to the Minister.</p>
<p>Deliver land use planning and planning authority training material and program for elected members. Where possible use in house or Council planners.</p>	<p>Training material produced and presented.</p>	<p>4 sessions delivered per annum.</p>		<p>Three council visits have included specific land use planning sessions. One additional council has expressed an interest in having land use planning training during 2017 and work to scope this has commenced. Further sessions are likely to be following the implementation of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme in 2018.</p>
<p>Prepare best practice process guide to "When the council is the</p>	<p>Guide developed</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>		<p>The higher than expected activity in the planning portfolio across other priorities has</p>

<p>applicant”.</p>				<p>meant this has not commenced.</p>
<p>Incorporate good planning outcomes delivered by councils into a strategic marketing campaign.</p>	<p>Contribute opinion pieces to local newspapers; Continue to contribute to quarterly PIA magazine.</p>	<p>2 planning related opinion pieces published</p>		<p>Opinion pieces on Airbnb (Mercury) and the State Planning Provisions (Mercury and Advocate) successfully run.</p>
<p>Work with Tasmanian Climate Change Office (TCCO) to develop a state-local government climate change work plan.</p>	<p>A program of work that articulates agreed climate change barriers, roles and responsibilities and sets out joint challenges and actions.</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>		<p><i>Climate Action 21</i>, the State Governments Climate Change Action Plan for 2017 – 2021 was only released in early June. The Plan recognises that Local government is the sphere of government closest to communities and notes the sector can assist with informing and educating local communities about climate change, and considering climate change in their decision making. Work will commence on the state-local government climate change work plan in the latter part of 2017.</p>
<p>In collaboration with the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, explore project opportunities in relation to climate change governance capacity building for councils and implement appropriate project</p>	<p>Implementation of appropriate project (likely managed by the TCCO in the main) and delivery of guides and templates to councils for ongoing use.</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>		<p>Around 15 councils have decided to participate in the <i>Climate Resilient Councils</i> project, which will assist councils to measure and understand the importance of incorporating climate change into council decision-making and strategic governance approaches e.g. in areas including legal risk, financial management and land use planning. Delivery of the project commenced in May 2017, and is expected to be completed by September 2017.</p>
<p>Advocate to the State to provide</p>	<p>State Government recognition</p>	<p>Completed by June 2017</p>		<p>A Risk manager has been appointed to work</p>

additional expert support to councils for emergency management risk assessment and planning.	of requirement and mechanism for provision of support established;			with Municipal Committees to undertake risk assessments, LGAT is on the working group. The Justice review implementation business case includes 3 officers to support councils in emergency management planning and training.
Continue to represent councils on key State Emergency Management Steering committees.	Local Government input into relevant committee considerations.	Council participation in the process.		LGAT now represented on the State Emergency Management Committee and all its sub committees.
Provide Mayoral Training and information on relevant aspects of emergency management.	Training and support material delivered	Completed by June 2017		Complete - communicating in emergencies training delivered to Mayors.
Represent the sector in relation to the state reform of emergency management arrangements and federal emergency management funding reform.	Represent councils on the Outputs Steering Committee tasked with implementing the Justice review into Emergency Management Arrangement in Tasmania;	A majority of local government supported recommendations reflected in the reform.		The current business case includes resources to support Local Government in emergency management
	Represent councils on a working group reviewing the funding model for SES volunteer units;			This has stalled with the State now taking a top down approach. The issue has been raised at PLGC officials and LGAT will continue to lobby on this issue.
	Continue to work with the State Government and ALGA in relation to proposed changes for federal emergency management funding.			LGAT continues to have discussions with the State in relation to these reforms and the impact on Tasmania.
Promote opportunities and support councils in accessing funding to support them in planning for	Councils receiving funding support for emergency	Funds secured		Several councils have applied for funding under the NDRGP grant programs and Bushfire Mitigation Grants Program. LGAT sits

emergencies.	planning.			on the assessment panels for many of the grants. An announcement is imminent in relation to successful applicants.
Represent the sector on current and emerging waste matters. Reinitiate LGAT waste advisory group to drive strategic state-wide response to key waste issues.	Development of recommendations for Members and State Government on key aspects of a waste strategy	Completed by June 2017		The LGAT Waste Reference Group has completed a Statewide Waste and Resource Management Strategy and provided this to the EPA to inform the update of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy. LGAT has also met with the EPA to discuss the initiatives we put forward. The next meeting of the LGAT Waste Management Reference Group will be on release of the draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy for comment.

Internal Business Improvement Actions

The following activities fall into the internal or 'business improvement' category. These activities, once complete, are expected to improve how the LGAT secretariat fulfils its strategy and implements future Annual Plans. These activities will progressively be undertaken throughout the plan period around ongoing delivery of core and project related tasks.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PROCESSES

Action	Comments
Undertake a business improvement review of LGAT operations across the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Governance Review including a review and update or IR Policy for LGAT 	All business improvement reviews have been complete or are well advanced. Many of these reviews resulted in follow up activities, which the LGAT team are progressing through when sectoral priorities allow.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop risk register for LGAT • Develop new Strategic plan • Implement Strategic communications plan, including the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of current communications activities; ○ Develop key messages for strategic priority areas; ○ Establish an internal communication process; ○ Measure and evaluate LGAT online presence; ○ Undertake a membership engagement strategy; and ○ Determine our role and priorities in disseminating information to the sector for others. • Implement ICT Strategy, including the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Office 365 migration including initial training; ○ SharePoint Training; ○ Replacement of critical hardware older than 5 years; and ○ Investigate move to VOIP. • Re-negotiate advertising contract or alternative • Analyse new event management program options determine if an upgrade is of value 	
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

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

Will be held on
26 July 2017

To Commence Immediately
Following the Conclusion of the
General Meeting

**Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

Local
Government
Conference



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* Denotes Attachment



FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

***The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 26 July, 2017***

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
Association's General Meeting
will be held at
Wrest Point
Hobart
commencing at
11.00am
on Wednesday 26 July, 2017**

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

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT
One Hundred and Fifth Annual General Meeting
of the Association
will be held at
Wrest Point
Hobart**

***Commencing immediately following the
Conclusion of the
General Meeting
on
Wednesday 26 July, 2017.***

***Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER***

2017 CONFERENCE PROGRAM**WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017**

11.00am	General Meeting AGM	Commences immediately following the conclusion of General Meeting
12.30pm	Lunch	With thanks to Telstra
1.30pm	Meetings continue	
5.30 6.30pm	Welcome Reception	

THURSDAY 27 JULY 2017

8.00am	Registration Desk Opens	
8.45am	Welcome and Opening	
9.00am	Dr Anton Kriz	
9.45am	Laughter Yoga	
9.55am	Travis Tiddy	
10.30am	Morning Tea	With thanks to Jardine Lloyd Thompso
11.15am	Dr Greg Moore	
12.00	Mayor David O'Loughlin, ALGA President	
12.30pm	Lunch	With thanks to Jardine Lloyd Thompson
1.30pm	Workshop Program	
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
3.30pm	Panel Discussion	
4.30pm	Happy Hour	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
7.30pm	MAV Insurance Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY 28 JULY 2017

9.00am	Workshop Program	
10.30am	Morning Tea	With thanks to Dial Before You Dig
11.15am	Local Government Awards for Excellence	
11.45am	Laughter Yoga	
11.55am	Clr Emilia Sterjova	
12.50pm	Conference wrap up	
1.00pm	Lunch	With thanks to Dial Before You Dig



2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, will welcome Members, declare the Annual General Meeting open and accept apologies.

1 MINUTES OF 104TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the 104th Annual General Meeting, held 20 July, 2016 be confirmed.

The Minutes of the 104th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 20 July, 2016 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Decision Sought

That the President's report be received.

The President will present his report to the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2016 *

Decision Sought

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 be received and adopted.

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, an abridged version of which are 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 2016 to 23 June 2017 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 one week remained to the end of the financial year with year end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be a surplus with items below being of note –

- Interest from term deposit investments due at 30 June is not reflected as yet but overall interest will be below budget due to reducing interest rates across the year however, successful workshops including Regional Breakfasts, Audit Panels, Change Management and Crucial Conversations have helped to offset this.
- Income from commissions related to insurance and procurement have exceed budget expectations and reflects the LGAT activity in this area.
- Additional staffing were incorporated into the budget for 2016/17 but with application processes and lag in start dates, a full year was not been worked. Some leave without pay arrangements were also agreed to enable Defence Reserves participation, all of which has shown a reduction in overall salaries and the superannuation paid.
- At the request of the Tasmanian Audit Office, a formal valuation of the LGAT premises has been undertaken which resulted in an adjustment to the land and building breakdowns and a reduced depreciation requirement. The Audit office has been advised that future valuations will only be undertaken as per the requirements of the Valuer Generals office, every 6-7 years.

4 BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS 2017/18 *

Decision Sought

That the Meeting adopt the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

Subscriptions

LGAT has applied a general 2.2% increase in line with the consumer price index (CPI). The Annual percentage change for Hobart as reported by Treasury in March was 2.3%. CPI has not been applied to the community satisfaction survey and Better Councils components which are set around likely actual costs.

Three councils have moved up categories in the payment structure based on Total Assessed Revenue as determined by the States Grant Commission (with application of the Council Cost Index - decision AGM 2010) and as a consequence they see a significant shift in contribution required. These councils were advised of the likely impact ahead of setting their budgets. Two councils moved down a category.

A copy of the Budget and Subscriptions are at **Attachment to Item 4** for reference.

Budget

There are no strongly significant areas of variation to the budget this year.

There are some relatively minor variations including to staffing as the significant reform agenda being prosecuted across several Local Government areas, by a new Government, continues to stretch the Association. All staff have increased productivity and in recognition of that and the large workload predicted for next year, a 2% pay increase has been budgeted for across staff in line with most council EBAs.

As with last year there are two projects which, while core business for LGAT, are accounted for separately for transparency reasons. These are the Better Councils Better Communities promotion project which includes the television advertising and the Community Satisfaction Survey which is to be conducted in the year preceding Local Government elections.

Given this an election year, and noting that there may be an increased communications task related to TasWater, LGAT anticipates requiring all these funds again next year. If in future years, based on feedback from the sector, we determine no television presence is required, we will wind this ask back significantly. The direct cost of airing the commercial this year was \$50,000.

In relation to the Community Satisfaction Survey, we collect a proportion each year based on the cost estimated from the previous process. In this transition period, we have not collected enough to cover the cost of the survey, but have sufficient funds to draw on to cover the difference. This should not be an issue for future surveys. The collection of a portion of funds each year reduces the impact for councils in a survey year.

The HR Toolkit Project is complete so this stand-alone \$90,000 does not need to be collected anymore.

We have continued to focus on generating our own income and while it remains a relatively small component as compared to subscriptions it is increasing. A steady increase in income is predicted in relation to our events and procurement activity.

We have adjusted estimated interest earnings down based on the outcomes this year as there is limited likelihood of a significant increase in this regard, although we hope changing the nature of our investments may assist to boost this income stream.

There are no significant building maintenance works scheduled for this year.

5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS

Decision Sought

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 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.

A review of Elected Member allowances will be undertaken in the 2017/18 Financial Year. If the review determines that the escalation of Elected Member Allowances should alter, the Honorariums will be reviewed accordingly.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for 2016/17 were:

- President allowance \$46,286 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$11,572 per annum.

6.1 Subscription Modelling

Decision Sought

That the Members note the report on the subscription modelling undertaken.

That Members agreed to the formula outlined as Option 21 namely, a flat fee of 40 per cent, and population and revenue fees of 30 per cent each; 8 revenue categories and 8 population categories; and a 10 per cent collar and cap.

That Members agree to the amendment of the Rules allowing application of the new formula from 2018/19.

Background

Pursuant to feedback through the General Meeting and General Managers' workshop, LGAT agreed to undertake modelling in relation to possible changes to our subscription formula with the goal of reducing year on year movement between categories but continuing to ensure an equitable contribution basis.

It was agreed that we would look to using the following elements:

- A flat fee component (40% of total required revenue required divided by all members);
- A population based component (30% of total required revenue distributed across population bands) and
- An expenditure based component (30% of the total required revenue distributed across expenditure bands).

It was also agreed there would be consideration of a cap similar to that used in South Australia where no Council pays more than three times the average or a five per cent increase related to population and revenue changes in any year.

Preliminary analysis considered those three elements only which in themselves could provide infinite variation. LGAT was unable to find a model which, when compared to current subscriptions, did not cause significant variations across most councils from -15% to +63%. The skills set at LGAT did not lend itself to more sophisticated modelling. Consequently, in March 2017, LGAT sought further feedback from General Managers on the following:

1. In the current climate and emerging priorities, do you still want LGAT to pursue reviewing the subscription formula?;
2. If yes, explore the formula in totality or only the application of a cap?; and
3. If yes, do you have someone with expertise in such modelling that you would be willing to 'lend' to LGAT to assist, noting this was starting to get beyond the skills available in house?

Based on the feedback LGAT continued the modelling work, engaging a skilled casual to pursue more complex modelling. The outcome of the works is that LGAT has identified a formula based on the agreed components that is likely to reduce movement between categories of subscription and through the use of a cap and collar approach, dramatically reduces the initial impact for most councils, a copy of the full report is at **Attachment to Item 6.1** for reference.

It should be noted however that for some councils, the initial impact is significant, at the full cap amount of \$10,000. Without the collar and cap applied, using last years subscription data for comparative purpose, decreases would range from \$11,828 to \$1,252 and increases from \$287 to \$8,068. With a cap and collar however, decreases range from \$4,787 to \$1,252 and increases from \$287 to \$5,984. Without the collar and cap percentage swings range from -39.4% to 17.8%.

LGAT provided the modelling to General Managers in May seeking feedback as to whether General Managers were sufficiently comfortable with the recommended option for it to progress to the AGM for consideration. Subsequently LGAT provided some further information on the categories as applied (see Rule Amendments). While not all councils replied, predominantly the feedback received indicated LGAT should proceed to the AGM however one council did not support on the basis of the scale of their likely increase in subscriptions in the first year.

Two General Managers sought clarification on the relationship between voting categories and subscription categories. While we initially tried to align the use of our population categories in the subscription modelling with the voting categories, they bare no relationship under the Rules of the Association and are entirely separate. One does not influence the other.

For the modelling, we have ended up using a greater array of population categories with the aim of smoothing transitions between categories and population as just one component of the formula.

Amendment to the LGAT Rules would be as follows:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Every Member shall pay such annual subscriptions as are set and determined in accordance with these Rules.
- (b) The amount of subscription to be paid annually to the Association by each Member is as follows:
 - (i) **Each Council will pay an equal share as a flat fee, with the total to be equal to 40% of the Associations total annual subscriptions, as determined by the budget adopted at the Annual General Meeting.**
 - (ii) **Each Council will be placed within the appropriate population category as reported by the ABS annually. Each Council will pay an equal share of the category's percentage, with the total to be equal to 30% of the Associations total annual subscriptions, as determined by the budget adopted at the Annual General Meeting.**
 - (iii) **Each Council will be placed within the appropriate total assessed revenue category, as reported in the Annual Report of the State Grants Commission. Each Council will pay an equal share of the category's percentage, with the total to be equal to 30% of the Associations total annual subscriptions, as determined by the budget adopted at the Annual General Meeting.**
 - (iv) At the absolute discretion of the General Management Committee, rounding up or down of the percentages referred to in Rule 45(b)(ii) may occur in the development of the budget for approval at the Annual General Meeting.
 - (iv) The assessed annual revenue category parameters are to be adjusted in line with the annual Council Cost Index as set by the Association.
 - (c) The subscriptions formula as set out above and the average percent payable by each category shall apply as of **1 July 2018**.
 - (d) The annual subscription is due and payable at the office of the Association on the first day of July in the financial year to which it relates. The subscription must be paid within one month after a written notice specifying the amount payable has been delivered or sent by post to the General Manager of the Member.

Population Categories

Population	Category number	Percentage
<1000	1	0
1,000 to 4,999	2	0.5
5,000 to 9,999	3	2.5
10,000 to 14,999	4	3.0
15,000 to 24,999	5	4.5
25,000 to 34,999	6	5.5
35,000 to 54,999	7	6.6
55,000+	8	7.6

Revenue categories

Revenue range		Category number	Percentage
\$0.00	\$4,999,999.00	1	0.8
\$5,000,000.00	\$7,999,999.00	2	2.0
\$8,000,000.00	\$9,999,999.00	3	3.4
\$10,000,000.00	\$14,999,999.00	4	3.5
\$15,000,000.00	\$24,999,999.00	5	4.8
\$25,000,000.00	\$34,999,999.00	6	5.8
\$35,000,000.00	\$59,999,999.00	7	6.8
\$60,000,000.00	and above	8	7.0

LGAT Policy

Complies with position agreed through the General Meeting process.

Budget Impact

Casual employment was covered through surplus salaries related to resignations and refill lag.

6.2 Term of Office of President

Decision Sought

That Members note the concerns relating to the Rules as they currently provide for vacation of the office of the President.

That Members agree to the amend the rules such that –

and if the office of President becomes vacant more than six months before the next AGM where a 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.

Background

In 2016, following a motion from Members the LGAT Rules were amended with respect to a the vacation of the office of the President.

The amendment allows that if the office of the President becomes vacant more than 12 months before the next elections, a recount is taken.

The amendment followed the death of Mayor Barry Jarvis, not long after his election to President and seemed a sensible approach in light of those circumstances. No legal impediments were found in relation to the change however more recently LGAT has received advice from the Electoral Commissioner that the process outlined in the Rules is not best or even common practice.

The Electoral Commissioner has advised:

I am not aware of any rules for conducting a recount for single member elections. While you could attempt to use the same process as a recount for a multimember election, it is not designed to be used this way and may provide results that do not reflect the will of the electors.

For all Parliamentary and most Local Government single member elections in Australia, a preferential (majority) system is used to count the votes. As you are aware this system uses elector preferences to distribute the ballot papers between candidates until one candidate receives a majority of the formal votes.

Single transferable vote (STV) counting systems, such as Hare-Clark and the Senate system, are used for most Australian multi-member elections. Under STV, a candidate is elected when she/he receives the required proportion of the vote, representing that proportion of the voting electors.

Some multi-member elections, such as the House of Assembly and Tasmanian Local Government councillor elections, fill a vacancy by conducting a recount. Conducting a recount from an STV election enables the proportion of electors represented by the vacating member to directly choose a replacement.

In the case of a House of Representatives, Legislative Council or a council Mayor position, a vacancy is filled by conducting a by-election.

Single member elections generally have smaller fields with candidates representing different sectors or political philosophies within the division. For single member elections, a recount to replace the vacating member may stand for very different things to the vacating member. For example, if US President Trump resigned and the recount system was used to fill the vacancy, Hilary Clinton would likely be the replacement.

On the basis of the advice, LGAT suggests reverting to the practice mapped in the Rules prior to 2016, namely that "if the office of President becomes vacant more than six months before the next AGM where a 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".

Proposed Amendment

27 TERM OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

- (a) Subject to Rule 27(d), the President shall take up office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting following his or her election and shall hold office for a two year term concluding at the end of the relevant Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The office of the President shall be vacated if the President:
 - (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;
 - (iii) ceases to be a Councillor or Alderman; or
 - (iv) has not been lawfully nominated as a candidate for election as President in accordance with Rule 26,

and if the office of President becomes vacant more than twelve months before the next Annual General Meeting where a President is due to take up office in accordance with Rule 27(a), then Rule 27(g) applies.

- (c) If the President gives notice in writing to the Chief Executive Officer that he or she:
 - (i) intends to resign as President; or
 - (ii) intends to cease being a Councillor or Alderman,

~~and if the effective date of such resignation or cessation will be more than twelve months before the next Annual General Meeting where a new President is due to take up office in accordance with Rule 27(a), then Rule 27(g) applies.~~

and if the office of President becomes vacant more than six months before the next AGM where a 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.

- (d) Where a President is elected in an election held by operation of Rule 27(b) or 27(c), they shall take up office at the time of declaration of their election or at the date the office of President is vacated, whichever is later.
- (e) If the office of President becomes vacant within twelve months of the next Annual General Meeting where a President is due to take up office in accordance with Rule 27(a), the Vice President shall assume office as President until a new President is elected at that Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 26.
- (f) The term of office of the President may be extended by any Meeting of the Association for such periods as it determines.

~~(g) Where this Rule 27(g) applies, a recount of votes for the election of the President shall be held to fill the vacancy of President. If there are no votes to count, a new President shall be elected in accordance with the procedures in Rule 26. If, as a result of the recount or the election in accordance with Rule 26, the Vice President is elected as President, that person will resign as Vice President and the General Management Committee will appoint a new Vice President under Rule 28(a).~~

LGAT Policy

Does not apply.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

7	REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *
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Decision Sought

- | |
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| <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> |
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Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2016/2017 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
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Ms Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mr Kay Reeves
- **Local Government Board**
Mrs Elizabeth Gillam
- **State Fire Commission**
Mr Rod Sweetnam, Launceston City Council, Cllr Hannah Rubenach, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Ms Belinda Loxley, Kingborough Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Grant Atkins and Mr Rodney Fraser
- **State Marine Pollution Committee**
Mr Andrew Brown, Clarence City Council
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Ms Danielle Gray, Kingborough Council; Ald Robin McKendrick, City of Launceston
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Cllr Dick Adams, Northern Midlands Council; Ald James Walker, Clarence City Council; Ms Amanda Davison, Waratah Wynyard Council
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Mr Michael Stretton, Waratah Wynyard Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 7**.

8	CLOSURE
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

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

Will be held on
20 July 2016

Commencing
11.00am

C3 Convention Centre
South Hobart



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* Denotes Attachment



FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

***The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 20 July, 2016***

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT
the Association's Annual General Meeting
will be held at
C3 Convention Centre
South Hobart
Commencing at 11.00am
on
Wednesday 20 July, 2016.**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundred and Fourth General Meeting
of the Association
will be held at
C3 Convention Centre
South Hobart
commencing immediately following the
conclusion of the
Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 20 July, 2016
To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

***Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER***

2016 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



TUESDAY 19 JULY 2016

Planning Workshop
Elected Planning Workshop
Members Lower Ground Floor Conference Room
12.00 - 4.00pm Hobart City Council

WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016

Mayors Review of the Local Government Act
Workshop Anglesea Room
C3 Convention Centre
9.00am Coffee on arrival
9.15 - 10.45 Workshop
10.30pm Morning Tea With thanks to **Telstra**
11.00am AGM
General Meeting Commences immediately following the conclusion of AGM
12.30pm Lunch With thanks to **Telstra**
1.30pm Meetings continue
5.25 - 5.35pm Shuttle Service, Wrest Point to Government House
6.00pm Government House

THURSDAY 21 JULY 2016

8.00am Registration Desk Opens
8.45am Welcome and Opening
9.00am Susan Law
9.45am Moving Moment
9.55am Cynthia Payne
10.45am Morning Tea With thanks to **Dial Before You Dig**
11.15am Wayne Kayler-Thomson
11.40am Mayor Troy Pickard
12.00 Georgia Chapman
12.30pm Lunch With thanks to **Dial Before You Dig**
1.30pm Workshop Program
3.00pm Afternoon Tea With thanks to **Commonwealth Bank**
3.45pm Panel Discussion
4.45pm Happy Hour With thanks to **Commonwealth Bank**
7.15pm **MAV** Conference Dinner

FRIDAY 22 JULY 2016

9.00am Workshop Program
10.30am Morning Tea With thanks to **Jardine Lloyd Thompson**
11.15am Local Government Awards for Excellence
11.45am Moving Moment
11.55am Dean Williams
12.50pm Conference wrap up
1.00pm Lunch With thanks to **Jardine Lloyd Thompson**



2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, welcomed Members and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 11.00am.

Apologies were received from -

Mayor Albert van Zetten	Launceston City Council
Mr Robert Dobrzynski	Launceston City Council
Ald Graham Bury	Kingborough Council
Mayor Deirdre Flint	Central Highlands Council
Mayor Duncan McFie	King Island Council
Mr John Martin	George Town Council
Mr David Metcalf	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Mr Peter Brooks	Glenorchy City Council

1 MINUTES OF 103RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Circular Head Council/West Tamar Council

That the Minutes of the 103rd Annual General Meeting, held 22 July, 2015 be confirmed.

Carried

The Minutes of the 103rd Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 22 July, 2015 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brighton Council/Devonport City Council

That the President's report be received.

Carried

Good Morning and it is indeed an honour to be able to present you with my first Annual Report on the activities and achievements of LGAT over the last twelve months.

Before proceeding, I would like to acknowledge the members of your General Management Committee:

Vice President: Mayor Daryl Quilliam from Circular Head
The Lord Mayor of Hobart: Alderman Sue Hickey
Mayor Deirdre Flint from Central Highlands
Mayor Jan Bonde from Central Coast
Mayor Christina Holmdahl from West Tamar
Mayor Craig Perkins from Meander Valley
Alderman Heather Chong from Clarence City

Given we are fresh on the heels of a Federal Election, I will start my report with our engagement there.

Close cooperation through the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) with our State and Territory counterparts resulted in strong bipartisan support for restoring indexation to the Financial Assistance Grants program from 2017, and increases to the Roads to Recovery program.

In parallel with our work at the national level, LGAT worked closely with councils, regional bodies and Taswater to produce a Federal Election Advocacy Document, *Partnering for Prosperity*, which sharpened the focus on specific Tasmanian projects.

The CEO and I met with key Federal members and candidates while GMC members used the document to support their local meetings and advocacy work. That work will continue, both nationally and in Tasmania, to ensure all election promises are delivered by the Government in the post-Federal election political environment.

The partnership approach to developing a more compelling advocacy agenda was also used when developing our State Budget submission, *Better Councils, Better Communities*. The Association worked with a number of other peak bodies in Tasmania to establish common projects and priorities. In particular, our collaboration with TASCOS, TCCI, TIC, COTA and the HIA produced clear priorities highly beneficial for the Local Government sector.

In response, it was especially pleasing to note the State Government's budget commitment to fully implement the Planning Schemes Online Project, a Community Infrastructure Fund and to assisting councils to generate economic opportunities within their Municipalities.

This partnership approach by LGAT was also apparent at the officer level through new and stronger working relationships with Local Government Professionals (LGPro), and the three regional Local Government organisations. Our relationship with LGPro was underpinned by a MOU and it was cemented through LGAT hosting and employing their new Executive Officer. I am also pleased to advise that this year LGPro President, Karen Hampton will be addressing our General Meeting this afternoon to provide an overview of LGPro's activities and priorities.

LGAT was also delighted to welcome the CEO of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) as tenant in Macquarie St.

The Premier's Local Government Council continued to be an important vehicle for the ongoing relationship between State and Local Government, providing a forum to discuss the many reform agendas that have been in play in Tasmania; and which have required a strong resourcing effort by LGAT.

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme Amendment Bill 2015 received Royal Assent on 4 December, 2015 and the State Planning Provisions were exhibited in mid-March. LGAT ran five full day regional workshops with Council Planners, NRM staff and others to capture collective concerns to inform a whole of sector submission. There have been numerous meetings undertaken as members of the Planning Taskforce and the Technical Reference Group and also with the Planning Policy Unit and the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Our strong engagement in this space will continue for many months to come as councils grapple with developing Local Provisions Schedules and as the Government progresses work on planning for major projects and develops state planning policies.

A great deal of time and effort has also been dedicated to supporting the implementation of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulations and the implementation of the bridge assessment project.

LGAT successfully advocated for \$1.7 million in State funding for this project through the 2015 Budget Process and then worked closely with councils and the State Government to deliver that project. As a result councils have been able to develop and implement a series of heavy vehicle access networks across their local roads, and also gain a much better understanding of their bridge assets. The work undertaken in Tasmania has been noted among other State jurisdictions and at the national level as a 'best practice' example of the benefits of collaboration between levels of government to address the issue of access for the national heavy vehicle fleet.

At our General Meeting last year the Minister announced his intent to undertake a targeted review of the *Local Government Act* and that is now in full swing. Going forward LGAT will continue to support consultation with all councils on the issues raised about the revised legislation and we will continue to give voice to sectoral concerns in our submissions and through participation on the Steering Committee.

LGAT also played significant role with the Code of Conduct provisions which came into force earlier this year. The new provisions are more practical, particularly in relation to how frivolous and vexatious complaints are dealt with and with its sliding scale of possible sanctions.

Other policy and advocacy activities concerned, for example, proposed changes to the SES, cat management, the Arts, coastal hazards, healthy Tasmania, the Building Act, liquor licensing; the integrity commission; and bio-security.

The Association also continued efforts to deliver a varied program of professional development opportunities for elected members and staff including our annual elected member weekend, good governance forums for audit panel members, two regional breakfast series; the 2IC forums, general managers' and mayors' workshops; financial and asset management, planning and governance.

Our investment in procurement related activity continues to bear fruit for members. For example, the whole of sector energy contract for public street lighting delivers about \$500,000 of savings annually to the sector, and altogether, a number of councils are saving more than the cost of their LGAT Membership fees. Other procurement activity in the year ahead will include a focus on employee assistance programs; information, computing & technology; parks and playground equipment; and asphalt.

The CEO and I have almost completed a full round of council visits and indeed the CEO is now starting to make second visits to a number of councils as part of her annual program. We both have very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many more elected members, to build our understanding of local issues and concerns, and to provide feedback on the work LGAT is undertaking or involved with your behalf.

The Association has also been working to improve the image of Local Government by sharing widely some of the wonderful work being done on a day to day basis by so many of our member councils.

Expanding on the vehicles provided by The Pulse newsletter and the LGAT News magazine, there has been success in getting some opinion pieces picked up in the mainstream media outlets across the State. Also, thanks to collegial working relationships established with interstate Associations, LGAT has produced a new television campaign which will go to air in the next month or so. We will give you a preview of the new ad very shortly.

The Association has also focussed internally on a range of governance and organisational improvement projects in the last 12 months. This has included a review of the Strategic Plan and development of a new annual plan, developing a new governance framework including asset management plan and risk register; producing a strategic communications plan and strategic technology plan, and commencing an upgrade of the ICT systems. The aim of this work is to ensure a robust and future proofed working environment with the ability to prioritise work and appropriately allocate resources as we deliver our services to our Members.

In the year ahead, the Association will continue to have a full policy and advocacy load as work continues in the planning and building spaces, and with a renewed State Government focus on climate change, cat management and emergency management; progressing the State Roads Audit and our own legislation through the Review of the Act.

Inevitably there are some decisions to be made in relation to structural reforms such as resource sharing and amalgamation. The Association is currently building a compendium of research and tools around voluntary amalgamations based on the experience in other States and will be making that available through our extranet, which you access via the LGAT website.

LGAT is also intending to take a more proactive role in the areas of waste management and economic development in the year ahead.

Additionally the team will commence development on a range of training tools, including online tools with a particular view to councillor induction requirements in 2018, including in relation to land use planning.

And that's just a taste of the year to come.

I am sure every President has found it difficult to reflect the size and diversity of the task and output delivered by LGAT.

I would like to conclude with some thankyou's.

Firstly, and I do this on behalf of all of us, I would like to thank Dr Katrena Stephenson and her small but talented and dedicated team who make up the engine room of our association. LGAT certainly punches above its weight in terms of defending and representing our interests, promoting continuous improvement within our sector and providing quality services to support councils, elected members and council staff across the State.

I would also like to thank the members of your General Management Committee for their support to me, especially for their collective wisdom and guidance during some very challenging times.

Thank you.

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2015 *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council
--

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 be received and adopted.
--

Carried

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, an abridged version of which are 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 2015 to 16 June 2016 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 loss with items below being of note -

Depreciation	On advice received from the Audit Office at the end of the 2015/16 financial year, building depreciation regime has been implemented, \$21,000.
Consultants Fees	Additional costs were incurred for reports commissioned around LGAT's premises, namely an Asset Management Report and an Engineering Report. Further legal advice was sought in relation to the LGAT/LG Professionals Secondment and on GMC election matters.
Travel	With the additional work and meeting schedules required around Heavy Vehicles, Procurement and council visits by the CEO, travel expenses have been more than anticipated.
Careers/Skill	An amount of unexpended funds was carried forward at the end of the 14/15 financial year in order to fund a new advertising campaign, these funds have now been expensed for this purpose but reflect as an overspend in this area.

4 BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016/17 *

Kingborough Council/Central Coast Council

That the Meeting adopt the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

Carried

Budget

There are a number of significant variations to the budget this year related to the need to re-prioritise and to increase resourcing in relation to the significant number of Local Government reform agendas in play, as well as the increasing desire of our Members to see more professional development and guidance issued from the Association. This budget seeks to meet the increased load on the policy and advocacy function in the organisation.

Efforts have been made to reduce expenditure where possible but the budget overall of the Association is very modest to begin with. Every effort has been made to hold costs although salaries remain the single biggest expense and the Association is at capacity in terms of what it can deliver within current resources. There is simply a need for more human resource.

Specifically:

1. The careers project funding has been broken up and shifted to allow for:
 - a. A reduced policy effort in this space embedded in the policy team rather than as a stand-alone part-time position.
 - b. Redirection of careers staffing funds towards a new Project Officer position to shift project work from the Senior Policy Staff and support the delivery of outcomes in the procurement, energy portfolio as well as additional tools and resources (eg Tax Guide for Elected Members, best practice guide to budget processes, minutes etc).
 - c. Redirection of the Think Big Work Local advertising money to a new campaign "Better Councils, Better Communities" aimed at broadly raising the profile of the sector.
2. An allocation has been made to allow for the LGAT contribution to the joint Executive Officer position with LG Professionals Tas. LGAT has use of the position 40% of the time and will focus this resource on supporting professional development event planning and implementation.
3. With the change in the electoral cycle and to help offset some of the new staff resource costs, the Community Satisfaction Survey would change from a bi-annual survey to once every electoral term (the third year of an election cycle) reducing the per annum costs.
4. Councils are not required to pay for the Planning Taskforce Secondment this year.
5. A 1.87% increase on last year's base subscriptions has been applied to factor in general cost increases as well as the additional 0.8 staffing.
6. Permanent LGAT staff will be provided a 2% wage increase in line with most council EBAs.
7. A small but steady increase in income is predicted in relation to our events and procurement activity.
8. There has been a decrease in costs related to vehicles, rather than providing the President with a vehicle LGAT is sharing the costs of running the vehicle with Clarence City Council who already supply Mayor Chipman with a car.

A copy of the Budget is at **Attachment to Item 4** for reference.

Subscriptions

Currently there are a number of line items that are accounted for separately in the subscriptions despite having been agreed that they would be ongoing core business for LGAT. This includes the Careers Project and the Community Satisfaction Survey.

LGAT has applied a general 1.87% increase in line with the Council Cost Index and also factored in 0.8 FTE additional staff at project officer level within the base subscriptions with the intent of this staffing level being embedded in the subscriptions ongoing.

The new format distorts the perceived increase to base subscriptions however the increase in total contribution (across all councils) is 1.96 per cent. For most councils it is under 1% difference in total contribution. Two councils have moved up categories in the payment structure based on Total Assessed Revenue as determined by the States Grant Commission (with application of the Council Cost Index - decision AGM 2010) and as a consequence they see a significant shift in contribution required.

Historically LGAT has had other periods with significant increases in subscriptions or total spend related to improving the sustainability of the organisation (e.g. 13.5% in 2003/04 and 2004/05 and 10% in 2005/06) or in relation to introduction of new services and projects e.g. a 15% increase in total spend in 2011/12 related to the careers project.

A copy of the Subscriptions is at **Attachment to Item 4** for reference.

5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS

The President and the Vice President left the room and Mayor Jan Bonde took the Chair for discussion of this item.

Brighton Council/Devonport City Council

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

Carried

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 2015/16 were:

- President allowance \$45,246 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$11,312 per annum.

6 RULES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA *

Central Coast Council/Kingborough Council

That the Rules as amended be adopted in full (replaced).

Amendment Motion

City of Hobart/Central Coast Council

That Item 3 be altered to read -

- 3. Allow GMC some discretion to negotiate motions based on agreed criteria.**

Carried

Central Coast Council/Kingborough Council

That the Rules as amended, including the change to Item 3, be adopted in full (replaced).

Carried

At the April 2016 General Meeting, Members agreed in principle to the following changes to the LGAT Rules:

1. That pending further advice, the Rules be adopted in full including the amendments (replaced) as opposed to simply adopting the amendments, in accordance with legal advice.
2. Ensure differentiation between motions which seek LGAT to take an action (Directive) and those which are designed to secure a sectoral policy position (Standing Policy).
3. Allow GMC some discretion to reject motions based on agreed criteria.
4. That it be made clear that authority to nominate for GMC must come from a council meeting decision or legal delegation.
5. That the nomination form be incorporated in the LGAT Rules.
6. That it be made clear that the voting delegate can also vote on amended motions at the General Meeting. That the terminology be changed to make it clear this is not a delegation under s22 of the Local Government Act.
7. That there is specific allowance for the suspension of the Rules for Items of Topical Discussion and guest speakers.
8. That references to the Welfare Fund be changed to LGAT Assist.
9. That the Rules reflect the changes that have resulted from the merger of Quadrant Superannuation to Tasplan.

10. That further clarity be provided in relation to the timing of an election triggered by a casual vacancy.
11. The Rule Changes agreed at the 2015 AGM be incorporated in the new/updated Rules document.

LGAT engaged Simmons Wolfhagen to undertake the drafting work and two versions of the Rules are at **Attachment to Item 6** , one with and, one without tracked changes.

The background to, and detail on, the proposed changes, as provided to the April 2016 General Meeting, is also outlined in **Attachment to Item 6**.

Further changes have been made to reflect current practice and remove ambiguity. These are:

1. Outlining a process to be undertaken in the event of a tied election which aligns with the Local Government Act, namely allowing for the drawing or casting of lots.
2. The objects (Section 4) have been redrafted to align with the Local Government Act.
3. Allowing for Rule changes to be made outside an AGM in an emergency (10 (e)).
4. Removing reference to an Executive Committee of GMC, which is not used in practice and can be accommodated by other Committee and delegation provisions.
5. Allowing for GMC to resolve matters out of session (22(d))
6. Aligning delegations to ALGA with the ALGA rules.

Budget Impact

Within current resources.

Current Policy

As per the 22 April 2016 General Meeting.

7 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, Central Highlands Council
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Ms Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mr Kay Reeves
- **Local Government Board**
Mrs Elizabeth Gillam
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**
Ald 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**
Ms Belinda Loxley, Kingborough 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, Clr Dick Adams, Northern Midlands Council; Ald James Walker, Clarence City Council;
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Mr Michael Stretton, Waratah Wynyard Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 7.**

Break O'Day Council/Clarence City 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

8 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 11.37am.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2016

	Note	Assist 2016 \$	General 2016 \$	Assist 2015 \$	General 2015 \$
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	794,392	653,178	798,648	664,783
Trade and other receivables	4	-	83,179	-	116,786
Financial assets	5	210,473	1,925,000	250,961	1,925,000
Other assets	6	5,234	79,009	905	42,687
Total current assets		1,010,099	2,740,366	1,050,514	2,749,256
Non-current assets					
Financial assets	5	117,507	-	113,373	-
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	928,698	-	1,035,937
Intangible assets	8	-	2,020	-	2,798
Total non-current assets		117,507	930,718	113,373	1,038,735
Total assets		1,127,606	3,671,084	1,163,887	3,787,991
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	9	6,440	304,374	9,711	260,201
Provisions	10	-	93,419	-	71,902
Total current liabilities		6,440	397,793	9,711	332,103
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	10	-	106,511	-	88,873
Total non-current liabilities		-	106,511	-	88,873
Total liabilities		6,440	504,304	9,711	420,976
Net Assets		1,121,166	3,166,780	1,154,176	3,367,015
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		1,121,166	3,166,780	1,154,176	3,359,378
Asset revaluation reserve		-	-	-	7,637
Total Equity		1,121,166	3,166,780	1,154,176	3,367,015

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	General 2016	General 2015
	\$	\$
Note 15 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Government grants	-	80,000
Fees and commissions	100,813	76,732
Interest - general account	69,908	88,547
Interest - building proceeds	2,868	3,389
Surplus/(Deficit) on sale of plant and equipment	(9,760)	(45)
Sponsorship, conferences/seminars	346,813	341,367
Subscriptions	1,049,084	1,050,613
Other Subscriptions	179,015	146,313
Rentals	3,992	-
Other	222	223
	<u>1,742,955</u>	<u>1,787,139</u>
Expenditure		
Advertising	3,239	1,041
Accommodation expenses	1,575	1,345
Accounts administration	13,775	13,180
ALGA	112,852	113,524
Amortisation - computer software	778	491
Annual conference	151,151	137,933
Auditors' remuneration	15,968	14,400
Bad Debts Expense	-	(50,920)
Catering	4,704	7,105
Cleaning	8,746	5,166
Consultancy fees	96,580	88,434
Council careers and skills shortage	165,991	69,248
Community Satisfaction Survey	-	17,100
Conferences and seminars	31,353	30,758
Cost Recovery - grant administration	(43,703)	(55,387)
Depreciation - buildings	8,750	-
Depreciation - computers	10,158	10,255
Depreciation - motor vehicles	18,680	16,301
Depreciation - furniture and equipment	3,075	3,685
Division 43 Deduction	1,452	1,441
Fringe benefits tax	15,755	10,397
Land & Buildings Running Costs	2,744	2,389
Insurance	32,396	29,871
Members emoluments	57,485	60,459
Motor Vehicle - running expenses	8,689	9,657
Motor Vehicle - repairs and maintenance	2,372	3,121
Network and Internet	14,426	13,531
Other expenses	67,180	51,746

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	General 2016 \$	General 2015 \$
Note 15 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure (cont'd)		
Postage	5,514	5,426
Power	9,374	8,469
Printing and publications	7,992	7,025
Rates and taxes	11,723	9,000
Rentals	1,300	1,334
Salaries, wages and employee benefits (incl. Grant Staff)	789,870	771,406
Software	2,552	2,459
Sponsorship	2,750	1,500
Stationery	1,798	2,289
Subscriptions - general account	9,574	9,502
Superannuation contribution (incl. Grant Staff)	92,261	93,715
Telephone	16,818	17,451
Travelling Expenses	32,141	24,033
Government grants expenditure (excluding wages and superannuation):		
26TEN - Plain English Guide	-	13,500
Coastal Adaption Pathway Project	20,000	-
Healthy Communities	42,089	15,915
LG Reform	1,000	90,455
LG Liveable Places	20,384	25,814
Revaluation of property	62,242	
Total expenses	1,935,552	1,705,564
Operating surplus/(deficit) - general account	(192,598)	81,575

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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	Assist 2016	Assist 2015
Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Interest on Loans	29,251	35,124
Other Interest Revenue	19,871	24,042
	<u>49,122</u>	<u>59,166</u>
Expenditure		
LGAT Assist Accounts Administration	39,436	35,009
Auditors Remuneration	4,823	4,800
Bad Debts Written Off/(Recovered)	3,485	(2,402)
Donations and Research Projects	25,000	20,500
Grants to Members – Welfare	9,156	18,118
Other Expenses – Welfare	232	819
Total Expenses	<u>82,132</u>	<u>76,844</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit) – LGAT Assist	<u>(33,010)</u>	<u>(17,678)</u>

Note 17 Commitments

At 30 June 2016 the Association had no outstanding commitments.

Local Government Association of Tasmania
 Profit and Loss (Budget Analysis)
 1 Jul 2016 to 22 June 2017

Attachment to Item 3

		Selected Period	Budget 2016 - 2017	Difference	% Difference	Comments
4-000	Income					
4-0500	Annual Conference	367,081.79	\$220,000.00	147,081.79	66.86	End Year Accruals to Come Adjustment Below
4-1000	Conferences/Seminars	51,685.05	\$40,000.00	11,685.05	29.21	Additional workshops held with good take up
4-1500	Cost Recoveries	-1,341.48		-1,341.48		
4-1505	Deposits Paid	-2,357.43		-2,357.43		
4-2000	Fees & Commissions	126,358.30	\$92,000.00	34,358.30	37.35	
4-3000	Interest	33,778.23	\$75,000.00	-41,221.77	-54.96	
4-3100	Interest - Building Proceeds	2,399.17	\$2,500.00	-100.83	-4.03	
4-3500	Other			0.00		
4-400	Rentals	9,198.69	\$14,500.00	-5,301.31	-36.56	
4-5000	Profit Sale on Plant/Equip.	-20.00		-20.00		
4-6000	Subscriptions	1,179,099.00	1,179,099.00	0.00	0.00	
4-6100	Subs - TV Advert Better Councils	64,999.00	65,000.00	-1.00	-0.00	
4-6115	Subs - Community Sat Survey	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	
4-7000	Industrial Awards - HR Tools	90,018.00	90,000.00	18.00	0.02	
	Total Income	1,928,898.32	1,786,099.00	142,799.32	8.00	
6-0000	Expenses					
6-1050	Accomm exp - GMC	1,667.64	\$2,000.00	-332.36	-16.62	
6-1100	Accounts Administration	12,385.00	\$14,800.00	-2,415.00	-16.32	
6-1200	Advertising	3,165.31	\$2,000.00	1,165.31	58.27	
6-1250	ALGA - Meeting expenses	22,517.26	\$20,000.00	2,517.26	12.59	
6-1300	ALGA Subscription	93,186.00	\$91,000.00	2,186.00	2.40	
6-1350	Annual Conference	174,827.63	\$160,000.00	14,827.63	9.27	End Year Accruals to Come Adjustment Below
6-1400	Auditors Remuneration	14,760.00	\$15,000.00	-240.00	-1.60	
6-1450	Bank Fees & Gov. Charges	2,888.33	\$3,000.00	-111.67	-3.72	
6-1500	Catering / Entertainment	3,130.28	\$4,000.00	-869.72	-21.74	
6-1600	Cleaning and Supplies	9,471.22	\$8,000.00	1,471.22	18.39	

6-1610	Community Satisfaction Survey			\$8,000.00	-8,000.00	-100.00
6-1650	Conferences/Seminars	27,989.31	\$25,000.00	2,989.31	11.96	
6-1700	Consultants Fees	19,487.00	\$30,000.00	-10,513.00	-35.04	
6-1705	Consultants Fees - HR Tools	80,000.00	\$80,000.00	0.00	0.00	
6-1710	Council Advert - Better Councils	62,624.49	\$65,000.00	-2,375.51	-3.65	
6-1850	Elections - GMC Bi-annual	-695.45	\$2,500.00	-3,195.45		
6-1900	Fringe Benefits Tax	9,551.09	\$12,000.00	-2,448.91	-20.41	
6-2000	Depreciation Expense	27,473.00	\$52,800.00	-25,327.00	-47.97	
6-3100	Insurance	35,199.30	\$34,300.00	899.30	2.62	
6-3200	Land & Building Running Costs	2,025.58	\$5,000.00	-2,974.42	-59.49	
6-3400	Members Emoluments	60,295.67	\$63,500.00	-3,204.33	-5.05	
6-3410	President travel expenses	6,252.55	\$10,000.00	-3,747.45	-37.47	
6-3450	Motor Vehicle lease/hire	0.00	\$500.00	-500.00	-100.00	
6-3500	Network & Internet	12,972.90	\$12,000.00	972.90	8.11	
6-3580	Office Requisites	1,778.37	\$2,000.00	-221.63	-11.08	
6-3600	Other & Miscellaneous	1,046.97	\$1,000.00	46.97	4.70	
6-3800	Other Employment Entitlements	10,383.60	\$15,000.00	-4,616.40	-30.78	
6-3900	Postage	4,836.27	\$4,500.00	336.27	7.47	
6-4000	Power	9,236.99	\$11,000.00	-1,763.01	-16.03	
6-4100	Printing & Publications	6,742.35	\$6,000.00	742.35	12.37	
6-4300	Rates & Land Tax	11,820.70	\$11,500.00	320.70	2.79	
6-4310	Rentals	1,326.99	\$1,500.00	-173.01	-11.53	
6-4350	Repairs & Maintenance	4,518.52	\$1,500.00	3,018.52	201.23	
6-4400	Salaries & Wages	776,515.92	\$880,000.00	-103,484.08	-11.76	
6-4500	Software	2,427.32	\$3,000.00	-572.68	-19.09	
6-4600	Stationery	1,211.63	\$2,500.00	-1,288.37	-51.53	
6-4700	Subscriptions - Membership etc	9,116.10	\$10,000.00	-883.90	-8.84	
6-4800	Superannuation	98,254.08	\$110,000.00	-11,745.92	-10.68	
6-4900	Sponsorship/Donations		\$4,000.00	-4,000.00	-100.00	
6-5100	Telephone	17,263.98	\$17,000.00	263.98	1.55	
6-5200	Travelling Expenses	16,526.00	\$14,000.00	2,526.00	18.04	
6-5250	Staff Training	7,663.39	\$12,000.00	-4,336.61	-36.14	
6-5300	Uniform Expense	0.00	\$281.00	-281.00	-100.00	
6-7000	Motor Vehicle Expense	8,266.25	\$12,000.00	-3,733.75	-31.11	
6-7960	Grant Cost Recoveries	-19,150.43	(\$25,000.00)	5,849.57	-23.40	
6-7970	LGAT ASSIST - Cost recoveries	-30,312.00	(\$33,000.00)	2,688.00	-8.15	
	Expenses	1,620,647.11	1,781,181.00	-160,533.89	-9.01	

	Operating Profit(Loss)	308,251.21	4,918.00	303,333.21	6167.82	
	Adjustment					
	Annual Conf 2017/18	150,375.12				
	Adjusted Operating Pl(I)	157,876.09	4,918.00	152,958.09	3110.17	
8-0000	Government Grants Income					
8-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution	\$46,152.62				
8-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project	\$13,946.79				
8-2150	LG Reform Fund	\$250,554.38				
8-3000	Healthy Communities	\$21,996.02				
8-3150	DHHS - Health & Wellbeing	\$250,000.00				
	Total Government Grants Income	582,649.81	0.00	582,649.81		
9-0000	Government Grants Expenditure					
9-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution	0.00				
9-1015	26TEN - How to Guide	0.00				
9-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project	0.00				
9-2150	LG Reform Fund	31,780.00				
9-3000	Healthy Communities	5,017.06				
9-3150	DHHS - Health & Wellbeing	0.00				
9-6000	LG IT Strategies	46,686.97				
	Total Government Grants Expend	83,484.03	0.00	83,484.03		
	Operating Profit(Loss)	657,041.87	4,918.00	652,123.87	13259.94	

Council	16/17	2017/18 Subscriptions							Total Payable 2017/18	Total Paid 2016/17	Difference	% Difference
		Category 2017/18	Subs overall	TV Adverts	Community Satisfac Advertising	170	255	255				
Flanders Island	1.72	1.70	20,501	1,105	1,105	170	255	255	21,776	21,536	240	1.102
King Island	1.72	1.70	20,501	1,105	1,105	170	255	255	21,776	21,536	240	1.102
Tasman	1.72	1.70	20,501	1,105	1,105	170	255	255	21,776	21,536	240	1.102
Central Highlands	1.72	1.70	20,501	1,105	1,105	170	255	255	21,776	21,536	240	1.102
Kentish	2.60	2.55	30,751	1,658	1,658	255	255	255	32,664	32,555	109	0.334
Dorset	2.60	2.55	30,751	1,658	1,658	255	255	255	32,664	32,555	109	0.334
George Town	2.60	2.55	30,751	1,658	1,658	255	255	255	32,664	32,555	109	0.334
Derwent Valley	2.60	2.55	30,751	1,658	1,658	255	255	255	32,664	32,555	109	0.334
West Coast	2.60	2.55	30,751	1,658	1,658	255	255	255	32,664	32,555	109	0.334
Break O'Day	3.50	2.55	30,751	1,658	1,658	255	255	255	32,664	32,555	109	0.334
Southern Midlands	2.60	3.50	42,208	2,275	2,275	350	350	350	44,833	43,823	1,010	2.253
Glamorgan Spring Bay	3.50	3.50	42,208	2,275	2,275	350	350	350	44,833	43,823	1,010	2.253
Latrobe	3.50	3.50	42,208	2,275	2,275	350	350	350	44,833	43,823	1,010	2.253
Brighton	3.50	3.50	42,208	2,275	2,275	350	350	350	44,833	43,823	1,010	2.253
Northern Midlands	3.50	3.50	42,208	2,275	2,275	350	350	350	44,833	43,823	1,010	2.253
Circular Head	3.50	3.50	42,208	2,275	2,275	350	350	350	44,833	43,823	1,010	2.253
Waratah Wynyard	3.50	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	43,823	7,415	14.471
Meander Valley	3.50	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	43,823	7,415	14.471
Sorell	4.00	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	50,084	1,154	2.251
Central Coast	4.00	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	50,084	1,154	2.251
West Tamar	4.00	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	50,084	1,154	2.251
Huon Valley	4.00	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	50,084	1,154	2.251
Burnie	4.50	4.00	48,238	2,600	2,600	400	400	400	51,238	56,344	-5,106	-9.966
Devonport	4.50	4.45	53,664	2,893	2,893	445	445	445	57,002	56,344	658	1.154
Kingborough	4.50	4.45	53,664	2,893	2,893	445	445	445	57,002	56,344	658	1.154
Glenorchy	5.01	5.00	60,297	3,250	3,250	500	500	500	64,047	62,668	1,379	2.153
Clarence	5.01	5.00	60,297	3,250	3,250	500	500	500	64,047	62,668	1,379	2.153
Hobart	5.01	5.00	60,297	3,250	3,250	500	500	500	64,047	62,668	1,379	2.153
Launceston	5.01	5.00	60,297	3,250	3,250	500	500	500	64,047	62,668	1,379	2.153
Total Subscriptions	100.00	100.00	1,205,939	65,000	65,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	1,280,939	1,252,101	28,838	2.251

Note - Amounts do not include GST

Increased - Southern Midlands, Waratah Wynyard, Meander Valley
Decreased - Break O'Day, Burnie City

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	2016/17	2017/18	Comparison
Income			
Annual Conference and seminars	220,000	230,000	10,000
Seminars - Other	40,000	55,000	15,000
Fees and Commissions	92,000	115,000	23,000
Interest (Excl. Interest on grants)	75,000	65,000	-10,000
Interest on Capital from Building	2,500	2,500	0
Profit on Sale of Plant & Equip			0
Project Admin/Cost Recovery	25,000	27,000	2,000
Assist Revenue	33,000	34,000	1,000
Sponsorship (new item for LGTas, Website spons)	0	5,000	5,000
Subscriptions	1,179,099	1,205,939	26,840
Rentals	14,500	6,000	-8,500
Industrial Awards - HR/IR Tools	90,000		-90,000
Extraordinary Income via Subscriptions			0
Community Satisfaction Survey	8,000	10,000	2,000
TV Advertising	65,000	65,000	0
Planning Taskforce - Secondment			0
Total Income	1,844,099	1,820,439	-23,660

Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses - GMC	2,000	2,000	0
Accounts Administration	14,800	14,800	0
Advertising	2,000	5,000	3,000
ALGA Subscriptions	91,000	95,000	4,000
Auditors' Remuneration	15,000	15,000	0
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	3,000	3,000	0
Catering, receptions, etc	4,000	3,500	-500
Cleaning and Supplies	8,000	8,500	500
Community Satisfaction Survey	8,000	30,000	22,000
Annual Conference	160,000	175,000	15,000
Seminars - Other	25,000	30,000	5,000
Consultants' Fees	30,000	30,000	0
Consultants Fees - HR/IR Tools	80,000		-80,000
TV advertising	65,000	50,000	-15,000
Depreciation Building Division 43	20,000	5,000	-15,000
Computers	10,000	12,000	2,000
Furniture & Equip	2,000	2,000	0
Motor Vehicles	20,000	18,000	-2,000
Amortisation	800	4,000	3,200
Donations/Research/Scholarships	4,000	3,500	-500
Fringe Benefits Tax	12,000	12,000	0
GMC Elections - Bi-annual	2,500	1,500	-1,000
Insurance Fidelity Guarantee	1,300	1,300	0
General	10,000	12,000	2,000
Public Liability and PI	16,000	16,000	0
Workers Compensation	7,000	7,000	0
Land & Building Running Costs	5,000	10,000	5,000
Members Emoluments	63,500	63,000	-500

Motor Vehicles - Running Costs	9,000	10,000	1,000
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000	2,500	-500
Lease/hire	500	500	0
Network and Internet	12,000	12,000	0
Office Requisites	2,000	2,000	0
Other and Miscellaneous	1,000	700	-300
Other Employee Entitlements	15,000	12,000	-3,000
Postage	4,500	5,000	500
Power	11,000	12,000	1,000
Printing and Publications	6,000	7,000	1,000
Rates and Land Tax	11,500	12,000	500
Rentals	1,500	1,500	0
Repairs and maintenance	1,500	5,000	3,500
Salaries (exc Grant Staff)	880,000	905,000	25,000
Software	3,000	3,000	0
Stationery	2,500	2,000	-500
Subscriptions - membership etc	4,000	4,000	0
Superannuation	110,000	113,000	3,000
Telephone	17,000	15,000	-2,000
Training	12,000	10,000	-2,000
Travelling expenses	20,000	20,000	0
ALGA			
Intrastate		8,000	8,000
Interstate	14,000	12,000	-2,000
President	10,000	8,000	-2,000
TTC Subscription	6,000	6,000	0
Uniform expense	281	100	-181
Total Expenditure	1,839,181	1,817,400	-21,781
Net Result	4,918	3,039	-1,879

All figures are ex GST

LGAT ASSIST
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2018

	2016/17	2017/18	Comparison
Income			
Interest	31,000	20,000	-11,000
Interest on loans	37,000	30,000	-7,000
Assist Loan Application Fees	2,000	1,500	-500
Total Income	70,000	51,500	-18,500
Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses	500	0	-500
Accounts Administration	36,000	40,000	4,000
Advertising	1,000	0	-1,000
Auditors' Remuneration	5,200	5,000	-200
Bad Debts	12,000	7,000	-5,000
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	250	250	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	25,000	15,000	-10,000
Grants to members	10,500	10,500	0
Other and Miscellaneous	500	250	-250
Printing and Publications	2,000	0	-2,000
Welfare Write Offs	200	200	0
Special Projects	2,000	0	-2,000
Total Expenditure	95,150	78,200	-16,950
Change in net assets from operations	-\$25,150	-\$26,700	-\$1,550

All figures are ex GST



REPORTS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

to be presented to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 26 July, 2017

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STATE GRANTS COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Grant Atkins and Rod Fraser

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2016/17 8 (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 Australian Government Financial Assistance Grant funding to Tasmanian councils. The decisions of the Commission are guided by a set of national principles that are prescribed in the Australian Government 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 from the 2018-19 distribution.

The State Grants Commission consists of three members. Two of those members are nominated from local government and the third is an independent chairperson nominated by the Department of Treasury and Finance and approved by the Treasurer.

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

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

The Australian Government continued its policy of suspending indexation of the total funding pool for the three years which commenced on July 1 2014. Due to Tasmania's relative population decline compared to the rest of Australia, the Base Grant received by Tasmania over the three year period has reduced in both real and absolute terms. As Tasmania receives funding from the Australian government Road Grant funding pool, based on historical (fixed) proportions, road funding allocations have remained constant in absolute terms.

The Australian Government's 2017-18 Budget has confirmed that indexation of the National funding pool will resume from 2017-18.

In the 2016-17 financial year, Tasmania received an estimated base grant allocation of \$34 265 579 from a national pool of \$1 585 252 883, being a 0.84% reduction on the finalised 2015-16 year entitlement, and an estimated road grant allocation of \$37 276 466 from a national pool of \$703 423 357, being essentially equivalent to the previous year's entitlement.

In March 2017 the Commission completed the latest round of council hearings and visits. The Commission presented to councils an update on the 2018-19 Triennium Work Plan and also provided an opportunity for councils to present comment on issues of local interest to the Commission. In addition the Commission also presented for discussion a paper on the impacts of Tourism to councils and the future of the Tourism Cost Adjustor.

A second paper for discussion related to aspects of the Roads Preservation Model with particular reference to the Urbanisation Allowance and two cost adjusters. Both of the latter papers drew considerable discussion from councils.

The Commission appreciated the hospitality shown from those councils it visited and was also pleased with the submissions it received and with the interaction at the hearings.

STATE MARINE POLLUTION COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE: Andrew Brown

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2016/17: 1

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

Develop an effective response to contain and clean up any oil or other hazardous chemical spills in Tasmanian waters.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

First meeting held for over a year and there is a new chairperson (Wes Ford).

Agenda Item 1 – Introduction

Agenda Item 2 - Procedural Documents

It was discussed to have at least two meetings per year and to use this committee to distribute information throughout the year.

The committee were advised of the small changes to the terms of reference.

Agenda Item 3 - Tasplan – Presenting Chapter One for Review

Letitia gave an overview of the review of the Tasplan document and how the rewrite will include new chapters to address the inclusion of prevention and the recovery functions and the change of the incident management system from OSRICS to AIMS. It was also explained the need to have a contact person from each department to be able to comment on the support agency role within the chapter one of Tasplan.

Matthew Brocklehurst (SES) advised that there is a current review of the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan (TEMP) which will be released for consultation in the near future which may have impact into the rewrite of Tasplan.

Agenda Item 4a - Formal relations between agencies – Draft MoU with TFS

Aerial capabilities for oil spill response has relied on one AMSA trained aerial observer in Tasmania and verbal agreement with TFS regarding air attack and air observer roles. TFS advised the committee of their support of the draft MoU concerning air attack and air observer functions and requested aerial operations officer be included for support capabilities from TFS and a meeting with EPA to finalise these details.

Also for consideration is capability during fire season and availability of aircraft for oil spill response and input of personal from other states.

Agenda Item 4b - Formal relations between agencies - Deed of agreement with TASPOTS and MAST and the Crown. A review of MAST Regulations is currently under way.

Agenda Item 5 - POWONSA – New Act Revision

Cabinet has given approval for review and the Parliamentary Counsel have asked for a rewrite not just amendments. There is currently a drafting halt and possibly won't be on the agenda until the next government agenda possibly second half of the year in 2018.

Members will be advised of relevant changes that may affect the committee and ask for comments at the time.

Agenda Item 6 - OSRA –Mapping Resources Prioritisation Project Stage 1 & 2

A slide show presentation was given by Letitia regarding the mapping project.

It was suggested that to improve situation awareness for Council and Emergency Services to have the OSRA layers uploaded COP.

Agenda Item 7 - First Strike Plans

The first two strike plans were provided to the committee for endorsement, they were the Derwent River and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Comments raised relating to the plans included; acknowledged that plans adopted best practice instead of current capabilities and that the plans are currently not available to the general public. AMOSC acknowledged quality of the plans having recently produced similar plans with more detail focusing on deployment plans.

Agenda Item 8 - Local spill and incident report

Between February 2016 to February 2017 there was numerous small diesel spills reported to EPA Tasmania.

Sullivans Cove and Prince of Wales Bay areas.

21 April 16 - 16m motor cruiser "Mirage" ran aground on Scamander Beach. Vessel estimated to have 300 litres of fuel on board, although no fuel or oil was lost when refloated.

Early June 2016 - Floods on the North West Coast resulted in a marina with a number of vessels attached to it being swept into Bass Strait. The EPA responded to three of these vessels. Some fuel was lost but the volumes are unknown.

13 Oct 2016 - Tug grounding at George Town. Vessel carrying 40,000 litres of diesel and 11 000 litres of AFFF foam, although vessel was refloated without any loss of fuel

22 Nov 2016 - Lady Nelson, small spill, <10 litres of diesel into the Derwent

28 Oct 2016 – Cruise ship 'Radiance of the Seas'. Approx. 5-10 litres spill of gear oil from cruise ship. Responded by Vessel and Tasports

10 Jan 2017 - Cruise ship "Massdam". Minor overflow of diesel <10 litres.

Agenda Item 9 - Training Update

Training Outline report by Letitia is attached.

General discussion included highlights of TasPorts new training regime aiming to use three month equipment testing requirements as an opportunity for exercises for staff with deployment equipment.

General discussion around committee members identifying individuals within their organisation suitable for oil spill response training.

STATE FIRE COMMISSION**REPRESENTATIVE:** Rod Sweetnam and Hannah Rubenach-Quinn**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2016/17** 12**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:

This will be the last joint report to the AGM by me (Rod Sweetnam) as I have resigned my position as LGAT representative on the SFC. I would like to thank the Association and staff for the opportunity afforded to me in representing Local Government on the Commission.

In contrast to the exceptional 15/16 fire season the 16/17 fire season has been relatively quiet for TFS staff and volunteers. This has allowed the organisation time to review and undertake work on a number of the actions recommended from the various inquiries as outlined in last year's report.

The Commission has been working with the Department of Police, Fire & Emergency Management on the restructure and consolidation of corporate services via the Business and Executive Services (BES) group. Ultimately there will be efficiencies in the service delivery to the various departments of the organisation. As with any significant restructure there are issues to be worked through and this has occupied time of the Commission over the last 12 months.

Finance and the financials of the organisation continue to be a major focus. The commission is not immune from the inevitable tension of not enough funds and too much to do. It is a primary function of the Commission to determine the allocation of the available funds. The Commission has been clear in determining that the Appliance built should be a priority so as to ensure staff and volunteers have the best firefighting equipment the Tasmanian community can afford.

The recent announcement by State Government that it will fund the replacement of the three aerial Appliances has been welcomed by the commission.

There remains the need for tight fiscal management as the organisation works on Strategic Asset Management plans for the built infrastructure and other physical assets of the Commission.

The TFS have embarked on a 'Resource to Risk' project. The first of a three staged process has commenced, the fundamental aim of which is to ensure the correct resources are available in the appropriate locations to respond to fire and fire risk.

The SFC is the PCBU for the TFS and as such meets regularly as required by legislation but also to ensure policy, procedures and practises are in place to enable staff and volunteers are safe at work, at training, and on the fire ground.

This can be challenging when the work place is a structure fire or wildfire and hence the Commission puts considerable focus on this area of the TFS activities.

As reported last year there is considerable work to recognise the new arrangements with the integration of SES and TFS, a rewrite of both the Fire Service and Emergency Management Acts will be required. Little progress has occurred in this area to date.

At the time of preparing this report work has commenced on scoping the rewrite. The next twelve months should see movement in this area.

In closing it should be noted the Government has legislated for an Independent Chair to preside over the State Fire Commission. The Minister for Police Fire & Emergency Management has seen fit to appoint me (Rod Sweetnam) as the inaugural independent chair of the State Fire Commission for a period of three years.

TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Amanda Davidson, Circular Head Council

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2016/17: 4

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board (TLAB) is a voluntary, independent advisory group established under the Libraries Act 1984. The Board's role is to advise the Minister and the Secretary on issues concerning the delivery of LINC Tasmania services in Tasmania, in particular, the public's right of access to information and ideas. The Board meets 4 times per year.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

As the result of the resignation of Ald Suzy Cooper of the City of Hobart from the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board (TLAB) in March 2016, I was offered the role of LGAT Representative for North West Tasmania.

Being a member of TLAB has provided me with the opportunity to gain a detailed insight into the functionality of the State Library system (LINC) and the significant value LINC has to offer to the community and public and private organisations in Tasmania. The opportunity to attend a joint session with members of the 26TEN Coalition during February also provided a broader appreciation of the inspirational work of many interested parties within the state, in helping those discover their capabilities and enhancing their lives through improvements in adult literacy and numeracy. The development and refurbishment of many of the State Libraries during the past year has been truly inspiring and motivating – these include LINC in Launceston and Burnie just to name a few.

I feel extremely honoured to able to be a representative for LGAT and to be a part of such a formidable team charged with guiding and influencing the development of the Tasmanian State Library and associated programs in order to ensure the provision of state of the art, relevant and innovative information solutions for all Tasmanian residents and organisations.

TASMANIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Danielle Gray and Robin McKendrick

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2016/17: 12

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Tasmanian Heritage Council is a statutory body responsible for the administration of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 and the establishment and maintenance of the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

The Tasmanian Heritage Council operates as part of the resource management planning system. Development on places on the Register require the approval of the Heritage Council before works can commence.

The Tasmanian heritage Council provides leadership and engagement with stakeholders within Tasmania's historic and cultural heritage sector.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

In addition to the ongoing responsibilities of the Tasmanian Heritage Council with regard to decision making on applications for development to items, places and buildings within the Register, some of the issues dealt with by the Tasmanian Heritage Council over the last 12 months include:

- Redefine and redevelop the Tasmanian Heritage register of listed places and properties into an interactive and user friendly database. This will be achieved by way of the development of the 'Tasmanian Collection' and then Living Register
- The development and creation of a brand framework and communication plan to define the value of historic cultural heritage in Tasmania, to influence the community, government and visitors to the state. This has included a workshop in February 2017 to explore the brand 'voice' as well as sponsorship for a heritage category at the 2017 Australian Institute of Architects Awards (Tasmania)
- Improvements to Tasmania's historic cultural heritage sector by redesigning existing systems, processes and operations to deliver outcomes in a more effective and efficient way.
- Lead the sustainable use and development of Tasmania's historic and cultural heritage by participation in Whole of Government policy agenda (cultural policy, visitor economy and Coordinator General) as well as providing input into the ministerial Statement of Expectation and developing a corresponding Statement of Intent.
- Using the Heritage 'voice' branding project and workshop outcomes to lead the advocacy for the development of a 'Heritage 21' strategy.

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**REPRESENTATIVE** **Clr Dave Moser****NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2016/17: 4**

Originally the proxy for Cr Andrew Downie, Central Highlands Council who attended meetings from 29 November 2016, then resigned due to ill health.

Confirmed as representative on 27 April 2017 until end 2017.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) is set up under Part 6 of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Act 1993.

The functions of AWAC are:

- (a) to advise the Minister on any matter generally relating to animal welfare;
- (b) to advise the Minister on any specific matter relating to animal welfare as requested by the Minister;
- (c) to conduct an ongoing review of the laws relating to animal welfare;
- (d) to recommend to the Minister any changes in the laws relating to animal welfare;
- (e) to make recommendations on any matter of concern to the Advisory Committee;
- (f) to identify areas which require development of public education strategies relating to animal welfare;
- (g) to develop educational programmes relating to animal welfare;
- (h) to make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relating to animal welfare standards or animal welfare guidelines;
- (ha) any other functions imposed by this Act;
- (i) any other functions the Minister may determine.

In carrying out its functions, the AWAC is to take into account: the community concerns about, and attitudes towards, animal welfare; the needs of affected industries; and the changes in, and availability of, animal management practices.

Membership of the AWAC consists of a chair; members nominated by Secretaries of the Departments responsible for the Animal Welfare Act, the Nature Conservation Act, the Police Service Act, and the Racing Regulation Act; and persons nominated by the Municipal Association of Tasmania (now LGAT), the University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the RSPCA, Animals Australia Incorporated, a registered veterinary surgeon nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association; persons representing the intensive animal industry and the sporting and recreational users of animals; as well as any such person that the Minister considers appropriate.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Undertook finalisation of the Dog Management Standards for approval and preparation of legislation measures by DPIPW and the Minister.
- Confirmed advice on the banning of pronged dog collars.
- Reviewed animal welfare issues related to the greyhound enquiry.
- Reviewed and amended the Sheep and Cattle Standards and provided advice to the Minister.
- Input to definition of free-range eggs and provision of advice to meeting of Ministers for Consumer Affairs and their development of a standard for an agreed definition.

- Discussion of issues related to the deaths of cattle on Bass Strait ship crossings, and any animal welfare issues identified.
- Reviewed models for animal welfare regulation in the future, including the role of AWAC, the use of the Animal Welfare Trust Account funds, and the identified need for either a scientific committee and/or individuals with animal welfare research experience and the ability to advise on potential animal welfare issues.
- Endorsed guidelines for cetacean euthanasia.
- Reviewed a paper on treatment of Sarcoptic mange in wombats in relation to any identified animal welfare issues.
- Reviewed the use of capsicum spray to deter seals in fish farms and agreed that the spray was not effective and therefore its use cannot be justified.



Subscription modelling May 2018

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has been tasked with reviewing the way in which current subscriptions are levied, in particular:

- Whether the mix of flat, population and revenue fees is reasonable;
- Whether increases or decreases could be 'smoothed'; and
- Whether a model could be developed to give some certainty about increases or decreases to inform out years financial planning within councils.

To this end, a project officer has undertaken modelling of 21 options which look at varied percentages of subscription components, population groupings and revenue groupings. Details are attached as an appendix to this paper, as is a brief write up of the results of modelling each option.

Please note that calculated figures are based on actual 2016/17 subscriptions, and as they include no indexation, are indicative only of how the particular model would have impacted those amounts.

Findings

As long as subscriptions are premised on a flat fee, plus population and revenue category fees, councils will have the potential to move up and down categories, and therefore experience annual fluctuations in their subscriptions. Having the flat fee as the higher proportion of the subscription formula, mitigates the impact of changes in population or revenue categories to a degree.

Broadening the number of population and/or revenue categories and percentages payable within each works in terms of managing impacts of change, particularly for smaller councils, however doing so increases the likelihood of councils moving up or down categories from year to year. Councils in lower population categories but mid-range revenue categories, and vice versa, will almost certainly produce what appear to be slightly perverse results, but that does not mean that they are incorrect.

Modelling as detailed in this paper indicates that, within current methodology, it is almost impossible to 'flatten' increases and decreases where category changes occur year to year, and that the imposition of the State Grants Commission 'collar and cap' approach may be the most equitable way to apply subscription changes going forward. The SCG applies a 'collar' to ensure that no council has base grant funding reduced by more than 10 per cent year to year, and a 'cap' to ensure that increases do not exceed 15 per cent year to year. Applying that same principle to subscriptions, but using a 10 per cent cap and collar, once out year subscriptions are calculated (using whatever mix of proportions is deemed most equitable), subscriptions would be adjusted to ensure that those

councils experiencing an increase would pay no more than 10 per cent compared to the previous year, and any decreases would also be limited to 10 per cent compared to the previous year. Adopting this approach would give councils some certainty for their financial planning, as they can proceed safe in the knowledge that, whether their subscriptions go up or down, neither would exceed 10 per cent of the previous year's subscription.

In terms of the options modelled, after considerable scenario analysis, it has been determined that option 21 provides the most equitable outcomes across the board, and with the cap and collar applied, subscription increases and decreases appear within reasonable limits. Option 21 imposes a flat fee of 40 per cent, and population and revenue fees of 30 per cent each. It also proposes eight revenue categories and eight population categories. Without a 10 per cent cap or collar, decreases would range from \$14,393 to \$1,187 and increases from \$581 to \$8,894. With a cap and collar however, decreases range from \$4,716 to \$244 and increases from \$581 to \$5,901. In determining whether or not to apply the collar to decreases, it is important from a LGAT perspective, to have the same budget certainty as councils, and having both a cap and collar provides some smoothing in that regard. On that basis, indicatively, 2016/2017 subscriptions would have been as follows:

Council	Actual 16/17 subscription	Option 21 applied without cap / collar			Option 21 applied with cap / collar		
		Option 21 16/17 subscription	\$ value change	Per cent change	Option 21 16/17 subscription	\$ value change	Per cent change
Break O'Day	\$41,268.47	\$32,181.27	-\$9,087.19	-22.0	\$37,141.62	-\$4,126.85	-10.0
Brighton	\$41,268.47	\$41,024.51	-\$243.95	-0.6	\$41,024.51	-\$243.95	-0.6
Burnie	\$53,059.46	\$48,806.57	-\$4,252.89	-8.0	\$48,806.57	-\$4,252.89	-8.0
Central Coast	\$47,163.96	\$48,806.57	\$1,642.61	3.5	\$48,806.57	\$1,642.61	3.5
Central Highlands	\$20,280.50	\$20,861.92	\$581.42	2.9	\$20,861.92	\$581.42	2.9
Circular Head	\$41,268.47	\$33,949.92	-\$7,318.55	-17.7	\$37,141.62	-\$4,126.85	-10.0
Clarence	\$59,013.90	\$66,846.78	\$7,832.88	13.3	\$64,915.30	\$5,901.39	10.0
Derwent Valley	\$30,656.57	\$33,949.92	\$3,293.35	10.7	\$33,949.92	\$3,293.35	10.7
Devonport	\$53,059.46	\$55,881.16	\$2,821.71	5.3	\$55,881.16	\$2,821.71	5.3
Dorset	\$30,656.57	\$32,181.27	\$1,524.70	5.0	\$32,181.27	\$1,524.70	5.0
Flinders Island	\$20,280.50	\$19,093.27	-\$1,187.23	-5.9	\$19,093.27	-\$1,187.23	-5.9
George Town	\$30,656.57	\$33,949.92	\$3,293.35	10.7	\$33,722.23	\$3,065.66	10.0
Glamorgan Spring Bay	\$41,268.47	\$26,875.33	-\$14,393.14	-34.9	\$37,141.62	-\$4,126.85	-10.0
Glenorchy	\$59,013.90	\$63,309.48	\$4,295.58	7.3	\$63,309.48	\$4,295.58	7.3
Hobart	\$59,013.90	\$64,370.67	\$5,356.77	9.1	\$64,370.67	\$5,356.77	9.1
Huon Valley	\$47,163.96	\$48,806.57	\$1,642.61	3.5	\$48,806.57	\$1,642.61	3.5
Kentish	\$30,656.57	\$32,181.27	\$1,524.70	5.0	\$32,181.27	\$1,524.70	5.0

King Island	\$20,280.50	\$20,861.92	\$581.42	2.9	\$20,861.92	\$581.42	2.9
Kingborough	\$53,059.46	\$59,772.19	\$6,712.73	12.7	\$58,365.40	\$5,305.95	10.0
Latrobe	\$41,268.47	\$35,718.57	-\$5,549.90	-13.4	\$37,141.62	-\$4,126.85	-10.0
Launceston	\$59,013.90	\$67,907.97	\$8,894.07	15.1	\$64,915.30	\$5,901.39	10.0
Meander Valley	\$41,268.47	\$44,738.68	\$3,470.21	8.4	\$44,738.68	\$3,470.21	8.4
Northern Midlands	\$41,268.47	\$39,432.73	-\$1,835.74	-4.4	\$39,432.73	-\$1,835.74	-4.4
Sorell	\$47,163.96	\$39,432.73	-\$7,731.23	-16.4	\$42,447.56	-\$4,716.40	-10.0
Southern Midlands	\$30,656.57	\$33,949.92	\$3,293.35	10.7	\$33,722.23	\$3,065.66	10.0
Tasman	\$20,280.50	\$20,861.92	\$581.42	2.9	\$20,861.92	\$581.42	2.9
Waratah Wynyard	\$41,268.47	\$39,432.73	-\$1,835.74	-4.4	\$39,432.73	-\$1,835.74	-4.4
West Coast	\$30,656.57	\$25,106.68	-\$5,549.90	-18.1	\$27,590.92	-\$3,065.66	-10.0
West Tamar	\$47,163.96	\$48,806.57	\$1,642.61	3.5	\$48,806.57	\$1,642.61	3.5
	\$1,179,099.00	\$1,179,099.01			\$1,197,653.15		

Table 1: Population categories 1

Population	Category number
<10,000	1
10,000 to 19,999	2
20,000 to 39,999	3
>40,000	4

Table 2: Population categories 2

Population	Category number
<1000	1
1,000 to 4,999	2
5,000 to 9,999	3
10,000 to 19,999	4
20,000 to 29,999	5
30,000 +	6

Table 3: Population categories 3

Proportion of State Population	Category
<1% of state population	1
1% to 1.9% of state population	2
2% to 2.9% of state population	3
3% to 3.9% of state population	4
4% to 4.9% of state population	5
5% or higher	6

Table 4: Population categories 4

Population	Category number
<1000	1
1,000 to 4,999	2
5,000 to 9,999	3
10,000 to 14,999	4
15,000 to 24,999	5
25,000 to 34,999	6
35,000 to 54,999	7
55,000+	8

Table 5: Revenue categories 1

Revenue range		Category number
\$0.00	\$5,291,793.00	1
\$5,291,793.00	\$8,231,677.00	2
\$8,231,677.00	\$11,759,538.00	3
\$11,759,538.00	\$23,519,076.00	4
\$23,519,076.00	\$35,278,615.00	5
\$35,278,615.00	And above	6

Table 6: Revenue categories 2

Revenue range		Category number
\$0.00	\$4,999,999.00	1
\$5,000,000.00	\$7,999,999.00	2
\$8,000,000.00	\$9,999,999.00	3
\$10,000,000.00	\$14,999,999.00	4
\$15,000,000.00	\$24,999,999.00	5
\$25,000,000.00	\$44,999,999.00	6
\$45,000,000.00	and above	7

Table 7: Revenue categories 3

Revenue range		Category number
\$0.00	\$4,999,999.00	1
\$5,000,000.00	\$7,999,999.00	2
\$8,000,000.00	\$9,999,999.00	3
\$10,000,000.00	\$14,999,999.00	4
\$15,000,000.00	\$24,999,999.00	5
\$25,000,000.00	\$34,999,999.00	6
\$35,000,000.00	\$59,999,999.00	7
\$60,000,000.00	and above	8

Table 8: Modelling options considered

Modelling option	Flat Fee %	Population %	Revenue %	No. Revenue categories	No. Population categories
1	30	40	30	6	4
2	25	50	25	6	4
3	50	25	25	6	4
4	40	30	30	6***	6*
5	50	25	25	6***	6*
6	40	20	40	6	4
7	40	20	40	6	6**
8	40	20	40	6	4**
9	30	20	50	6	4**
10	30	40	30	6	6
11	30	40	30	6	6**
12	30	40	30	6	8
13	40	30	30	6	8
14	50	20	30	6	8
15	40	20	40	6	8
16	50	25	25	6	8
17	40	20	40	6***	6*
18	50	20	30	6***	6*
19	45	25	35	6	8
20	40	30	30	7	8
21	40	30	30	8	8

*Categories premised on proportion of total State population living in municipality.

**Percentages within categories adjusted to offset the population component in municipalities with small populations. A number of iterations were modelled.

*** Categories premised on council revenue as a proportion of total state revenue.

Option 1: Flat fee 30 per cent, population fee 40 per cent and revenue fee 30 per cent. Modelling this option using four population categories premised on council voting principles, resulted in reduced subscriptions in 17 councils and increases in 12. Decreases ranged from just under \$6,000 to \$1,300 per annum, and increases, from \$180 to just over \$9,000 per annum. The most significant increases were experienced in councils in low population and revenue categories.

Option 2: Flat fee 25 per cent, population 50 per cent, and revenue 25 per cent. Again, using four population categories, modelling this option produced similar results to those in option 1. Decreases ranged from \$7,256 to \$1,361 per annum, and increases, between \$1,203 and \$8,979.

Option 3: Flat fee 50 per cent, population and revenue fees, 25 per cent each. Again, applying four population categories, subscriptions would be reduced in 19 councils and increased in 10. Decreases ranged from \$8,411 to \$1,218, and increases were between \$4,402 and \$12,069. As for Options 1 and 2, the most significant increases were reflected in small councils with lower populations and annual revenue.

Option 4: Flat fee 40 per cent, population and revenue fees, 30 per cent each (adjusted based on council revenue as a proportion of total revenue). In terms of population categories this option uses six, with populations grouped according to the percentage of total state population in each council area. Modelling indicates that subscriptions would decrease for 21 councils and increase for 8. Decreases would range from \$17,741 to \$37 per annum, and increases from \$274 to \$40,521. Unlike options 1, 2 and 3, the most significant increases were reflected in councils in higher population and revenue categories.

Option 5: Flat fee 50 per cent, population and revenue fees, 25 per cent each (adjusted based on council revenue as a proportion of total revenue). Applying the six population categories premised on proportions of state population, modelling this option would decrease subscriptions in 19 councils and increase in 10. Decreases would range from \$14,989 to \$195 and increases, from \$1,170 to \$30,571. As was the outcome for option 4, significant increases were reflected in councils in higher population and revenue categories.

Option 6: Flat fee 40 per cent, population fee 20 per cent and revenue fee, 40 per cent. Reverting to modelling four population categories, modelling resulted in decreased subscriptions in 19 councils and increases in 10. While the numbers are the same as option 5, there are marked differences in the value of the changes. Decreases range from \$6,905 to \$1,098 and increases, from \$3,431 to \$9,595. Unlike option 5, the most significant increases were in councils in lower population and revenue categories.

Option 7: Flat fee 40 per cent, population fee 20 per cent, and revenue fee, 40 per cent. Using 6 population categories, modelling this option produced wild fluctuations in both subscription increases and decreases. Results show that 20 councils would experience decreases ranging from \$16,292 to \$733, and 9 would experience increases ranging from \$75 to \$52,282. The most significant increases were indicated in councils in higher population and revenue categories.

Option 8: Flat fee 40 per cent, population fee 20 per cent and revenue fee, 40 per cent. This option uses four population categories, however the percentage payable by each category has been adjusted to offset costs for small population areas. Modelling indicates decreased subscriptions in 16 councils and increases in 13. Decrease amounts range from \$5,532 to \$503, whilst increases range from \$787 to \$7,520. While the adjustment of percentages payable in each population category did reduce the population component of the subscription for smaller councils, as the proportion charged within each revenue category cannot be changed, the most significant increases were again experienced in councils in relatively low population and revenue categories.

Option 9: Flat fee 30 per cent, population fee 20 per cent, and revenue fee 50 per cent. Applying six revenue and four adjusted population categories, this model decreased subscriptions for 14 councils and increased them for 15. Decreases ranged from \$5,471 to \$2,187 and increases from \$147 to \$6,617. This option reflected the 'flattest' changes overall, although the most significant increases were again being applied to councils in lower population and revenue categories.

Option 10: Flat fee 30 per cent, population fee 40 per cent and revenue fee 30 per cent. Applying six revenue and population categories, 16 councils would pay reduced subscriptions and 13 would experience an increase. Reductions range from \$12,592 to \$1,359 and increases from \$170 to

\$9,565. Increases would be applied mainly across councils in mid-range population groups and lower revenue groups.

Option 11: Using the same fee splits as option 10, but applying adjusted rates to the six population categories, modelling this option resulted in decreased subscriptions for 17 councils and increases for 12. While the upper end of increases and decreases were the same as option 10, the lower limit for decreases went from \$1,359 to \$300 and for increases, from \$170 to \$55. Increases would apply to much the same councils as option 10.

Option 12: Again, this model used the same fee splits as options 10 and 11, but used eight population categories instead of 6. Subscriptions would decrease for 14 councils and increase for 15, with decreases ranging from \$12,591 to \$248 and increases from \$621 to \$5,338. Increases are reflected predominantly in councils in lower population and revenue groups.

Option 13: Flat fee 40 per cent, population and revenue fees, 30 per cent each. Subscriptions would decrease in 18 councils and increase in 11, with decreases ranging from \$9,706 to \$421 and increases, from \$1,740 to \$5469. Whilst this option results in relatively low increases overall, as they are experienced in councils in lower population and revenue categories, the value of the increases for some equate to 21 per cent compared to the previous year.

Option 14: Flat fee 50 per cent, population fee 20 per cent and revenue fee, 30 per cent. The number of councils decreasing and increasing is the same as for option 13, however modelling reveals decreases ranging from \$6,820 to \$1,858 and increases from \$726 to \$8,355. As for option 13, the increases applied to smaller councils.

Option 15: Flat fee 40 per cent, population fee 20 per cent and revenue fee 40 per cent. As for options 13 and 14, the number of councils experiencing change was the same. Decreases range from \$6,758 to \$677 and increases from \$130 to \$6,294. Again, councils in lower population and revenue categories would bear the largest increases.

Option 16: Flat fee 50 per cent, population and revenue fees, 25 per cent each. Again, the proportions of councils experiencing change was the same as options 13 to 15, although there were relatively high changes to upper limits of both increases(\$8,293) and decreases (\$7,943), and slight changes to lower limits. Increases were reflected predominantly in councils in mid and lower range population groups and lower range revenue groups.

Option 17: Flat fee 40 per cent, population fee 20 per cent and revenue fee 40 per cent (adjusted based on council revenue as a proportion of total revenue). Applying 6 population groups premised on the proportion of State population living in each council area, this model would decrease subscriptions in 20 councils and increase them in 9. Decreases range from \$16,293 to \$733 and increases, from \$75 to \$52,282. As you might readily assume, the most significant increases would apply to councils in higher revenue and population categories.

Option 18: Flat fee 50 per cent, population fee 20 per cent and revenue fee 30 per cent. Again, using adjusted revenue fees as per option 17, the number of councils experiencing a change to their subscriptions was unchanged. Decreases range from \$13,386 to \$771 and increases from \$1,917 to \$43,386. Increases would predominantly apply to those councils affected by option 17, although a few smaller councils would also experience a relatively significant increase.

Option 19: Flat fee 45 per cent, population fee 25 per cent and revenue fee 35 per cent. Applying 6 revenue categories and 8 population categories, subscriptions would decrease in 18 councils and increase in 11. Decreases would range from \$6,789 to \$1,268 and increases, from \$660 to \$7,325. Significant increases would be applied to councils in lower population and revenue categories, in some cases, equating to a 26.5 per cent increase compared to last year.

Option 20: Flat fee 40 per cent, population and revenue fees, 30 per cent each. Modelling options 1 to 19 has been premised on 6 revenue categories established under current rules. While it has been possible make allowances in councils with smaller populations by manipulating population categories and percentages payable within each, the same manipulations have not applied to lower revenue categories, resulting in some skewed outcomes for smaller councils. This option applies 7 revenue categories, in an attempt to offset impacts in lower population and revenue councils. Modelling this option, subscriptions would decrease in 11 councils and increase in 18. Decreases would range from \$15,012 to \$863 and increases from \$287 to \$7,361. Increases predominately apply to councils in higher population and revenue categories.

Option 21: Fees as per option 20, but applying 8 revenue and population categories. Subscriptions would decrease in 10 councils and increase in 19. Decreases would range from \$11,828 to \$1,252 and increases from \$287 to \$8,068. As was the case for option 20, increases were generally applied to councils in higher population and revenue categories.