



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

To be submitted to the

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Will be held on
22 July 2020**

**Commencing at
10.00am**

Via Webinar

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FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

**NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundred and Eighth Annual General Meeting
of the Association
will be held on
22 July 2020
Commencing at
10.00am**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
Association's General Meeting
will be held on
22 July 2020
To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

**Commencing immediately following
the conclusion of the
Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 22 July 2020.**

**All sessions to be held at
Via Webinar**

**Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl, will welcome Members and acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land.

1 MINUTES OF 107TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the 107th Annual General Meeting, held 3 July 2019 be confirmed.

The Minutes of the 107th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 3 July 2019, 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 her report to the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2019 ***Decision Sought**

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 be received and adopted.

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, an abridged version of which are included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

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

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2019 to 11 June 2020 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 three weeks remained to the end of the financial year with year-end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be an unanticipated surplus (approximately \$75,000) with items below being of note –

- Procurement activity continues to increase resulting in an additional \$57,000 income;
- The Covid-19 Pandemic impacted general expenses resulting in underspends around travel (ALGA meetings and Presidents travel), staff training and general running costs; and
- General under expenditure in areas such as consultants' fees also contributed to the surplus.

4 2020/2021 LGAT BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS *
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Decision Sought

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the 2020-2021 LGAT Budget and Subscriptions.
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Income

This is an unusual budget year. LGAT's non subscription revenue related to events, training and sponsorship has, and will be, significantly impacted for the year ahead. However, LGAT has a strong balance sheet and is able to weather a deficit budget while holding subscription increases to 0% for the second year in a row.

The inability to deliver our conference and usual events and attract related sponsorship is anticipated to reduce LGAT's income by nearly \$300,000. We also expect some downturn in fees and commissions and continued poor performance in relation to interest. We still have some unexpended advertising funds and reserves we could draw upon so have not sought to put a call upon members for advertising this year. However, the Community Satisfaction Survey will continue to have an annual allocation.

No income or expenses have specifically been allocated for the Charitable Rates work and it is suggested that should this exceed funds available through unexpended advertising or the expenses allocation for consultants that it be funded from LGAT reserves as previously discussed.

Southern Councils have engaged LGAT under an MOU for support on waste matters and this is captured as income but will be fully expended as a salaries expense related to the fixed term Project Officer and Policy Director time.

Expenditure

Recognising that some councils will apply wage increases under their Enterprise Agreements (EAs) and that other councils will not apply an increase as a result of delayed enterprise bargaining, LGAT has taken a balanced approach to wages, budgeting an increase of 1.5%. This does not impact subscriptions, just the underlying position for LGAT. The budget impact of applying an increase is \$15,395. It should be noted that most council EAs currently provide for a 2.5% increase.

Other changes to expenditure items include:

- All procurement expenses, including advertising and travel, are now represented as a separate expense item and consequently estimated expenditure on advertising and travel have been reduced;
- ALGA is unlikely to increase subscriptions;

- It is difficult to estimate other employee entitlements to leave as it is likely that staff may carry more leave than usual given the COVID constraints. However, staff must comply with the policy and not carry more than 12 weeks annual leave;
- The printing and publication budget has been reduced as we do more online and have more in-house design capacity;
- We are continuing to see savings related to changes in telephone and data contracts.
- Cleaning expenses have increased under COVID; and
- Decreased travel expenses are anticipated as we make greater use of online meetings.

Other Matters

Additional grant funding is to be provided by the State Government to extend the Health and Wellbeing Project for a further two years. This does not appear on the budget as these funds are held in a separate account.

Net Result

The anticipated deficit is -\$74,463.00

Subscriptions

This is the third year of applying our new subscription formula agreed at the 2017 AGM. That formula comprises 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.

A 0% increase in overall subscriptions has been budgeted for 2020-21. However, because of category movements and resultant cap and collar adjustments, there are (mostly minor) shifts in subs payable by council.

Only two councils will have subscriptions that go up by more than \$1000 and these are Flinders Island and Latrobe. Flinders moved up a population category and Latrobe moved up a revenue category based on the ABS and State Grants data. Four councils, Brighton, Derwent Valley, George Town and Tasman went down a revenue category. Glamorgan Spring Bay and Southern Midlands have had movement downwards as a consequence of the collar cap adjustments throughout.

A copy of the Draft Budget and Subscriptions for the 2020-21 Financial Year are at **Attachment to Item 4.**

5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS

Decision Sought

<p>That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.</p>
--

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.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for 2019/20 were:

- President allowance \$49,602 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$12,400 per annum.

GMC sitting fees will also be adjusted by the wages price index.

6 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN *

Decision Sought

<p>That Members note the report against the LGAT Annual Plan.</p>
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Background

At **Attachment to Item 6** is a report against the LGAT Annual Plan for consideration.

Budget Implications.

Within current budget.

7 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *

Decision Sought

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

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2018/2019 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 Rob Churchill , Glamorgan Spring Bay
- **Family Violence Consultative Committee**
Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Northern Midlands Council
- **Forest Practices Advisory Council**
Mr Shane Wells, Glamorgan Spring)
(A new representative has been appointed - awaiting final confirmation from Minister)
- **LGAT Assist**
Mrs Jill Taylor
- **Local Government Board**
Mr Greg Preece
- **State Fire Commission**
Chris Hughes, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Ms Melanie Kelly, Kingborough Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Greg Preece and Mr Rodney Fraser
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Ald Jim Cox, Launceston City Council, Ms Danielle Gray, Kingborough Council;
(Nominations have been sought to replace Danielle Gray with confirmation pending)
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ms Yolanda Sam, City of Hobart, Clr Dick Adams, Northern Midlands Council; Jackie Merchant, Central Coast Council; Ald Simon Fraser, Glenorchy City Council
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Mr Michael Stretton, Launceston City Council
- **Tasmanian Spatial Information Council**
Ms Emily Brown, City of Hobart
- **Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Committee**
Mayor Annette Rockliff, Devonport City Council
- **Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 - Community Review Committee -**
Nikki Den Exter, Kingborough Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 9.**

8 CLOSURE



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes

Submitted to the

**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Held on
3 July 2019**

**Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

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* Denotes Attachment

Electronic Voting Records for Decision Items only are at the end of the Document

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

**The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 3 July 2019**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundred and Seventh Annual General Meeting
of the Association
will be held on
3 July 2019
Commencing at
11.00am**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
Association's General Meeting
will be held on
3 July 2019
To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

**Commencing immediately following
the conclusion of the
Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 3 July 2019**

**All sessions to be held at
Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

**Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

2019 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2019

11.00am	AGM	
	General Meeting	Commencing immediately following the conclusion of AGM
12.30pm	Lunch	With thanks to Dial Before you Dig
1.30pm	Meetings continue	
5.00 6.00pm	Welcome Reception	With thanks to Jardine Lloyd Thompson

THURSDAY 4 JULY 2019

8.00am	Conference Registration	
8.45am	Welcome and Opening	
9.05am	Mayor David O'Loughlin	
9.40am	Mayor Tim Shadbolt	
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Mat Pinnegar	
11.30	Heather Rose	
12.10	Speed Networking	
12.40pm	Lunch	
1.40pm	World Café Series	
2.40pm	Afternoon Tea	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
3.15pm	The Panel	
4.30 – 5.30pm	Happy Hour	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
7.15pm	MAV Insurance Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY 5 JULY 2019

8.50am	Welcome Back, Reflections from Day One
9.10am	Symposiums and Workshops
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.10am	2019 Local Government Awards for Excellence
11.55am	Penny Terry
12.50pm	Conference wrap up
1.00pm	Lunch

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, welcomed Members, declared the Annual General Meeting open and accept apologies from –

Mayor Albert van Zetten	Launceston City Council
Mayor Wayne Johnston	Meander Valley Council
Deputy Mayor Michael Kelly	Meander Valley Council
Mayor Steve Kons	Burnie City Council
D/Mayor Giovanna Simpson	Burnie City Council
Mr Tim Watson	Dorset Council
Mayor Robby Walsh	Waratah Wynyard Council
Mayor Julie Arnold	King Island Council
Ms Kate Mauric	King Island Council
Mayor Tony Foster	Brighton Council

1 MINUTES OF 106TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Circular Head Council/West Coast Council

That the Minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting, held 25 July 2018 be confirmed.

Carried

The Minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 25 July 2018, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

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

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mayor Doug Chipman/Break O'Day Council

That the President's report be received.

Carried

I am pleased to be able to present my Annual Report on the activities and achievements of LGAT over the last twelve months. This is my last as your President and it seems fitting, at this point, to congratulate Mayor Christina Holmdahl from West Tamar Council, who has been elected as the new President of our Association.

As always it seems it has been a very busy year! I am very grateful for the support of the General Management Committee and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank them, particularly with some of moving on:

- Vice President Mayor Daryl Quilliam from Circular Head Council who has been re-elected to represent the NW municipalities with a population below 20,000;
- The former Lord Mayor of Hobart, Mr Ron Christie, and the most recently elected Lord Mayor, Councillor Anna Reynolds. Anna remains ex-officio a member of GMC;
- Councillor and former Mayor Tony Bisdee, Southern Midlands Council, to be replaced by Mayor Ben Shaw from Derwent Valley;
- Mayor Christina Holmdahl. Christine has been re-elected, but given her election as President, a by-election will need to be held for a Representative from the northern municipalities with a population greater than 20,000;
- Mayor Jan Bonde from Central Coast Council, to be replaced by Mayor Annette Rockliff from Devonport City Council;
- Mayor Mick Tucker, Break O Day Council who has been re-elected, and
- Alderman Heather Chong from Clarence, to be replaced by Alderman Brendan Blomeley, also from Clarence.

I especially want to thank Vice-President Daryl Quilliam for his outstanding support, and for the times he has acted as President in my occasional absence.

So thank you to all, and congratulations to those recently elected for the first time and re-elected. I wish the new President and members of the General Management Committee all the best and thank them in advance for their commitment to LGAT and hence all Tasmanian councils.

The first half of 2018-19 was dominated by preparation for the 2018 Local Government Elections. Following statewide candidate information sessions held in June and a TV campaign encouraging new candidates, LGAT developed a suite of web-based resources for new councillors including videos and presentations on key elements of the role. LGAT also conducted a media campaign encouraging people to vote in Local Government Elections encompassing traditional and social media.

It was fantastic to see such strong community engagement in the 2018 Local Government elections. A record 481 candidates stood for election, 34% of those women and the voter response rate was the highest since 1996. This significant turnover of elected members ushered in an exciting period of renewal for many councils.

The commencement of the State Government's "roots and branches" Review of the Local Government Act 1993 began a process of building a modern legislative framework for councils to work within. Local Government holds a strong advocacy stance in the Governance structure with the LGAT CEO, former Tasman Mayor Roseanne Heyward and former Meander Valley General Manager Greg Preece on the Steering Committee.

The Project Reference Group also saw strong Local Government representation and as a member of that Group I can be reassured by the effective process undertaken to engage diverse stakeholders in identifying possible ways forward.

We now await the release of a draft Directions Paper and further consultation and I am sure the Minister will talk more on that.

In early 2019 LGAT released our State Budget Priority Statement. Our statement stressed the critical role councils play as place shapers and as essential partners to creating liveable places. It also reiterated that as the level of government closest to communities, Local Government is best placed to work collaboratively with the State in implementing its policy agenda and ultimately improving community outcomes. However, to do this, Local Government requires appropriate funding.

The message was replicated at the national level, where LGAT supported the recent national campaign of the Australian Local Government Association in the lead up to the 2019 Federal Election.

As the State Budget was handed down, LGAT welcomed the allocation for additional resources for the Government's planning agenda. The creation of a State Planning Policy Unit will enable the critical missing pieces of our planning system to finally be put in place, following years of work by councils in progressing the planning reform agenda.

It was disappointing to see no new funding for waste management and resource recovery announced as part of the State Budget, something our sector has been advocating strongly for a long time. However, as you know, in recent weeks we were able to applaud the announcement of a Container Refund Scheme and the commitment to progressing the long-awaited State Waste Action Plan by the end of June. LGAT continue to lobby the State on the myriad of waste issues facing Tasmania, where Local Government has already been leading the way.

The delivery of strong advocacy for our sector is multi-faceted. Under the capable leadership of the CEO Katrena Stephenson and LGAT's Policy Director, Dion Lester, the policy team have prosecuted solid agendas around issues including, housing affordability, heavy vehicles, electricity pricing, emergency management and much more, as well as planning and waste management.

Other highlights this year include:

- Completing the feasibility study into statewide waste management arrangements.
- Completing the statewide community satisfaction survey.

- Successful advocacy to the Australian Energy Regulator on public lighting pricing which has resulted in estimated savings of over \$7million for the sector.
- Agreement on collaboration between LGAT, UTAS, the Department of Health and the EPA to address training, attraction and retention of Environmental Health Officers in Tasmanian councils.
- Providing a range of resources for councils under the Health and Wellbeing Project, including model health and wellbeing plans, and videos about playground and PlaySpace builds.
- We have also started a series of conversations about the future of the sector under the banner of 21st Century Councils. Hopefully many of you will engage further as we continue that project.

The range of procurement opportunities for Councils has grown considerably under LGAT's subscription to the National Procurement Network. Councils have spent over \$11 million on contracts or panels over 12 months and we estimate savings to the sector of \$1.11 million during 2018-19. When electricity savings from the whole of sector approach to street lighting contracts are also considered, the sectoral savings are about \$2m, compared to our subscriptions of \$1.245M. In a nutshell, our members can make a profit out of their LGAT membership.

In 2018/2019 LGAT again delivered a strong program of events, training and professional development. To support newly elected Members, LGAT has delivered training and professional development including Local Government 101, and Planning Authority and Audit Panel Training. We also implemented for the first time, the Peer Advisor Program for newly elected councillors which was well received.

Opportunities for all members and staff included our Annual Conference, Elected Member Weekend, Mayors' Professional Development and regional breakfasts. In addition, a number of specialized sessions were delivered including Engaging Champions, Local Government Procurement Training, Results Based Accountability and Performance Measurement.

Earlier in the year I was proud to be part of the inaugural Joint Sector International Women's Day Luncheon and Awards for Excellence. LGAT joined with the Tasmanian Council of Social Service and the State Government to sponsor excellence in leadership for women across all three sectors. The keynote address was delivered by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC with over 300 guests attending.

Very soon, the new President and GMC will be reviewing LGAT's focus for the next twelve months, but some priorities are already emerging. These include -

- Advocacy to ensure equitable rating outcomes particularly as relate to charitable exemptions;
- The next stage of the review of Local Government legislative framework;
- Further strategic statewide leadership on waste;
- Expanding engagement with councillors and communities as part of the 21st Century;
- Further support and advocacy on planning reforms including on the Tasmanian Planning Policies and review of residential provisions; and

- Development of a digital transformation roadmap for Tasmanian councils

I think you would agree, there is plenty to keep the LGAT team busy.

I would like to conclude with some thankyou's.

Firstly, I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work and strong outcomes delivered by every single staff member at LGAT. For a small team of only 12 staff and only 9.6 Full Time Equivalents, I think LGAT consistently delivers high quality advocacy and services for Members. I would like to thank all LGAT staff for their support over my term as President and for their commitment shown on a daily basis to supporting our sector.

I have been extremely honored to have served the sector as President for the past almost four, at times challenging, years. I am proud of our achievements under my watch, most notably the successful negotiation of a win-win outcome on TasWater and for the sector getting onto the front foot in regard to waste management and Local Government reform. I thank the General Management Committee and LGAT Staff for their unwavering support and assistance through my two terms.

While stepping down from my role with LGAT, I am still committed to Local Government as Mayor of the City of Clarence and as Chief Owner Representative for Taswater. I have also recently been appointed Deputy Chair of RDA (Tas) and look forward to strengthening the links between all three levels of Government.

So, finally, to you as members and stakeholders, thank you for your passion and commitment to the cause of Local Government in Tasmania. Local Government is always exciting, always challenging, never boring. Together we can and do make a huge contribution towards improving the health and well-being of all Tasmanians.

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2018 *

<p>Clarence City Council/Devonport City Council</p> <p>That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 be received and adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, an abridged version of which are included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

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

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2018 to 23 May 2019 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 five weeks remained to the end of the financial year with year-end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be an unanticipated surplus (approximately \$190,000) with items below being of note –

- TV advertising funds have not been fully expended and will be carried forward. This has resulted in no call being made on Members for the 2019-20 financial year.
- Additional workshops and training events held during the year, along with new sponsorship arrangements for some of these sessions, saw an increase in overall event income. Additional sessions were largely targeted at newly Elected Member's post-election but, there were also other new offerings including Playground Forums, Audit Panels and an inaugural International Women's Day Luncheon held in conjunction with TasCoss and DPAC.
- There were several staff changes during the year with vacancies during the recruitment periods. This meant a full year was not worked in all positions, resulting in a reduction in overall wages and superannuation expenditure.
- New, one off funding was received in relation to assistance and support for the National Skills Plan Project.
- General under expenditure in areas such as consultants' fees and staff training also contributed to the surplus.

4 2019/2020 LGAT BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS *
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Clarence City Council/Central Coast Council
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That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.
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Carried

Budget

- Some significant expenditure items from 2017-18 and 2018-19 are not carried forward in this budget (for example, the community satisfaction survey, advertising and the peer advisor program) and this means, despite appropriate indexation of wages and superannuation (see later dot point) it is anticipated that overall expenditure, excluding advertising funding, will not increase significantly and that overall subscriptions will remain the same (refer below). A new expense item has been introduced to account for the work on Charitable Rating or similar projects. This has been labelled Special Projects – Charitable Rates.
- There will be no call on Members for advertising funds this year. TV advertising has always been accounted for separately to general subscriptions so that no call would be made unless there was a significant program intent.
- Staff outputs and productivity continue to be high and therefore in line with most council EBAs a 2.5% pay increase has been budgeted for across all second year plus staff. Staff in their first year receive a post probation period increment as per their contracts. It should be noted that our two newest recruits are both on two-year contracts (aligned with DHHS funding for ½ a position) and we will revisit the staff requirements at the end of their employment period.
- It should also be noted that we are at a turning point in relation to procurement activities and so we have factored in additional staff time of 7.5 hours a fortnight to allow for closer work with vendors, as well as councils, to allow continued participation in the NPN and the increasing range of contracts/tenders being progressed. One year will be sufficient time to test whether this additional investment reaps benefits for councils.
- LGAT has traditionally paid superannuation above statutory requirements as a mechanism for recruitment and in recognition that we are unable to be highly competitive on salaries. Over time, as the base superannuation percentage has increased, the differential has decreased. This budget provides for a 0.5% increase in superannuation payments in order to maintain competitive advantage, noting the intent to match the increases in the superannuation guarantee over time.
- 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 further small but steady increase in income is predicted in relation to our events and commissions.

- Based on 2018-19 financials a small decline in conference registration income but increase in sponsorship and trade income has been contemplated.

The following minor adjustments have also been made:

- A reduction in expense item - Consultants Fees, as some of this expenditure item allows for LGAT to deal with emerging issues, like charitable rates, which has been budgeted for separately.
- An increase in expense item - Public Liability Insurance in line with anticipated market impacts.
- An increase in expense item – Software, which now captures software subscriptions and a corresponding decrease in expense item - Subscriptions. The nature of software purchase models has changed and this will allow us to more accurately reflect such costs.
- An increase in expense item - President Travel, recognising that with an incoming President there will likely be increased intrastate travel costs in the first year, related to council visits.
- With the appointment of a new Launceston based EO for LG Professionals, LG Professionals have given notice they will no longer require rental of the LGAT office.
- Interest rates remain low and projected interest earnings reflect that this is unlikely to change in this financial year.
- We will be undertaking a limited refurbishment of LGAT toilets and bathrooms but as this is an asset renewal it does not go through the budget but is instead funded through our building reserves. There is no significant maintenance anticipated this year.
- The budget anticipates a net result of \$1,616.

Subscriptions

This is the second year of applying our new subscription formula agreed at the 2017 AGM. That formula comprises 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.

Six councils have moved categories, as a consequence of either population or revenue changes. Derwent Valley, George Town, Glenorchy City and Tasman have all moved up a Category, Sorell has moved up two Categories and West Coast has moved down a Category. The consequence of category movement as well as initial significant use of caps and collars in the first year of transition, means that despite an overall subscription decrease, seven councils will see small increases in subscriptions (ranging from \$181 to \$1984).

As outlined above, there is no change to the overall subscriptions compared to last year and no call on members for advertising, representing a reduction of 4.29% in the call on Members.

A copy of the Budget and Subscriptions for the 2019/20 Financial Year are at **Attachment to Item 4**.

Incoming Presiding, Mayor Christina Holmdahl and Vice President, Mayor Daryl Quilliam left the room prior to discussion of Item 5.

5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS

Huon Valley Council/Waratah Wynyard Council
--

<p>That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.</p>
--

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.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for 2018/19 were:

- President allowance \$48,393 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$12,098 per annum.

GMC sitting fees will also be adjusted by the wages price index.

6 CHANGE TO THE RULES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

<p>Central Coast Council/Southern Midlands Council</p> <p>That the Meeting agree to change the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>

Background

At the March 2019 General Meeting, Members agreed in principle to the rule change and its application at the July AGM/General Meeting ahead of a formal vote on the change.

At the December 2018 GMC meeting there was discussion around how to enable free participation at the LGAT AGM while still charging, as appropriate for participation at the adjacent General Meeting which comes at some considerable cost to LGAT (room hire, AV, catering). The cost of General Meetings has always been borne by Members on an attendance basis.

One of the difficulties of having the AGM at a set time is that in an election year, the AGM is held after the General Meeting as under the LGAT Rules the incoming President takes up the role at the conclusion of the AGM. It would be unfair to expect a new President to chair the biggest meeting of the year as their first duty.

Section 27 of the LGAT Rules (as adopted July 2018) is as follows:

- 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.*

Note that 27(d) relates to an election where the President has vacated office for whatever reason.

The rule could be amended as follows:

- a. *Subject to Rule 27(d), The President shall take up office at the conclusion of the combined Annual General Meeting and General Meeting which immediately precede the LGAT Conference and*

Changing the rules to allow for chairing both meetings means that the AGM could be held first at a clearly advertised time with attendance at no cost (and no significant impact on costs/catering). Subsequently, those who have not registered and paid for the July General Meeting could be asked to leave at the conclusion of the AGM. It makes the AGM more accessible but not at a cost borne by delegates attending the General Meeting/Conference.

While technically the rule could not be changed until this AGM, by securing agreement in principle in March, LGAT minimised any risk of foreshadowing the change in the conference registration forms.

Budget Impact

Minimal impact.

Current Policy

Currently attendance at the AGM is captured as part of the paid registration for the General Meeting.

7 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN *

Tasman Council/Central Highlands Council

That Members note the report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

Carried

Background

At **Attachment to Item 7** is a report against the LGAT Annual Plan for consideration.

Budget Implications.

Within current budget.

8 STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020 *

<p>Central Coast Council/Clarence City Council</p> <p>That Members note the proposed 2019-20 priorities for the LGAT Strategic Plan and that they are invited to provide feedback to LGAT staff or Members of the General Management Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
--

Background Comment:

In early 2017 LGAT developed a new strategic plan for the 2017 – 2020 period. 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.

The short list of critical priorities for the 2019 – 20 period require updating in light of the completion of a number of them as well as a changing context. The following draft priorities will be subject to a strategic planning workshop with the newly elected GMC early in the 2019/20 financial year. Once the priorities are signed off by the GMC the Annual Work Plan for the 2019–20 period will be developed.

Attachment to Item 8 contains a draft updated Strategic Plan. Four new priorities areas are proposed by LGAT staff for 2019-20 and are listed below (the numbers represent how they are listed in the Strategic Plan):

4. Deliver the 21st Century Councils Project.
5. Work with councils and stakeholders to address identified workforce capacity gaps.
6. Deliver the Community Health and Wellbeing Project.
8. Deliver equitable rating outcomes through securing legislative amendments

Items 4, 6 and 8 represent LGAT led projects currently underway that are expected to require significant resources over the next 12 – 18 months and all are discussed in other items in the General Meeting Agenda.

Item 5, Work with councils and stakeholders to address identified workforce capacity gaps, recognises the findings of the National and Tasmanian skills workforce reports (see the General Meeting Agenda item on these), the work LGAT is undertaking with others on Environmental Health Officers workforce issues and the support LGAT is providing the Economic Development Officers interest group.

These new priorities replace the following completed priorities from the 2018 – 19 year:

4. Further build sector resources and support, particularly for new Elected members (this work will continue, but is captured by priority 9 below);
5. Position the Tasmanian Local Government agenda in the federal election;
6. Further develop the financial and asset management in councils (this work will continue, but is captured by priority 9 below); and
8. Deliver a refreshed statewide community satisfaction survey.

The following priorities remain unaltered or have been slightly amended in the draft plan to reflect changes in the operating context or have been broadened (e.g. priority 9 below) to capture previous priorities:

1. Lead the waste management reform agenda;
2. Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government legislation reform;
3. Support councils in implementing the planning reform agenda;
7. Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader Community;
9. Deliver a range of high-quality training and events; and
10. Continue to expand the Procurement Program.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

9 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *

<p>Circular Head Council/Kentish Council</p> <p>(a) That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That Members acknowledge the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
--

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2018/2019 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 Rob Churchill , Glamorgan Spring Bay
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Nikki Den Exter, Kingborough Council
- **Family Violence Consultative Committee**
Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Northern Midlands Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mrs Jill Taylor
- **Local Government Board**
Mr Hadley Sides, former Chair (Acting)
- **State Fire Commission**
Chris Hughes, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Ms Melanie Kelly, Kingborough Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Greg Preece 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 Tanya Denison, City of Hobart, Clr Dick Adams, Northern Midlands Council; Jackie Merchant, Central Coast Council; Ald Simon Fraser, Glenorchy City Council
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Mr Michael Stretton, Launceston City Council
- **Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Committee**
Mayor Annette Rockliff, Devonport City Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 9.**

10 CLOSURE

There being no further business, President Mayor Doug Chipman declared the meeting closed at 11.29am.

Item 1

Total Responses: 52

1 Confirmation of Minutes

Circular Head Council/West Coast Council

That the Minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting, held 25 July 2019 be confirmed.

1. For 13
 2. Against 0
 3. Abstain 0



1 Confirmation of Minutes

Circular Head Council/West Coast Council

That the Minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting, held 25 July 2019 be confirmed.

1. For 21
 2. Against 0
 3. Abstain 0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	[No Response]	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	Against	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 2

Total Responses: 50

2 President's Report
 President Mayor Doug Clement/ Break O'Day Council
 That the President's report be received.

1. For 50
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



2 President's Report
 President Mayor Doug Clement/ Break O'Day Council
 That the President's report be received.

1. For 50
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	[No Response]	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	[No Response]	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 3

Total Responses: 51

3 Financial Statements to 20 June 2018
 Clarence City Council/Devonport City Council
 That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 be received and adopted.

1. For
2. Against
3. Abstain



3 Financial Statements to 20 June 2018
 Clarence City Council/Devonport City Council
 That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 be received and adopted.

1. For
2. Against
3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	[No Response]	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 4

Total Responses: 52

4 2019/2020 LGAT Budget & Subscriptions

Clarence City Council/Central Coast Council

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

1 For  43
 2 Against  9
 3 Abstain 



4 2019/2020 LGAT Budget & Subscriptions

Clarence City Council/Central Coast Council

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

1 For  43
 2 Against  9
 3 Abstain 



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	Against	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	[No Response]	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	Against	1
Flinders Council 11	Against	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 5

Total Responses: 47

5 Presidents & Vice President Honorariums

Huon Valley Council/Westah Wynyard Council

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

1. For
2. Against
3. Abstain



5 Presidents & Vice President Honorariums

Huon Valley Council/Westah Wynyard Council

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

1. For
2. Against
3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	[No Response]	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	[No Response]	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 6

Total Responses: 49

6 Change to the Rules of the Local Government Association Tasmania

CENT COAST SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Central Coast Council/ Southern Midlands Council

That the Meeting agree to change the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins.

1. For 47
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



6 Change to the Rules of the Local Government Association Tasmania

CENT COAST SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Central Coast Council/ Southern Midlands Council

That the Meeting agree to change the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins.

1. For 49
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	[No Response]	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	Abstain	3

Item 7

Total Responses: 48

7 LGAT Annual Plan
 Tasman Council/Central Highlands Council
 That Members vote the report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

1. For 48
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



7 LGAT Annual Plan
 Tasman Council/Central Highlands Council
 That Members vote the report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

1. For 48
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	[No Response]	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	(No Request)	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 8

Total Responses: 54

8 Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Central Coast Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the proposed 2019-20 priorities for the LGAT Strategic Plan and that they are invited to provide feedback to LGAT staff or Members of the General Management Committee.

1. For 54
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



8 Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Central Coast Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the proposed 2019-20 priorities for the LGAT Strategic Plan and that they are invited to provide feedback to LGAT staff or Members of the General Management Committee.

1. For 54
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 9

Total Responses: 53

9 Reports from Board Representatives

Circular Head Council/Kentish Council

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

- 1. For
- 2. Against
- 3. Abstain



9 Reports from Board Representatives

Circular Head Council/Kentish Council

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

- 1. For
- 2. Against
- 3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	[No Response]	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	For	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2019

	Note	Assist 2019 \$	General 2019 \$	Assist 2018 \$	General 2018 \$
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	810,871	1,015,711	775,593	747,733
Trade and other receivables	4	-	55,348	-	17,043
Financial assets	5	231,430	1,540,000	271,210	1,690,028
Other assets	6	5,195	107,046	4,908	102,399
Total current assets		1,047,496	2,718,105	1,051,711	2,557,203
Non-current assets					
Financial assets	5	21,091	500,000	26,867	500,000
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	968,627	-	902,775
Intangible assets	8	-	7,132	-	5,696
Total non-current assets		21,091	1,475,759	26,867	1,408,471
Total assets		1,068,587	4,193,864	1,078,578	3,965,674
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	9	7,872	348,521	6,328	275,843
Unexpended grant income	10	-	467,298	-	548,804
Provisions	11	-	193,786	-	157,012
Total current liabilities		7,872	1,009,605	6,328	981,659
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	11	-	43,339	-	24,911
Total non-current liabilities		-	43,339	-	24,911
Total liabilities		7,872	1,052,944	6,328	1,006,570
Net Assets		1,060,715	3,140,920	1,072,250	2,959,104
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		1,060,715	3,090,920	1,072,250	2,959,104
Asset revaluation reserve		-	50,000	-	-
Total Equity		1,060,715	3,140,920	1,072,250	2,959,104

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

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	General 2019 \$	General Restated 2018 \$
Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Government grants	120,142	75,695
Fees and commissions	146,661	126,458
Interest - general account	67,649	64,068
Interest - building proceeds	2,197	2,107
Interest - Government Grants	2,699	3,053
Surplus/(Deficit) on sale of plant and equipment	(510)	(115)
Sponsorship, Professional development	386,669	268,854
Subscriptions	1,245,937	1,205,940
Other subscriptions	55,000	65,004
Rentals	4,275	4,457
Community Satisfaction Survey	28,350	-
Waste Strategy	65,774	-
Other	7,333	-
	<u>2,132,176</u>	<u>1,815,521</u>
Expenditure		
Advertising	4,013	4,752
Accommodation expenses	2,487	656
Accounts administration	12,310	11,935
ALGA	123,443	120,260
Amortisation - computer software	2,549	3,523
Annual conference	147,471	146,053
Auditors' remuneration	14,820	14,250
Catering	1,954	4,534
Cleaning	12,001	9,108
Consultancy fees	52,952	26,329
Council careers and skills shortage	33,816	26,476
Community Satisfaction Survey	28,350	-
Cost Recovery - grant administration	(47,345)	(45,939)
Depreciation - buildings	8,125	12,228
Depreciation - computers	11,145	10,361
Depreciation - motor vehicles	19,402	12,387
Depreciation - furniture and equipment	1,730	2,035
Division 43 Deduction	46	1,526
Fringe benefits tax	12,480	12,786
Land & buildings running costs	3,717	1,984
Insurance	40,230	38,767
Members emoluments	66,677	63,719
Motor Vehicle - running expenses	8,375	7,383
Motor Vehicle - repairs and maintenance	1,748	3,859
Network and internet	8,663	14,519
Other expenses	13,530	11,527

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	General 2019 \$	General 2018 \$
Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure (cont'd)		
Postage	4,230	4,827
Power	8,818	9,435
Printing and publications	10,196	12,562
Professional Development Activities	77,338	25,447
Rates and taxes	12,933	12,626
Rentals	1,174	1,462
Salaries, wages and employee benefits (incl. Grant Staff)	971,406	859,813
Software	625	860
Sponsorship	-	2,241
Stationery	1,176	886
Subscriptions - general account	11,667	11,064
Superannuation contribution (incl. Grant Staff)	113,565	107,539
Telephone	16,698	17,744
Travelling Expenses	31,959	27,594
Waste strategy	52,367	-
Government grants expenditure (excluding wages and superannuation):		
HW	13,007	13,214
EDRes	-	39,348
DPAC - Good Governance	4,000	-
SES - Disaster Resilience	3,400	-
LG Reform	45,500	-
Liveable Communities	9,587	-
IT Strategies	26,025	38,235
Total expenses	2,000,360	1,699,915
Operating surplus/(deficit) - general account	131,816	115,606

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.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Assist 2019	Assist 2018
Note 17 Detailed statement of LGAT Assist account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Interest on Loans	26,780	28,307
Other Interest Revenue	17,668	16,627
Sponsorship	4,545	-
	48,993	44,934
Expenditure		
LGAT Assist Accounts Administration	38,563	38,232
Auditors Remuneration	4,940	3,500
Bad Debts Written Off/(Recovered)	3,449	4,755
Donations and Research Projects	10,000	11,250
Grants to Members – Welfare	3,500	7,000
Other Expenses – Welfare	76	113
Total Expenses	60,528	64,850
Operating surplus/(deficit) – LGAT Assist	(11,535)	(19,916)

Note 18 Commitments

At 30 June 2019 the Association had no outstanding commitments.

Note 19 Fair Value Measurements

The Association measures and recognises the following assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis after initial recognition:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- Freehold land and buildings.

Fair value hierarchy

AASB13: *Fair Value Measurement* requires the disclosure of fair value information by level of the fair value hierarchy, which categorises fair value measurements into one of three possible levels based on the lowest level that an input that is significant to measure can be categorised into as follows:

Level 1	Measured based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2	Measurements based on inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3	Measurements based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The following table provides the fair value of the Association's assets and liabilities measured and recognised on a recurring basis after initial recognition and their categorisation within the fair value hierarchy:

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Fair Value Measurements (cont'd)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
30/06/2019				
Financial assets:				
Other financial assets	2,040,000	267,571	-	2,307,571
Total financial assets recognised as fair value	<u>2,040,000</u>	<u>267,571</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,307,571</u>
Non-financial assets:				
Freehold land	-	550,000	-	550,000
Freehold buildings	-	325,000	-	325,000
Total non-financial assets recognised at fair value	<u>-</u>	<u>875,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>875,000</u>
30/06/2018				
Financial assets:				
Other financial assets	2,190,028	313,127	-	2,503,155
Total financial assets recognised as fair value	<u>2,190,028</u>	<u>313,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,503,155</u>
Non-financial assets:				
Freehold land and buildings	-	825,000	-	825,000
Total non-financial assets recognised at fair value	<u>-</u>	<u>825,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>825,000</u>

Amounts disclosed do not include any amortisation, depreciation or impairment and are measured at gross fair value.

Note 20 Related Party Transactions

Key management personnel compensation

The totals of remuneration paid to two key management personnel (KMP) of the Association during the year are as follows:

	2019	2018
Short-term employment benefits	331,444	325,682
Post-employment benefits	38,489	37,628
Other long-term benefits	16,653	(5,637)
	<u>386,586</u>	<u>357,673</u>

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Association, directly or indirectly, excluding any committee member (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity, is considered key management personnel.

Committee members compensation

The totals of remuneration paid to committee members of the Association during the year are as follows:

	2019	2018
Short-term employment benefits	61,592	63,719
	<u>61,592</u>	<u>63,719</u>

Any committee member (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity, is considered a committee member.

Transactions with Related Parties	2019	2018
<i>Purchase of goods and services</i>		
Slick Promotions controlled by Lord Mayor Sue Hickey, a committee member provided advertising material during the year	-	473
	<u>-</u>	<u>473</u>

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Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2019 To June 2020

		Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference	% Difference
4-0000	Income				
4-0500	Annual Conf & Gen Sponsorship	\$141,154.58	\$145,000.00	-\$3,845.42	(2.7)%
4-0501	Annual Conference - Rego's	\$116,120.51	\$115,000.00	\$1,120.51	1.0%
4-1000	Professional DMENT Activities	\$54,705.47	\$64,000.00	-\$9,294.53	(14.5)%
4-1500	Cost Recoveries	-\$488.12	\$0.00	-\$488.12	NA
4-1505	Deposits Paid	-\$2,369.99	\$0.00	-\$2,369.99	NA
4-2000	Fees & Commissions	\$138,414.53	\$124,000.00	\$14,414.53	11.6%
4-3000	Interest	\$36,557.24	\$66,000.00	-\$29,442.76	(44.6)%
4-3100	Interest - building proceeds	\$1,159.48	\$2,500.00	-\$1,340.52	(53.6)%
4-5000	Profit Sale on Plant/Equip.	-\$1,308.40	\$0.00	-\$1,308.40	NA
4-5600	Waste Strategy	\$19,392.00	\$0.00	\$19,392.00	NA
4-6000	Subscriptions	\$1,245,793.58	\$1,245,937.00	-\$143.42	0.0%
4-6115	Subs Comm Satisfaction Survey	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%
	Total Income	\$1,761,130.88	\$1,774,437.00	-\$13,306.12	(0.7)%
	Gross Profit	\$1,761,130.88	\$1,774,437.00	-\$13,306.12	(0.7)%
6-0000	Expenses				
6-1050	Accomm exp - GMC	\$1,639.52	\$3,000.00	-\$1,360.48	(45.3)%
6-1100	Accounts Administration	\$10,282.50	\$15,500.00	-\$5,217.50	(33.7)%
6-1200	Advertising	\$5,835.84	\$7,000.00	-\$1,164.16	(16.6)%
6-1250	ALGA - Meeting expenses	\$13,816.74	\$22,000.00	-\$8,183.26	(37.2)%
6-1300	ALGA Subscription	\$97,329.00	\$97,421.00	-\$92.00	(0.1)%
6-1350	Annual Conference	\$146,004.94	\$175,000.00	-\$28,995.06	(16.6)%
6-1400	Auditors Remuneration	\$0.00	\$15,500.00	-\$15,500.00	(100.0)%
6-1450	Bank Fees & Gov. Charges	\$867.30	\$3,000.00	-\$2,132.70	(71.1)%
6-1500	Catering / Entertainment	\$1,372.78	\$4,000.00	-\$2,627.22	(65.7)%
6-1600	Cleaning and Supplies	\$9,354.21	\$11,000.00	-\$1,645.79	(15.0)%
6-1650	Professional Dev Activities	\$41,266.34	\$30,000.00	\$11,266.34	37.6%
6-1700	Consultants Fees	\$15,096.33	\$10,000.00	\$5,096.33	51.0%
6-1701	Consultants - Special Projects	\$26,241.68	\$40,000.00	-\$13,758.32	(34.4)%
6-1705	Consult Fees - HR/IR	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00	-\$500.00	(8.3)%
6-1710	Council Advert/Better Councils	\$7,193.15	\$0.00	\$7,193.15	NA
6-1850	Elections - GMC Bi-annual	\$176.75	\$0.00	\$176.75	NA
6-1900	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$9,402.00	\$13,000.00	-\$3,598.00	(27.7)%
6-2000	Depreciation Expense				
6-210	Depreciation - Buildings	\$6,105.00	\$0.00	\$6,105.00	NA
6-220	Depreciation - Computers	\$7,885.00	\$10,000.00	-\$2,115.00	(21.2)%
6-230	Depreciation - Furn & Fittings	\$1,068.00	\$1,500.00	-\$432.00	(28.8)%
6-240	Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	\$11,970.00	\$16,000.00	-\$4,030.00	(25.2)%
6-250	Amortisation Computer S/Ware	\$2,331.00	\$2,000.00	\$331.00	16.6%
6-260	Division 43 Deduction	\$207.00	\$200.00	\$7.00	3.5%
6-3100	Insurance				
6-315	Crime Insurance	\$2,065.83	\$1,400.00	\$665.83	47.6%
6-316	General Insurance - LGAT	\$17,237.96	\$14,000.00	\$3,237.96	23.1%
6-317	Public Liab & Prof Indem	\$20,470.00	\$19,000.00	\$1,470.00	7.7%
6-318	Workers Compensation	\$8,334.95	\$9,000.00	-\$665.05	(7.4)%
6-3200	Land & Buildings Running Costs	\$1,260.56	\$5,000.00	-\$3,739.44	(74.8)%
6-3400	Members Emoluments	\$63,277.82	\$65,600.00	-\$2,322.18	(3.5)%
6-3410	President travel expenses	\$5,685.00	\$9,000.00	-\$3,315.00	(36.8)%
6-3500	Network & Internet	\$7,939.93	\$10,000.00	-\$2,060.07	(20.6)%
6-3580	Office Requisites	\$1,518.49	\$1,750.00	-\$231.51	(13.2)%

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Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2019 To June 2020

		Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference	% Difference
6-3600	Other & Miscellaneous	\$1,125.90	\$800.00	\$325.90	40.7%
6-3800	Other Employment Entitlements	\$14,655.00	\$15,000.00	-\$345.00	(2.3)%
6-3900	Postage	\$3,108.58	\$4,000.00	-\$891.42	(22.3)%
6-4000	Power	\$7,748.91	\$12,800.00	-\$5,051.09	(39.5)%
6-4100	Printing & Publications	\$5,171.35	\$8,000.00	-\$2,828.65	(35.4)%
6-4300	Rates & Land Tax	\$13,442.52	\$12,800.00	\$642.52	5.0%
6-4310	Rentals	\$1,674.16	\$1,550.00	\$124.16	8.0%
6-4350	Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,889.17	\$4,000.00	-\$2,110.83	(52.8)%
6-4400	Salaries & Wages	\$896,041.30	\$946,000.00	-\$49,958.70	(5.3)%
6-4500	Software	\$8,073.17	\$8,000.00	\$73.17	0.9%
6-4600	Stationery	\$1,599.12	\$1,500.00	\$99.12	6.6%
6-4700	Subscriptions - Membership etc	\$6,527.79	\$12,000.00	-\$5,472.21	(45.6)%
6-4800	Superannuation	\$116,206.09	\$123,000.00	-\$6,793.91	(5.5)%
6-4900	Sponsorship/Research/Donations	\$3,550.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,050.00	42.0%
6-5100	Telephone	\$6,482.24	\$10,000.00	-\$3,517.76	(35.2)%
6-5190	Travelling Expenses				
6-520	Travel - Interstate	\$14,498.78	\$14,000.00	\$498.78	3.6%
6-520	Travel - Intrastate	\$5,034.59	\$6,000.00	-\$965.41	(16.1)%
6-5250	Staff Training	\$7,624.18	\$10,000.00	-\$2,375.82	(23.8)%
6-5600	Waste Strategy	\$30,004.27	\$0.00	\$30,004.27	NA
6-7000	Motor Vehicle Expense				
6-735	Hyundai Tucson H 03 QS				
6-7	Repairs and Maint H 03 QS	\$555.28	\$800.00	-\$244.72	(30.6)%
6-7	Running Costs H 03 QS	\$1,822.07	\$2,500.00	-\$677.93	(27.1)%
6-738	Hyundai Tucson - E 35 TW exCEO				
6-7	R & M Hyundai E 35 TW	\$0.00	\$400.00	-\$400.00	(100.0)%
6-7	Run Costs Hyundai E 35 TW	\$1,353.37	\$1,500.00	-\$146.63	(9.8)%
6-740	VW Wagon H 92 HC				
6-7	R & M VW Wagon H 92 HC	\$0.00	\$800.00	-\$800.00	(100.0)%
6-7	Run Costs VW Wagon H 92 HC	\$3,745.02	\$4,000.00	-\$254.98	(6.4)%
6-7960	Grant Cost Recoveries				
6-796	Cost Recovs - Grant Admin	-\$11,695.00	-\$5,000.00	-\$6,695.00	(133.9)%
6-796	Motor Vehicle - Cost Recovery	-\$825.00	-\$400.00	-\$425.00	(106.3)%
6-796	Network etc. Cost Recoveries	\$0.00	-\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00	100.0%
6-796	Stationary - Cost Recovery	-\$285.00	-\$400.00	\$115.00	28.8%
6-796	Telephone - Cost Recovery	-\$450.00	-\$400.00	-\$50.00	(12.5)%
6-7970	LGAT ASSIST - Cost recoveries	-\$29,670.00	-\$36,000.00	\$6,330.00	17.6%
	Total Expenses	\$1,657,743.48	\$1,772,821.00	-\$115,077.52	(6.5)%
	Operating Profit	\$103,387.40	\$1,616.00	\$101,771.40	6,297.7%
8-0000	Government Grants Income				
8-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution	\$11,615.98	\$0.00	\$11,615.98	NA
8-1025	DPAC - STEWE	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	NA
8-1500	Coastal Adaption	\$13,946.79	\$0.00	\$13,946.79	NA
8-1600	SES - Disaster Resilience	\$21,600.00	\$0.00	\$21,600.00	NA
8-2150	LG Reform Fund	\$173,274.38	\$0.00	\$173,274.38	NA
8-3000	Healthy Communities	\$16,278.96	\$0.00	\$16,278.96	NA
8-3150	DHHS 1 - Health & Wellbeing				
8-315	DHHS 1 - Grant Funding	\$221,757.82	\$0.00	\$221,757.82	NA
8-316	DHHS 1 - Interest	\$721.26	\$0.00	\$721.26	NA
8-316	DHHS 1 - Healthy Comm Residual	\$16,278.96	\$0.00	\$16,278.96	NA

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Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2019 To June 2020

		Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference	% Difference
8-4000	RFDS - Obesity & Moving	\$13,636.36	\$0.00	\$13,636.36	NA
	Total Government Grants Income	\$495,110.51	\$0.00	\$495,110.51	NA
9-0000	Government Grants Expenditure				
9-1025	DPAC - STEWE				
9-102	STEWE General Exp	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	NA
9-1500	Coastal Adaptation Pathways Pr				
9-1521	CAP Project Management	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	NA
	Total Coastal Adaptation Pathways Pr	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	NA
9-1600	SES -Disaster Resilience				
9-160	SES - General	\$20,400.00	\$0.00	\$20,400.00	NA
9-2150	LG Reform Fund				
9-215	LG Reform - Consultant	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	NA
	Total LG Reform Fund	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	NA
9-3000	Healthy Communities				
9-300	H/Comm - Admin	\$16,278.96	\$0.00	\$16,278.96	NA
9-3150	DHHS 1 - Health & Wellbeing				
9-315	DHHS 1 - Accounts/Audit	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	NA
9-315	DHHS 1 - Wages	\$44,816.09	\$0.00	\$44,816.09	NA
9-315	DHHS 1 - Superannuation	\$6,056.62	\$0.00	\$6,056.62	NA
9-315	DHHS 1 - Other	\$17,363.97	\$0.00	\$17,363.97	NA
9-6000	LG IT Strategies				
9-6011	Internet Access	\$24,654.45	\$0.00	\$24,654.45	NA
	Total Government Grants Expenditure	\$148,070.09	\$0.00	\$148,070.09	NA
	Net Profit/(Loss)	\$450,427.82	\$1,616.00	\$448,811.82	27,773.0%

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2019/20	2020/21	Comparison
Income			
Annual Conference Registrations	115,000	0	-115,000
Annual Conference Trade and General Sponsorship	145,000	10,000	-135,000
Professional Development Activities	64,000	20,000	-44,000
Fees and Commissions	124,000	50,000	-74,000
Fees & Commissions - Procurement	0	60,000	60,000
Interest (Excl. Interest on grants)	66,000	45,000	-21,000
Interest on Capital from Building	2,500	2,000	-500
Profit on Sale of Plant & Equip			0
Project Admin/Cost Recovery	10,000	10,000	0
Assist Revenue	36,000	36,000	0
Rentals	0		0
Subscriptions	1,245,937	1,245,937	0
Community Satisfaction Survey	12,000	12,000	0
Southern Councils Waste	0	75,000	75,000
TV Advertising		0	0
Total Income	1,820,437	1,565,937	-254,500

Expenditure			
GMC Meeting Expenses	3,000	3,000	0
Accounts Administration	15,500	15,500	0
Advertising	7,000	2,000	-5,000
ALGA Subscriptions	97,421	98,000	579
Auditors' Remuneration	15,500	16,500	1,000
Special Projects (Charitable Rates)	40,000	0	-40,000
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	3,000	2,000	-1,000
Catering, receptions, etc	4,000	2,000	-2,000
Cleaning and Supplies	11,000	11,000	0
Community Satisfaction Survey	0	0	0
Annual Conference	175,000	0	-175,000
Seminars - Other	30,000	30,000	0
HR/IR Service	6,000	6,000	0
Consultants' Fees	10,000	8,000	-2,000
Depreciation Building	200	4,500	4,300
Computers	10,000	9,000	-1,000
Furniture & Equip	1,500	1,000	-500
Motor Vehicles	16,000	16,000	0
Amortisation	2,000	2,000	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	2,500	0	-2,500
Fringe Benefits Tax	13,000	13,000	0
GMC Elections - Bi-annual	0	2,500	2,500
Insurance Crime Insurance	1,400	2,000	600
General	14,000	17,000	3,000
Public Liability and PI	19,000	22,800	3,800
Workers Compensation	9,000	9,000	0

Land & Building Running Costs	5,000	4,000	-1,000
Members Emoluments	65,600	65,600	0
Motor Vehicles - Running Costs	8,000	8,000	0
Repairs and Maintenance	2,000	2,000	0
Lease Hire			0
Network and Internet	10,000	10,000	0
Office Requisites	1,750	1,750	0
Other and Miscellaneous	800	600	-200
Other Employee Entitlements	15,000	15,000	0
Postage	4,000	3,500	-500
Power	12,800	13,000	200
Printing and Publications	8,000	4,000	-4,000
Procurement	0	18,000	18,000
Rates and Land Tax	12,800	13,500	700
Rentals	1,550	1,550	0
Repairs and maintenance	4,000	3,000	-1,000
Salaries (exc Grant Staff) 1.5%	946,000	977,100	31,100
Software	8,000	10,000	2,000
Stationery	1,500	1,500	0
Subscriptions - membership etc	12,000	11,000	-1,000
Superannuation	123,000	127,000	4,000
Telephone	10,000	7,000	-3,000
Training	10,000	10,000	0
Travelling expenses	22,000	20,000	-2,000
ALGA			
Intrastate	6,000	5,500	-500
Interstate	14,000	9,000	-5,000
President	9,000	6,000	-3,000
TTC Subscription (inc in General Subscriptions)			0
Total Expenditure	1,818,821	1,640,400	-178,421
Net Result	1,616	-74,463	-76,079

All figures are ex GST

LGAT ASSIST**ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2021**

	2019/20	2020/21	Comparison
Income			
Interest	14,000	10,000	-4,000
Interest on loans	27,000	25,000	-2,000
Assist Loan Application Fees	1,000	1,000	0
Tasplan Sponsorship	5,000	0	-5,000
Total Income	47,000	36,000	-11,000
Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses			0
Accounts Administration	40,000	40,000	0
Advertising			0
Auditors' Remuneration	5,000	5,500	500
Bad Debts	6,000	6,000	0
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	250	250	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	10,000	0	-10,000
Grants to members	10,500	10,500	0
Other and Miscellaneous	250	250	0
Printing and Publications			0
Welfare Write Offs	200	200	0
Special Projects			0
Total Expenditure	72,200	62,700	-9,500
Change in net assets from operations	-\$25,200	-\$26,700	-\$1,500

All figures are ex GST

LGAT 2020/2021 Subscriptions

Council	Previous year subs	Cap/Collar	2020/2021 Subs overall	Adjust	Final Subs Due	\$ Diff from Last FY	% Diff from Last FY
Break O'Day	35,239.46	As Calculated	35,842.53	128.76	35,713.77	474.31	1.71
Brighton	46,380.22	As Calculated	43,390.15	155.87	43,234.28	-3,145.94	-6.45
Burnie	51,224.03	As Calculated	52,069.92	187.05	51,882.87	658.83	1.65
Central Coast	51,224.03	As Calculated	52,069.92	187.05	51,882.87	658.83	1.65
Central Highlands	21,415.98	As Calculated	21,690.74	77.92	21,612.82	196.84	1.28
Circular Head	38,928.21	As Calculated	39,427.65	141.64	39,286.01	357.80	1.28
Clarence	70,226.67	As Calculated	71,316.35	256.19	71,060.16	833.49	1.55
Derwent Valley	37,102.47	As Calculated	35,465.15	127.40	35,337.75	-1,764.72	-4.41
Devonport	58,676.05	As Calculated	59,334.50	213.15	59,121.36	445.31	1.12
Dorset	33,314.82	As Calculated	33,766.93	121.30	33,645.63	330.81	1.36
Flinders Island	19,552.97	Cap	21,508.27	77.92	21,430.35	1,877.38	10.00
George Town	35,239.46	As Calculated	33,766.93	121.30	33,645.63	-1,593.83	-4.18
Glamorgan Spring Bay	35,811.17	Collar	32,230.05	100.97	32,129.08	-3,682.08	-10.00
Glenorchy	66,500.66	As Calculated	67,542.54	242.63	67,299.91	799.25	1.57
Hobart	67,245.86	As Calculated	68,297.30	245.34	68,051.96	806.10	1.56
Huon Valley	51,224.03	As Calculated	52,069.92	187.05	51,882.87	658.83	1.65
Kentish	33,339.20	As Calculated	33,766.93	121.30	33,645.63	306.43	1.28
King Island	21,415.98	As Calculated	21,690.74	77.92	21,612.82	196.84	1.28
Kingborough	62,774.66	As Calculated	63,674.39	228.74	63,445.65	670.99	1.43
Latrobe	37,055.14	Cap	40,760.65	147.74	40,612.92	3,557.78	10.00
Launceston	70,971.87	As Calculated	72,071.11	258.90	71,812.21	840.34	1.55
Meander Valley	46,380.22	As Calculated	46,975.27	168.75	46,806.52	426.30	1.28
Northern Midlands	40,791.21	As Calculated	41,125.86	147.74	40,978.13	186.92	0.82
Sorell	46,380.22	As Calculated	46,975.27	168.75	46,806.52	426.30	1.28
Southern Midlands	35,710.98	As Calculated	33,766.93	121.30	33,645.63	-2,065.35	-5.44
Tasman	25,148.30	Collar	22,633.47	77.92	22,555.55	-2,592.75	-10.00
Waratah Wynyard	40,791.21	As Calculated	41,125.86	147.74	40,978.13	186.92	0.82
West Coast	26,504.47	As Calculated	26,030.62	93.51	25,937.11	-567.35	-1.79
West Tamar	51,224.03	As Calculated	52,069.92	187.05	51,882.87	658.83	1.65
	1,257,793.59		1,262,455.88	4,518.88	1,257,937.00		



Not yet commenced



Unable to progress due to others



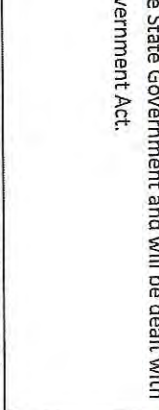
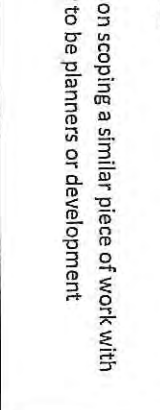
Ongoing



Completed

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
1.	<p>Lead the Waste Management Reform Agenda</p>	<p>State Government support of the State-wide waste arrangements. Final Waste Action Plan adopts sector suggestions.</p>		<p>LGAT has continued to advocate for adoption of the State-wide waste arrangements at a Department and Ministerial level. For example, LGAT recently presented the State-wide waste arrangements as a potential project for Commonwealth funding as part of the COAG waste export ban. This involved direct advocacy to the Commonwealth Department, Premier, DPAC and EPA. All project funding decisions by the Commonwealth were delayed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The State Government is still actively considering the State-wide waste arrangements as part of the finalisation of the Waste Action Plan (WAP).</p> <p>To support finalisation of the WAP and then its implementation, the State Government has formed an Interdepartmental Committee, of which LGAT's Policy Director has been invited to participate. This recently involved review of a discussion paper on a Container Refund Scheme (CRS) and feedback on the most appropriate governance model for Tasmania.</p>
	<p>Deliver the 21st Century Project</p>	<p>Determination of the best reform options for councils so they can service the needs of modern Tasmanian Communities</p>		<p>Sector consultation, via the 'round table conversations' has been completed. The key stakeholder interviews were delayed as a result of COVID-19, but are now scheduled to commence this month.</p>
2.	<p>Support councils in Implementing The Planning Reform Agenda</p>	<p>LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government.</p>		<p>With the majority of councils having completed the drafting of their Local Provision Schedules. While in recent weeks, the Government has been focused on Major Projects Legislation and "red tape reduction", work is almost close to complete on the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) scoping document. This will kick off the important next tranche of strategic reforms sought by the sector.</p>

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
3.	<p>Continue to Expand The Procurement Program</p>	<p>Growth in sectoral procurement savings</p>		<p>The past two quarters has been very successful for procurement, with a record number of Requests for Quotation being lodged by Tasmanian councils in the December quarter and a record spend by councils in the first quarter of 2020. Purchasing through these arrangements saves councils time and money, in both the purchasing, but also the procurement process itself. As in many instances councils were able to purchase goods and services using a simple process and legitimately avoid the \$15,000 - \$60,000 estimated costs associated with individual tenders.</p>
4.	<p>Support Councils' Health And Wellbeing Outcomes Through The Health & Wellbeing Project</p>	<p>Informed local strategic planning and actions for health and wellbeing.</p>		<p>The Community Health and Wellbeing Project is nearing the end of the initial 3-year funding agreement, although due to the prudent use of funding there is still significant resources available for on-going activities.</p> <p>The Department of Health (DOH) has indicated that an additional \$300,000 will be provided for the next 2 years – a strong endorsement of our work to date with this project.</p> <p>LGAT is currently working with DOH on finalising the project plan for the next funding agreement. Please refer to the General Meeting Agenda Item for further information.</p>
5.	<p>Support the Sector Through the Next Stages of Local Government Legislative Reform</p>	<p>LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government.</p>		<p>Please refer to the General Meeting Agenda item for an update.</p>

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
6.	<p>Deliver Equitable Rating Outcomes Through Securing Legislative Amendments</p>	<p>Secure sector supported changes to the Local Government Act for charitable rating.</p>		<p>This issue has been put on hold by the State Government and will be dealt with as part of the Review of the Local Government Act.</p>
7.	<p>Work With Councils and Stakeholders to Address Workforce Capacity Gaps</p>	<p>Improved understanding of workforce capacity issues.</p>		<p>LGAT's main activity is seeking to address workforce capacity challenges with Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). The University of Tasmania has been undertaking the stakeholder engagement and analysis, with a draft report provided in mid April.</p> <p>The Steering Committee, which consists of LGAT, the EPA, Department of Health, and Environmental Health Australia, Tasmania (EHOs peak body), are working with Utas to finalise the report.</p> <p>Once complete work will commence on scoping a similar piece of work with other workforce capacity gaps (likely to be planners or development engineers).</p>



REPORTS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

to be presented to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 22 July, 2020

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TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Stretton, City of Launceston

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019-20 12

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Commission's role includes:

- Assessing interim planning schemes
- Providing planning advice to the Minister for Planning and Local Government
- Assessing projects of regional and State significance
- Reporting on draft State Policies
- Assessing planning schemes
- Assessing planning directives
- Inquiring into the future use of public land, and
- Reviewing reports and representations on draft management plans.

The Commission's main responsibilities are set out in the following Acts:

- [Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993](#)
- [State Policies and Projects Act 1993](#)
- [National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002](#)
- [Water Management Act 1999](#)
- [Wellington Park Act 1993](#)
- [Public Land \(Administration and Forests\) Act 1991](#)

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Considered and determined many applications for Planning scheme amendments
- Continued process of receiving and assessing of draft Local Planning Scheme provisions
- Approved Macquarie Point Specific Area Plan
- Approved a new Commissioner Code of Conduct
- Approved a Policy for Commissioners and delegate submissions to an appearance before the Commission
- Made submissions in the ongoing Review of the Tasmanian Planning commission
- Completed COVID-19 Pandemic Business Continuity Planning
- Reviewed and made recommendations for State of the Environment reporting requirements

STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Mel Kelly

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019-20 4

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

Mission: To enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property and significant community values.

Strategies:

- Support and promote bushfire research and innovation
- Provide evidence based public policy advice and information
- Build community capacity and awareness to support bushfire resilient communities
- Build and support public and private sector partnerships and collaboration
- Enable strategic, effective and collaborative vegetation fire management planning in Tasmania
- Facilitate efficient and effective governance and resource management

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Red Hot Tips: State Government funding received and project roll-out is underway with recruitment for the Coordinator & Facilitators due for completion by end-July 2020 and the program to commence engagement with landholders from August 2020.
- Bushfire Protection Planning Project: Progressing well. Project aims to improve bushfire risk planning undertaken by Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs). Local councils are legislated members of all FMACs. An important role of the FMACs is to identify the priorities for bushfire risk mitigation in their areas, along with facilitating collaboration between member organisations to develop mitigation plans. The project will assist FMACs by providing a risk management framework, tools, education and support for bushfire risk planning. Mitigation activities include; fuel reduction burning, fuel breaks, fire trails, community education and response planning.
- Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements submission collated and provided from SFMC.
- Environmental Scan: The Council has recently completed an environmental scan of vegetation fire management research being undertaken in Australia. This information will guide a stakeholder research forum which will identify research priorities and gaps within Tasmania.
- Network Event: A networking event on bushfire risk was held in Launceston covering what is bushfire risk and how do we identify and manage bushfire risk, with over 70 people attending.

FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FSVCG)**REPRESENTATIVE:** Mayor Mary Knowles OAM**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019-20** 2 plus online consultations**OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

Since 2015 the FSVCG has consulted and supported the State Government to develop a Family Violence Action Plan, support the 'Our Watch', 'Let's Stop it at the Start' programs, White Ribbon and the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Launched Safe Homes, Families, Communities Tasmania's Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2019-2022
- Update on the National Action Plan to reduce Violence against Women and their children
- Addressing Family Violence additional \$2.7M to fund direct actions to address family violence in Tasmania
- 'Let's Stop it at the Start' program update
- New Family and Sexual Violence website considerations
- COVID-19 relevance – research show there is often a spike in violence against women during major crises and disasters.

Other meetings included

- 'SHE' (now Engender Equality) Coercive Control Workshop
- International Women's Day Focus on Family Violence Governor's Event
- 'eSafety Workshop for Women

Other actions:-

- Forwarded relevant information to all councils
- Successful funding application for Sexual Assault Support Service preventative posters for all councils – posters distributed
- Supported Engender Equality in seeking funding for a Women's Refuge in rural Tasmania - ongoing

TASMANIAN ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE**REPRESENTATIVE:** Clr Rob Churchill, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019-20** 3**OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

- To draft the Tasmanian Animal Welfare framework and 3 year plan
- To address issues of animal welfare (complaints/investigations) and to communicate this to the broader community
- Agenda themes to be conducted under the headings of: LEGISLATION, EDUCATION and COLLABORATION

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**Legislation**

Draft Tasmanian Animal Welfare framework to be finalised in 2020.

Animal Welfare Standards various issues

- Mulesing lambs between 14 days and 6 months of age and concurrent pain relief.
- Bow Hunting considered for banning or registering of bows.
- Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for saleyards and depots.
- Bobby calf time off feed.
- Poultry standards and guidelines.
- Rodeo animal welfare concerns.
- Compliance statistics and reporting to RSPCA 2018/19 (noted 51% of all complaints related to dogs and puppies).

Education

Request to the Minister re funding for Animal Welfare Education initiatives in schools for all student age groups and the possibility of funding a consultant from the Animal Welfare Fund. Linkages established between RSPCA and Tasmanian schools.

Proposal by RSPCA to develop a communications strategy for the Tasmanian Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016.

Collaboration

Presentation from the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association. Animal welfare in the farmed salmon industry including the effects of increased water temperatures, seals and their interaction with salmon farms and their associated welfare concerns. The industry claims to be well aware of its 'social licence'.

TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (TLAB)**REPRESENTATIVE:** Ald Simon Fraser, Glenorchy City Council**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019-20** 4**OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board (TLAB) is a voluntary, independent advisory group established under the *Libraries Act 1984*.

TLAB provides the Minister for Education and the Secretary of the Department of Education (DoE) with objective, community-based advice on issues concerning the delivery of statewide library services in Tasmania; in particular, the public's right of access to information and ideas. TLAB's scope covers contemporary library services, which includes learning, reference and information services, computers and internet access, adult learning and literacy programs, and care of Tasmania's documentary heritage and the State Archives.

These functions are provided by Libraries Tasmania, a part of DoE, reporting to the Minister for Education and guided by Libraries Tasmania's *Strategic Directions 2018-2020*. TLAB provides strong support to Libraries Tasmania's strategic purpose, to connect Tasmanians to knowledge, ideas and community through our libraries and archives.

LGAT nominates four representatives to TLAB, whose 13 members, including the LGAT nominees, provide a wide representation from the Tasmanian community, comprising a mix of rural and urban interests. TLAB meets four times a year. The term for the current board is 1 March 2019 until 31 December 2021.

LGAT nominees to TLAB

Mr Dick Adams OAM (Northern Midlands Council)

Ms Tanya Denison (Hobart City Council) – resigned 11 February 2020

Alderman Simon Fraser (Glenorchy City Council)

Ms Jackie Merchant (Central Coast Council)

Ms Yolanda Sam (Hobart City Council) – appointed 29 May 2020 to replace Ms Tanya Denison.

Remaining TLAB members

Ms Mary Bent PSM, Chair; Ms Kim Boyer; Ms Jan Butler; Ms Liz Jack, Executive Director Libraries Tasmania; Mr Alistair Scott; Dr Dianne Snowden AM; Mr Daryl Connelly; Ms Mary Lijnzaad

TLAB's work in the past 12 months, focussed on three key areas:***1. Increasing funding for Contemporary Library Resources***

TLAB acknowledged the four-year State Government funding for the purchase of contemporary library resources, which responded to TLAB's submissions for increased funding to support what has previously been known as the 'Book Vote'. In 2019-20, TLAB advocated for ongoing funding, noting Libraries Tasmania's use of the funds to improve client experiences, including expanding

and refreshing the lending collection and investigating the use of wayfinding technology to help clients navigate on-site collections.

2. *Advocating for the State Library and Tasmanian Archives as an important cultural institution and the need for a redeveloped Hobart building*

In 2019-20, TLAB continued to advocate, at all levels of government and business, for the State Library and Tasmanian Archives to be recognised as a significant cultural institution, and to build support for the need to redevelop the 91 Murray Street building in Hobart. Redevelopment would transform Libraries Tasmania's flagship site from a 1960s public library building into a contemporary, future-focused library, archive and community learning space.

3. *Preservation and digitisation of the state audio-visual collection*

TLAB recognised the critical need to preserve the state's audio-visual collection through an accelerated digitisation program to ensure clients could continue to access this collection, much of which is stored in increasingly obsolete media formats. TLAB members supported the urgent need to advocate for government investment in digitisation; particularly in light of the fact that by 2025 there is a very real possibility that any remaining non-digitised items will no longer be accessible.

STATE GRANTS COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Mr Greg Preece and Mr Rod Fraser

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019-20
11 Meetings plus council hearings and visit two planning sessions

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 under 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 Financial Assistance Grant distribution methods the Commission has traditionally operated a triennial review policy whereby major changes to methodology are only introduced every three years. During the year, the Commission decided, with immediate effect, to cease its practice of trienniums for adopting methodology changes. The Commission will now adopt methodology changes as and when the Commission deems appropriate. Data updates continue to be applied each year or as soon as new data becomes available.

To ensure the available funds are allocated on a horizontal fiscally equalised and equitable basis the Commission continually monitors council practices and updates its assessment methods and data as appropriate. The Commission operates a mathematical model to apply its assessment methods. During the year the Commission, with the assistance of Treasury, completed a review and redesign of its electronic model to increase its efficiency and integrity. The Commission also reviews its own operations through formal planning meetings and during the 2019-20 year adopted a Strategic and Operational Planning Framework after discussions with councils at the hearings and visits.

Membership

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), Greg Preece and Rod Fraser (both representing Local Government).

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

For the 2019-20 financial year, Tasmania's estimated base grant entitlement was \$37.1 million from a national pool of \$1.8 billion, being a 3.58% increase on the finalised 2018-19 year entitlement, and an estimated road grant entitlement of \$41.3 million from a national pool of \$780 million, being a 4.1 per cent increase on the 2018-19 entitlement. The Australian Government decided to pay approximately 50 per cent of this funding to councils as an advance payment in June 2019, with the balance of the 2019-20 entitlement payable in the 2019-20 year. The Commission submitted its recommended allocation of 2019-20 grants to the Treasurer on 18 July 2019.

The Commission has had a practice of releasing discussion papers each year for discussion at the annual hearings and visits with councils. Prior to the 2020 hearings and visits, the Commission issued the following papers:

- Discussion Paper DP20-01 – *Regional Responsibility and Non-resident Impacts*
- Information Paper IP20-01 – *Strategic and Operational Planning Framework*
- Commission Decision CD20-01 – *Socio-Economic Factors in the Base Grant Model - Replacement of the Unemployment Cost Adjustor with a SEIFA based Cost Adjustor*

The Commission prepared these flyers to act as thought provokers and conversation starters with councils in order to support and facilitate discussions on how the Commission progresses its work program. The intention of this approach is to gain council input early in the process of formulating any reviews to help the Commission determine the potential direction of its research on these topics. The 2019-20 papers addressed the next phase of the Commission's consideration of the issues and cost implications of councils providing services to non-residents,



Local Government Association Tasmania

GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

**via
Webinar**

Wednesday 22 July 2020

**Commencing
Immediately following the
Conclusion of the
AGM**

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

- 13. WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION**
- (a) Subject to Rule 13(f), each Member shall be entitled to send a Voting Representative to any Meeting of the Association, such Voting Representative exercising the number of votes determined according to Rule 16(a).
 - (b) In addition to the requirements set out in Rule 13(f), after each ordinary Council Election, the Chief Executive Officer shall request each Member to advise the name of its Voting Representative and the proxy for the Voting Representative for Meetings of the Association until the next ordinary Council Elections.
 - (c) Subject to Rule 13(f), Members may change their Voting Representative or proxy at any time by advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the Voting Representative prior to that representative taking his or her position at a Meeting of the Association.
 - (d) A list of Voting Representatives 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.
 - (f) Each Member must provide the Association with written notice of the details of the Voting Representative who was by a resolution of the Member lawfully appointed as the Voting Representative of the Member at a 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**
- (a) At any Meeting of the Association, a majority of the Member Councils shall constitute a quorum.
 - (b) If a quorum is not present within one hour after the time appointed for the commencement of a Meeting of the Association, the meeting is to be adjourned to a time and date specified by the Chair.
- 16. VOTING AT MEETINGS**
- (a) Voting at any Meeting of the Association shall be upon the basis of each Voting Representative being provided with, immediately prior to the meeting, an electronic voting button or placard which is to be used for the purpose of voting at the meeting. The placard will be coloured according voting entitlement and the voting buttons will be coded according to voting entitlement:

Population of the Council Area	Number of votes entitled to be exercised by the Voting Representative	Colour placard to be raised by the Voting Representative 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) Electronic voting buttons will be the first choice for voting on all decisions, with placards only to be used if the technology fails.
- (c) Voting buttons allow councils to vote for or against a motion or formally abstain from voting. An abstain is not to be taken as a negative vote.
- (d) The Chair of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the electronic vote or 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.
- (e) Except as provided in sub-rule (f), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes for a motion. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
- (f)
 - (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 present at the meeting.
 - (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 these 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.
- (g) A Voting Representative or his or her proxy in the name of the Member is entitled to vote on any matter considered at a Meeting of the Association.

Schedule

10.00

Annual General Meeting

General Meeting.
Commences immediately following
The conclusion of the Annual
General Meeting

Life Member Awards Presentation
At conclusion of General Meeting

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* DENOTES ATTACHMENT

1 GOVERNANCE

1.1 Minutes *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 March and 26 June 2020 as circulated, be confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March, 2020, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

At the time of writing, the 26 June General Meeting had not taken place but given the meeting is being held to specifically allow for a change to the LGAT Rules, it is pertinent that they be confirmed as soon as possible.

A copy of the 26 June General Meeting Minutes will be circulated the week following the Meeting, with a draft version available on the LGAT website.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda & Order of Business

Decision Sought

That the agenda and order of business be confirmed.

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

1.3 President's Report

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report on the President's activity from 6 March to 12 June 2020.

Meetings & Events

- LGAT General Meeting
- GMC COVID Catch Ups
- GMC Meeting
- ALGA Board COVID Catch Ups approximately fortnightly
- ALGA Board Meeting
- Regular (almost daily) discussions with CEO
- Meeting with Premier, Peter Gutwein, Ministers Mark Shelton and Michael Ferguson and advisors
- Letter to Premier re General Meeting resolutions and questions
- Webex meetings with Minister Shelton
- King Island Council (via Zoom)
- Burnie Council (via Zoom)
- TCCI Board
- Letter to Members of Parliament re Commercial Rates

Media and Communications

- Tasmanian Times
- Pulse
- Letter to Prime Minister re JobKeeper
- Op Ed submitted on LG relief measures – published Examiner
- Letter to Premier re General Meeting resolutions and questions
- Media Release General Meeting resolutions
- LA FM re council relief measures
- Northern Drive ABC Radio – responding to COVID
- ABC 936 regarding amalgamations
- ABC and HOFM re Federal Stimulus Funding

1.4 CEO's Report

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report on the CEO's activity from 6 March to 12 June 2020.

Policy, Projects and Presentations

- Submission (impacts) to the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Council (PESRAC)
- Planning for submission (recovery) to PESRAC
- Feedback on Commercial Tenancies legislation and advocacy to prevent imposed rates remissions
- Data collection re COVID impacts including council relief packages, staffing impacts, financial position – for State and Federal Advocacy.
- Advice and feedback on COVID Stimulus Package
- Review of Hardship Policy and Online Meeting Guidelines
- Engagement with Justice on Commercial Tenancies proposals.
- Briefing notes for ALGA Board Meetings
- Rule amendment/Special General Meeting

Media & Communications

- Pulse, Draft Op Ed and LinkedIn Contributions
- News Clippings

Meetings, Training and Events.

- Regular engagement with Director of LG Craig Limkin, Matt Healey and Advisor to LG Minister Melanie Brown.
- Regular engagement with President.
- Telephone advice to the Premier
- CEO/President Meeting with Premier, Minister Shelton and Minister Ferguson
- ALGA CEO Meeting weekly, end of March until end of May
- ALGA Board COVID Catch Ups
- LGAT General Meeting
- Regular meetings with ASU re COVID/LG Employee issues
- Participation in regional GM meetings
- LG Professionals Board Meeting
- Regional Intelligence Sharing Meetings (approximately fortnightly)
- GMC Covid Catch Ups
- GMC Meeting
- RDA Tasmania Committee Meeting
- Webex Meetings with Minister Shelton
- MAV Insurance Board Meeting
- Institute for Social Change regarding Tasmania Project
- CEO Alcohol and Drug Federation

- Anita Dow MP, Shadow LG Minister
- King Island Council and Burnie Council via zoom
- Meeting of Peak Bodies – COVID impacts
- TCCI Board
- Premier’s Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council
- ALP Building Construction Infrastructure and Transport IAC
- Engagement with PESRAC secretariat
- Regions Rising Web Forum
- State Emergency Management Committee

Operations

- Review of LGAT Pandemic Plan
- Transitioning staff to social distancing then working from home and contributing to guidelines
- Regular online staff meetings
- Planning for holding General Meeting Online
- Budget preparation
- Event Planning
- Business Safe Planning and implementation for return to LGAT Office

1.5 Business Arising *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following information on business arising.

At **Attachment to Item 1.5** is a schedule of business considered at the meetings held on 27 March 2020 and the status thereof.

1.6 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 1.6**.

1.7 Council Round Ups

Decision Sought

That Members note there will be no Council Round Up presentation given the General Meeting is to be held via Webinar.

Background comment:

Councils offer to conduct a brief presentation on a matter that is of interest in their municipality.

The session also allows time for questions and provides an opportunity to briefly share and highlight problems or opportunities facing councils and is better suited to a face-to-face meeting.

2 ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Head Works * Motion – Brighton Council

Decision Sought

That LGAT advocate to the State Government and TasWater for the ceasing of the 'headworks holiday' for sewer and water infrastructure.

Background

The Tasmanian Government imposed a 'headworks holiday' for a period of two years with regards to TasWater, which was then extended indefinitely. The primary goal was to facilitate development. However, there are many cases in several municipalities where the opposite is occurring.

The current system creates an untenable 'first mover' cost, which is highly inequitable and is causing key strategic growth areas to sit undeveloped.

This issue was discussed at the November 2019 STCA meeting where it was resolved to write to LGAT, a copy of the letter and response are included at **Attachment to Item 2.1**.

LGAT Comment

The State Government initially introduced a 'headworks holiday' in late 2014 for a two-year period. At the completion of this period the TasWater Board determined that it would continue the headworks holiday, and it remains today.

TasWater has indicated that this position is currently under review as part of the development of their Pricing and Service Plan 4 (PSP4) submission, due on 30 June 2020. As part of their preparation of their PSP4, TasWater has developed a specific options paper on developer charges. To inform this options paper, TasWater convened three forums through November 2018 to February 2019 in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport, to understand perceptions around their current developer charges approach and role in economic development. These sessions were attended by representatives from Local Government, State Government, the development industry and associated professionals. Participants in each of the locations expressed a strong desire for TasWater to reconsider their approach to developer charges.

TasWater held further sessions on the 24 and 25 March 2020 (via an online format due to the pandemic) to consider their approach to developer charges and to discuss alternative options. All Tasmanian Councils have been invited to the sessions. Detailed information

on the issue and the options that TasWater is considering and a discussion forum can be found here: <https://www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/psp4>.

TasWater has a discussion forum and website devoted to the PSP4 consultation¹, where the *“TasWater: Developer Charges – An assessment of options”* draft paper² can be accessed. TasWater has also produced a helpful fact sheet³ on developer charges and the options it is considering.

LGAT has undertaken research into the developer charges regimes of other Australian state jurisdictions, variously referred to as infrastructure contributions (NSW, Vic), development contributions (WA, Vic), infrastructure charges (Qld), development levy (Vic) and also headworks charges. Currently, all States other than Tasmania have systems for implementing infrastructure contributions, supported by state-level legislation. Each system varies in its scope and characteristics but all are intended to ensure that development (especially urban growth) pays for its demand and impacts on public infrastructure. Further most seek to achieve, or at least improve, harmonisation in charging across infrastructure management authorities, be they councils or public utility providers. Victoria and South Australia have both implemented new systems within the last five years, while Western Australia and New South Wales are in the process of reviewing their developer charging systems, indicating that infrastructure contributions schemes are continuing to evolve to meet a range of needs.

In some areas, infrastructure charges are intricately calculated in an attempt to get as close as possible to a development’s demand load on infrastructure networks, resembling a one-off fee for service or user charge. In contrast, it is becoming common for the precision of demand calculations to be replaced by more generalised and simpler to use calculations according to land use-type or construction cost or development value, resembling more a distributed tax.

In some areas, a public utility and a council will separately invoice and collect infrastructure contributions for the networks they manage; in other areas the council and utility are more integrated, with the council invoicing developers once and distributing to the utility its component of the contribution.

Given that TasWater is continuing their public dialogue around developer charges, that other states are evolving and improving their charging systems, and particularly that Tasmania is the only state without a statewide infrastructure contributions regime, LGAT will continue to research the subject with a view to initiating a dialogue with its membership and informing the work that TasWater is undertaking.

¹ PSP4 website: <https://www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/psp4>

² Draft paper: <https://www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/47230/widgets/258170/documents/141861>

³ Developer Charges fact sheet:
<https://www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/47230/widgets/258170/documents/141824>

**2.2 Five Year Financial Management Strategy for Local Government
Motion – Burnie City Council**

Decision Sought

That LGAT request the State Government to endorse a five-year financial management strategy for Local Government rather than ten years.

Background

Council's in Tasmania are required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare a financial management strategy for the municipal area. The strategy is to be consistent with the strategic plan, along with a requirement for the councils to have a long-term financial management plan for a period of at least 10-years.

It is the view of the Burnie City Council that the requirement for at least a 10-year plan be reduced to 5-years. The rationale for this is that 10-year financial plans are unreliable in the outer years and a more realistic plan would be achievable in a 5-year plan.

The State Government are not required to have a 10-year plan.

LGAT Comment

No substantially similar motions have been received before by LGAT.

A long-term financial plan describes an entity's financial strategy and should align with other operational documents including the long-term asset management plan. It is developed on an iterative basis and as per the LGAT/IPWEA Practice Note should be reviewed every four years.

<https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/extranet/confidential-extranet-documents2/finance/financial-and-asset-management-tools-and-templates/practice-summary-34.pdf>

3 ITEMS FOR NOTING

3.1 Review of Local Government Legislation * Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the review of Local Government Legislation.

Background

On 22 April 2020, after some months delay, the Government announced approved reform directions for the review of Local Government Legislation.

The table at **Attachment to Item 3.1** lists the reform directions for which the sector did not have consensus or had concerns and the final position of the Government.

Three of the initially proposed reforms will not progress, namely:

- Changing the way Mayors and Deputy Mayors are elected;
- Introducing a candidate nomination fee; and
- Establishing regional councils.

A number of reforms were amended or clarified.

As LGAT has noted all along, at a high level the reform directions are generally not significantly concerning but the devil will be in the detail.

Key to note is that reform will be progressed in two parts and by two different agencies. Election matters will be hived off into a new Local Government (Elections) Bill overseen by the Department of Justice in parallel with the broader review of the State Electoral Act. All other matters will continue to be progressed by the Local Government Division. Local Government will continue to be engaged through the Steering Committee and Technical Reference Groups as well as through formal consultation on the draft Bill.

Five Technical Working Groups were formally established in late 2019, as agreed by the Steering Committee. The Project Team has commenced consultation with the Working Groups and requested feedback and advice in relation to a number of technical matters. Feedback received to date has been very valuable to the Project Team and the approach to communication with members (via email, telephone and teleconference) appears to be working well.

In late 2019, the Project Team engaged Frank Barta, former Chief Financial Officer of the Clarence City Council, to provide targeted advice in relation to rating matters in the Draft Local Government Bill. The Division has now received a final report providing the requested rating advice.

The introduction of legislation will likely take 8-10 months from commencement. With no clear start day, with many key State Government staff being diverted to respond to COVID 19 matters, it is unlikely the initial Bill will be before Parliament before the middle of next year.

Budget Impact

Within budget.

Current Policy

Strategic Priority 6

Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

3.2 Waste Management

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the update on Waste Management.

Background

In late September, LGAT provided a submission on behalf of Local Government to the draft Waste Action Plan (WAP), which can be found here - [Draft Waste Action Plan](#).

Our submission, available on the [LGAT website here](#), could be summarised by saying ‘the devil is in the detail’!

The WAP picks up on many of the initiatives suggested by Local Government in the 2017 LGAT Waste and Resource Management Strategy, [available on the LGAT website here](#). The WAP includes a number of high-level commitments, including the introduction of a statewide waste levy by 2021, a Container Refund Scheme (CRS) by 2022, and a suite of other targets and initiatives.

Since September there has been limited progress on completing the WAP by the EPA, as prior to COVID-19 the State Governments efforts were predominantly focussed on providing input to the COAGs waste export ban. At COAG, Ministers agreed the phase out should be completed by the following dates:

- All waste glass by July 2020;
- Mixed waste plastics by July 2021;
- All whole tyres including baled tyres by December 2021; and
- Remaining waste products, including mixed paper and cardboard, by no later than 30 June 2022.

However, work has now commenced on progressing the key initiatives in the WAP. With discussion papers under development on the waste levy and CRS and a report summarising the submissions on the WAP available on the EPAs website.

LGAT was invited to participate on the CRS Expert Reference Group and we have recently provided feedback to the first discussion paper, which looks at governance options for a scheme in Tasmania.

In addition, LGAT's Policy Director was invited to participate on the State Government's Interdepartmental Committee for Waste Management. Through this role LGAT can influence policy directions prior to broader consultation with the sector and community.

The joint State and Local Government owned statewide waste governance arrangements, as endorsed by the sector in late 2019, are still under active consideration by the State Government as part of the introduction of a statewide waste levy. LGAT continues to advocate for adoption of this approach.

Budget Implication

Currently being undertaken within existing resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating Change
- Building Local Government's Reputation
- Fostering Collaboration
- Promoting Financial Sustainability

3.3 Planning – ‘Red Tape Reduction’ Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following update on red tape reduction reforms.

Background

On the 3 June the Government introduced the Building and Construction (Regulatory Reform Amendment) Bill into Parliament under the narrative of removing “unnecessary red tape and over regulation”. This Bill, which at the time of writing has passed the Lower House unamended, will be the first in a number of changes to our regulatory system coming as a result of the Red Tape Reduction Project, which was commenced back in 2018. A final report from this Project has not been released.

In early March LGAT was asked to provide some initial informal comment on a confidential suite of potential initiatives the Government was considering. We sought feedback from a small group of council Development Services Managers and General Managers to inform our response. In early June LGAT was advised of the Government’s intention to introduce their initial priority changes into Parliament with less than a weeks’ notice.

In summary, the Bill included the following changes:

1. A new requirement for minor amendments of permits to be assessed in 28 days;
2. A reduction in the timeframe a planning authority has to determine if a response to an information request has been satisfied from 14 days to 5 business days;
3. Establishing a requirement for councils to issue an invoice for planning application assessment fees within 4 business days of receiving an application, otherwise the statutory clock starts automatically at 5 business days. If the council issues an invoice within the 4 business days, then the clock starts on the day that they are paid (no changes from the current situation). Councils will be able to issue an invoice if they miss the 4 day timeline, which will provide the applicant with 21 days to pay before the clock stops.
4. Introducing provisions putting requirements on TasNetworks to give advice about development applications; and
5. Introducing the ability to make Regulations setting out timing, design and connection requirements on water and sewerage approvals.

LGAT has indicated to the Government directly, via the Parliamentary debate and publicly via a number of Opinion Editorials, that the failure to appropriately engage on the first tranche of these reforms was not appropriate and that for future stages a return to the traditional consultation processes is required.

Budget Implication

Currently being undertaken within existing resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Building Local Government's Reputation

Fostering Collaboration

3.4 COVID-19

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the significant activity undertaken in supporting councils to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

The COVID19 pandemic has impacted every Australian home, business and community. Even for those who remained in work, the associated uncertainty and changes to our way of life have had an impact. COVID-19 will continue to influence how we operate for a long period after people start to resume social contact and work.

At the commencement of the pandemic in Tasmania, LGAT pivoted its activity to become heavily focussed on supporting councils in dealing with the new challenges. This involved a number of specific activities, outlined below, and perhaps most significantly, being an information conduit (or in many cases filling information gaps) between State Government and Councils.

Some of the LGAT activity to support councils in responding to COVID 19 included:

- Engaged with the sector through the General Meeting to get in principle agreement on relief measures;
- Advocated on Local Government matters to be covered in the COVID – 19 Disease Emergency Act and subsequent notices;

- Provided templates and council support in preparing Pandemic Plans and Business Continuity Plans, including one on one work with a number of councils to support them in preparing plans;
- Distributed information including updates from the Public Information Unit and Premier's daily update;
- Responded to numerous council's specific requests on interpreting Public Health notices at the local level;
- Signage and social media collateral for website etc;
- Speaking notes for Mayors;
- Met with the Audit Office to discuss the pandemic impact on councils' future financial performance;
- Had direct input to State Government actions and policy via our presence at the State Control Centre;
- Collected and collated information on relief measures, financial and staffing impacts. Regularly updated publication of relief measures by council;
- Developed a COVID webpage, a central point of information on our website for members and for others seeking information about how councils are responding to COVID-19 by implementing a range of relief measures;
- Met with the Premier and Minister for Local Government and ensured regular engagement with Members by Minister;
- Reviewed the Commercial Leases legislation;
- Developed tools such as a model hardship policy, commercial ratepayer hardship policy, template hardship application, remote meeting guidelines and returning to face to face meetings;
- Provided regular advice on a range of matters to Mayors, General Managers, Communication Officers etc;
- Support in development of and sharing Safe Business Plans;
- Advocated to the Federal and State Governments around funding, policy, legislation and recovery;
- Supported statewide advertising around rates payments to councils;
- Sought to build recognition of the support councils are providing through our publications, op eds, letters etc; and
- Advocacy on limiting the role of Environmental Health Officers in Safe Business Plan compliance.

Given the stage we are currently at - with easing of restrictions and no active cases of COVID-19 in Tasmania (at the time of writing), it is expected that LGAT will return to our typical work

program of supporting of the sector via delivering on our Annual Plan and sector endorsed motions.

Budget Implication

This work was undertaken within existing resources noting it consumed a significant component of LGATs resources, meaning some policy areas were not substantially progressed during the period.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating Change
- Building Local Government's Reputation
- Fostering Collaboration
- Promoting Financial Sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.5 Economic and Social Recovery after COVID 19 * **Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the paper on the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council.

Background

The State Government has established the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) to provide advice to the Premier on strategies and initiatives to support the short to medium and, the longer-term recovery from COVID-19.

PESRAC's work will focus on making recommendations on measures that can be implemented by Government, the community and the private sector to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and recover from it.

PESRAC is chaired by former Secretary of Treasury, Don Challen with other members comprising Rufus Black, Dale Elphinstone, Tim Gardner, Kym Goodes, Samantha Hogg, Leanne McLean, Paul Ranson and Brett Torossi.

The first task for the Council has been to provide advice to the Premier by July 2020 on the status of the challenges and issues that Tasmania faces due to COVID-19 and potential immediate actions and initiatives.

Information was sought from a range of peak bodies including LGAT on a series of questions:

- What impacts are currently being seen by your sector or members (including clients/households/individuals as relevant in your context) and what impacts are anticipated in the coming weeks and months?
- What factors are likely to shape the medium and longer-term impacts for your sector/members?
- What data or information can currently be provided to the Council on the nature and magnitude of impacts for your sector/members?
- What mitigation measures are currently in place that aim to address these impacts?
- What impacts are not being mitigated or for which there is no plan in place to mitigate?
- What responses, both within the sector and more broadly, are front-of-mind and over what timeframes - what should be stopped, what should continue and what should be started?
- What would help create or build business/consumer/community confidence?
- What would help your sector/members re-employ where there have been reductions in jobs, or grow employment levels?

LGAT's submission to Phase 1 is provided at **Attachment to Item 3.5**.

In parallel LGAT has been developing a second submission, a proposal for Local Government's role in recovery. This paper will talk about the opportunities that arise from disruption and the value of placed based responses and recovery. It will outline opportunities to leverage off the currently funded Health and Wellbeing Project and look at how learnings from COVID can be fed into our 21st Century Councils Project to build resilient councils. A key aspect will be a proposal around a Circular Economy, to be led and delivered by Local Government facilitating the growth in a circular business ecosystem in Tasmania. The Paper will be circulated to councils once complete.

Budget Implication

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Building Local Government's Reputation

Fostering Collaboration

Promoting Financial Sustainability

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

**3.6 Stormwater and Urban Drainage
Contact Officer – Michael Edrich**

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on stormwater and urban drainage.

Background comment

Since late 2019, LGAT has been investigating the state of play of stormwater management in Tasmania. Several confluent reasons triggered this work:

- The approaching end of the six-year period under Section 10 of the *Urban Drainage Act 2013* (UDA) for councils to develop a stormwater system management plan;
- Enquiries by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Water Policy section, with regards to progress and Local Government experience in stormwater system management planning, the UDA and stormwater matters in general;
- The impending loss of a stormwater management code for southern councils once the Tasmanian Planning Scheme is implemented in those municipalities; and
- Increasing enquiries from council planners, engineers and stormwater professionals with regards to stormwater issues generally.

LGAT undertook a survey of councils to understand how stormwater management and regulations were working for them. Respondents from 16 councils provided valuable and detailed information and included engineers, planners, asset managers and infrastructure managers/directors. The survey found generally that:

- Councils are generally well progressed with developing their stormwater system management plans but only one council recorded completing this work;
- More than half of respondents felt that the powers provided under the UDA and other acts are not sufficient to properly manage stormwater in their municipality;
- Only two respondents (11%) reported that the single clause 6.11.2 of the State Planning Provisions allowing councils to impose stormwater conditions on planning permits is sufficient for properly managing stormwater, more than half reported that it is not sufficient while one-third of respondents were unsure if it met their needs; and
- Respondents overwhelmingly felt that there are gaps in the overall legislative framework that impact councils' ability to adequately manage stormwater in their municipalities.

Council respondents had much to say about the nature of issues they face in stormwater management. These issues are numerous and complex and span at least two acts (the UDA and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*) and relate to others, but include issues such as:

- Insufficient management powers;
- Insufficient enforcement powers, including:
 - Enforcement must be taken to court, which is difficult and expensive;
 - Penalties are modest, often not meeting the cost of rectifying substandard work being investigated; and
 - No abatement notice process.
- Poor interface with private property and its stormwater impacts on public infrastructure networks;
- No clear ability to accept developer contributions in lieu of works/headworks charges and limited financing options in general;
- No ability to recoup costs from new or upsized infrastructure installed to benefit future development or third-party land (including schemes of construction); and
- Lack of a stormwater code to inform development design can force councils to issue conditions blindly, resulting in developers applying impractical or even risky solutions (think poorly located dams or detention basins), or conditions forcing unreasonable solutions tantamount to refusal.

LGAT has met with DPIPWE representatives to discuss the issues. DPIPWE officers were understanding and willing to explore practical and achievable ways to support stormwater management issues. Because the overall issues span or relate to several pieces of legislation, the issues need to be categorised and triaged to appropriately direct work.

Concurrent to this, a number of council personnel from across the state have initiated a collaboration to work on stormwater issues, but particularly to help inform responses to the loss of a stormwater code and to support council conditioning of planning permits. The collaboration includes personnel from the Derwent Estuary Program, NRM North, LGAT and some members of IPWEA Tasmania. LGAT is assisting by supporting communication and engagement between council staff, as well as offering to host any produced documents (subject to approval) on the LGAT website, appropriately situated alongside other development documentation.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.7 Development Standards Documentation Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on development standards documentation.

New and Updated Documents – Tasmanian Municipal Standards

The Tasmanian Standard Drawings have been supporting councils since 2013 with depiction of a range of common construction standards. For the first time, the Standard Drawings have been updated, reflecting a range of council requested changes.

In addition, it had been noted that the Standard Drawings needed a complementary written description of specified requirements that are difficult to show in the Drawings. Because of this, LGAT commissioned work, with project management and technical review by the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA Tas), to develop the Specifications document.

Together, these two key and complementary documents, the Specifications and Standard Drawings, form the Tasmanian Municipal Standards and are now available for use by councils on the LGAT website⁴. Please inform your engineering and development staff of these new documents.

Superseded versions of documents will be retained and available publicly on the LGAT website.

Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines Review Project

In 2013, LGAT, Member Councils and IPWEA Tas collaboratively produced the Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines, hosted on LGAT's website. The Guidelines provide the standards for the development of new subdivisions, overwhelmingly undertaken by private businesses and involving private construction of public infrastructure that ultimately councils will be required to maintain.

In collaboration with IPWEA Tas, LGAT has initiated a review of the subdivision guidelines and sought tenders from consultants to complete the work. After reviewing tenders and further negotiations with the preferred supplier, a consultant has been engaged and work will begin shortly. We will report regularly on the project at significant milestones.

⁴ See: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/member-services/policy-and-projects/engineering-local-government-standards-and-guidelines>

In late 2018 council General Managers agreed to contribute \$500 per council per annum to cover development and upkeep of the documents above, particularly the Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines review. However, LGAT is sensitive to the financial predicament that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed upon councils. Because of this, rather than invoicing councils for this work in 2020, LGAT is choosing to use its balance sheet to contribute the entire \$14,500 of council subscriptions for the year. Although only a small saving for each council, it is a significant contribution for LGAT and in the spirit of collaborative contribution in the face of an emergency.

Budget Impact

LGAT is contributing \$14,500 to develop the documents.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.8 Emergency Management **Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer**

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on emergency management activities.

Background

Significant activity has been occurring in the emergency management sphere in recent times. Much of this work has focused on responding to COVID-19 and a separate brief has been prepared on this activity. This brief aims to update and inform members on the status of other emergency activity at the Federal, State and Local level.

Federal Government Policies

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

This Royal Commission was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019-20. The Commission is examining coordination, preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters, as well as improving resilience and adapting to changing climatic conditions and mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

The Commission will deliver a final report at the end of August 2020.

At the time of writing, LGAT was developing a submission in response to the Commission's issues paper on the role of Local Government in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters.

National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program (NDRRG) 2019-24

As a result of a reduction in funding under the National Partnership Agreement the State Government is proposing to modify the grant program. The new NDRRG will be structured in a similar manner to the previous NPA grant program and will involve distribution of funding focussed on risk reduction initiatives delivered by state agencies, Local Government and volunteer groups.

At the time of writing the implementation plan for the program was with the Tasmanian Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management and once signed it will be provided to the Commonwealth for finalisation.

It is hoped that the program will open in late June/early July. Applications will need to align with the National Risk Reduction Framework and the Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy.

Tasmanian Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines

LGAT and the State Emergency Service were successful in receiving grant funding to update the 2010 Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines to support Municipal Emergency Management Committees in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. The Guidelines have incorporated the plethora of changes to the emergency management arrangements since 2010 including changes to the Act, risk assessment, and relief and recovery arrangements.

The guidelines are supplemented by a suite of videos focused on Tasmania's Emergency Management Arrangements, risk management, the role of the Municipal Emergency Management Committees, recovery and community engagement. A number of council officers and officials participated in the videos.

The Guidelines will be launched at the end of June and provide a great resource for people involved in Municipal Emergency Management Committees and those who wish to get a better understanding the role and responsibilities of the Committees.

State Government Policies and Projects

Tasmanian Emergency Management Training

The Tasmanian Emergency Management - TasEMT project has just been completed, with the launch of the suite of online training resources. The educational units support emergency management workers to gain knowledge and skills to effectively carry out their roles and is an excellent resource for council officers who have an emergency management role.

LGAT was a key partner in the project, as a member of the steering committee and in the development of a suite of videos to support the training. A number of council officers also provided expert advice in the development of the training content.

The training is available free on the [SES website](#).

It is expected that this training will be expanded in years to come to include more online modules and resources, which will further build the capability and capacity of people with emergency management responsibilities in Tasmania.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.9 Energy

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on energy policy and projects.

Background

LGAT continues to actively engage in energy policy and provide project management support to councils to assist them in realising savings. This brief provides members with an update of the work occurring in this area.

Great Southern Lights Project

The Great Southern Lights LED street lighting project continues to progress well with Central Coast Council and Kingborough Council in the stage of practical completion. Tasman Council is complete, Sorell and Brighton are near completion and Clarence is progressing well. As of 11 June 2020, 4,499 lights have been replaced. The project should be completed for all participating councils in the coming weeks.

Other Street Lighting Activities

Faulty LED Lights Process

A significant number of councils in Tasmania have participated in LED replacement projects over the past few years. As a result, many councils now own LED streetlights in the network. Under the current arrangements the lights are maintained by TasNetworks as part of the contract lighting tariff. The tariff does not cover the replacement of the light on failure. As such, a negotiated service must be entered into with TasNetworks or another provider should the light fail. As the lights are currently relatively new, they are covered by the warranty owned by the councils.

LGAT is currently working with TasNetworks and Councils to develop a process to manage the replacement of the lights. TasNetworks have put forward a proposal to councils which is under consideration. TasNetworks are keen for all councils to agree to the same process around replacement and LGAT is convening a meeting with councils in the current weeks to discuss the offer provided by TasNetworks.

Street Lighting in New Subdivisions

Recent consultation with councils has identified that there is an opportunity to improve a number of areas of the process around installing and activating street lighting in new subdivisions.

This work includes improvements to the timing for installation and activation, where the current process is time consuming and slow. An alternative process has been scoped, which TasNetworks are currently considering.

Another improvement involves the tariff selection. Currently when lights are installed and activated in new subdivisions the lights are automatically put onto the public lighting tariff. This means that some councils will have a mix of LED lights on public and contract tariffs. It would be preferable for councils to have a choice over which tariff to move new lights onto and TasNetworks has agreed to explore the option of allowing councils to choose to move onto contract tariff. Noting that councils would need to pay the capital cost of the light.

LGAT is also exploring, in consultation with councils, the option of an infrastructure fee to include light costs as part of broader developer fee review. This would put the cost of the light onto the developer as is the case in most other jurisdictions.

Service Level Agreement for Streetlighting

LGAT undertook a significant amount of advocacy work on Street Lighting as part of the TasNetworks pricing reset for 2019-24 through the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). As a result of this work, the AER rejected the TasNetworks pricing reset for street lighting and

required a cap on overhead costs. The AERs determination also recommended that councils and TasNetworks work together to develop a service level agreement for Street Lighting.

An agreement would increase transparency to customers around what the various tariffs cover in terms of service.

LGAT is currently undertaking some background research examining service level agreements for street lighting in other jurisdictions and will work with TasNetworks and a council working group to develop a draft service level agreement for review.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic plan

Facilitating change

Promoting financial sustainability

3.10 Environmental Health Officer Workforce Strategy Project Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

That Members note progress of the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) Workforce Development Project

Background

The EHO Project is a response to the difficulties that Tasmania's 29 councils are experiencing in attracting and retaining an appropriately skilled EHO workforce. Local Government is the largest employer of EHO's in Tasmania and they play a critical role in protecting the community, the environment and the economy. Profiling the workforce, analysing current barriers and enablers of EHO workforce capacity, and developing an evidence base to inform a shared strategic response are key elements of the project.

The scope and methodology have been developed by a collaborative inter-sectoral project management team consisting of members from LGAT, UTAS, Environmental Health Australia, the Environmental Protection Authority, Environmental Health Officers, UTAS and the Department of Health.

Included in the approach are a literature review, online surveys, interviews, and consultation with key industry stakeholders. Work is being undertaken by Professor Roger Hughes of the UTAS College of Health and Medicine.

Council EHO and senior manager consultation has taken place during April and May and a first draft of the report recently delivered. Additional stakeholder consultation and a review of the challenges emerging as a result of COVID-19 and the recovery phase is currently being completed to inform the final report.

The final report will include a portfolio of strategy options based on final recommendations.

Budget Implication

LGAT contributed \$10,000 to the project in addition to a significant in-kind contribution to the management and delivery of the project.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating Change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial capacity
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.11 National Local Government Agenda **Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on national advocacy.

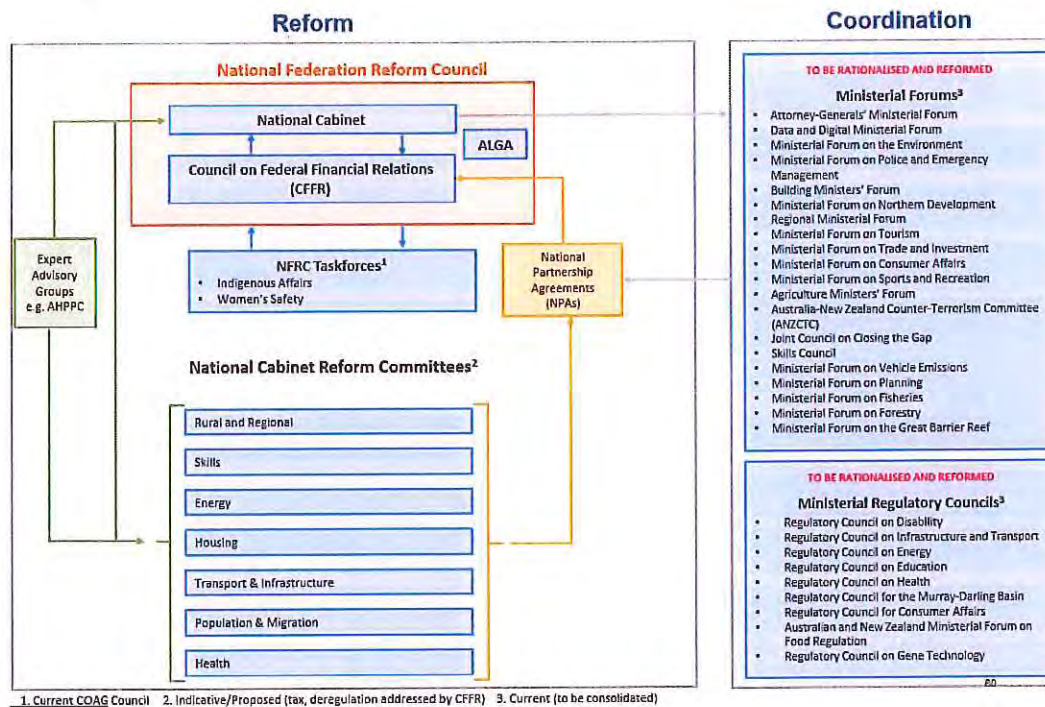
Background

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board have been meeting regularly and informally during the COVID emergency period with a formal Board Meeting on 11 June, 2020.

As with all of us, the period since the March Board Meeting has been dominated by the impact of the pandemic both at a sector level and an operational level (e.g. cancellation of the National General Assembly).

A key challenge over this period has been the exclusion of Local Government from National Cabinet and from Federal Government assistance programs (such as JobKeeper and childcare support) despite vigorous advocacy through the President and Secretariat. This exclusion has

persisted and on 29 May 2020 the Prime Minister announced the abolition of COAG and a permanent National Cabinet at which ALGA would not be a member. Following swift advocacy by all State Presidents as well as ALGA, this was softened somewhat to provide for a once a year gathering of Premiers, Treasurers and the President of ALGA as part of the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC). A number of committees will be established under the NFRC and is expected that ALGA will have a role on many of these structures (which will replace Ministerial Councils). For example, Rural and Regional; Housing; Transport and Infrastructure and Population and Migration.



ALGA had success however with regard to advocating for a Federal stimulus program and were able to broaden the coverage to include community infrastructure as well as roads and transport infrastructure. Tasmanian councils will collectively receive approximately \$16million.

Regrettably ALGA have had to defer holding the National Roads Congress in Tasmanian in November because of the risks to arrangements should there be continued border restrictions. The Roads Congress will move to Wagga and be held in Hobart in 2021.

ALGA has participated in the Local Government Ministers' roundtables and all associations have provided data and raised issues for those meetings. LGAT has had success in escalating issues related to council owned airports through those meetings and to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Budget Implication

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

3.12 LGAT Procurement

Contact Officer – Deborah Leisser

Decision Sought

That Members note the following update on procurement support for Councils.

Background

LGAT Procurement aims to help councils undertake best practice procurement and deliver value for money for their communities. Currently, LGAT Procurement offers 27 panel arrangements covering a broad range of goods and services areas (see below). These arrangements are developed, established, and managed by Local Government procurement experts and are designed to meet probity requirements.

Purchasing through these arrangements saves councils significant time and money both on the cost of goods and services and also via reducing administrative burden around the purchasing process. Purchases, for example, may be made through these arrangements via a Request for Quotation process rather than a full tender process (even for goods and services estimated to be above the tender limit). This is because a tender process has already been undertaken to appoint suppliers to the panels.

LGAT Procurement is able to offer these arrangements in Tasmania because it is a member of the National Procurement Network (NPN) and has developed close partnerships with a number of Local Government procurement organisations including Local Buy in Queensland, the Municipal Association in Victoria, and Local Government Procurement South Australia.

LGAT Panel Arrangement Activity For 2019/20

Panel arrangements in place are -

- Asset Management Service
- ICT Solutions and Services
- Business Management Service
- Motor Vehicles
- Call Centre and Customer Admin Services
- Recruitment – Permanent
- Chemical Supply

- Smart Cities Connected Communities
- Clothing, Workwear and PPE
- Specialised Trucks and Bodies
- Engineering and Environmental
- Street Lighting Hardware Installation Services
- HR and Employee Services
- Street Lighting Installation Project Management
- Road, Water, Sewerage and Civil Works
- Telecommunications
- Spare Parts and Associated Services
- Trucks
- Fuels and Lubricants
- Tyres, Tubes, Automotive, and Marine Batteries
- Hardware
- Mobile Garbage Bins
- Park and Playground Equipment
- Plant Machinery Equipment
- Office Supplies, Products, Equipment
- Project Management Consultancy (Construction)
- Pipes, Relining, Pumps, Meters and Pre-Cast Concrete

Over the 12 months to end March 2020, the key LGAT panel arrangements used were:

- Hardware (used by 23 councils, total spend of \$228,877);
- Plant Machinery Equipment (used by 22 councils, total spend of \$4,960,394);
- Telecommunications (used by 13 councils, total spend of \$1,018,530).
- Corporate Clothing, Workwear and PPE (used by 13 councils; total spend of \$56,003);
- Trucks (used by 10 councils, total spend of \$3,179,337); and
- Tyres (used by 10 councils, total spend of \$69,734).

Spend And Savings Through LGAT Panel Arrangements

Council spend under the contracts exceeded \$13.8 million in the 12 months to end March 2020, this represents a 139% increase in spend compared to the 12 months to end March 2019 (\$5,812,903).

The total estimated savings for councils over the 12 months to end March 2020 was in excess of \$2.5 million. This can be broken into direct (\$2,085,916) and indirect (\$417,000) savings⁵ and

⁵ Direct savings being the estimated savings on item price (i.e. discounts). Indirect savings being the estimated savings as a result of streamlined procurement processes (i.e. a request for quotation rather than tender).

represents a 125% increase in savings compared to the 12 months to end March 2019 (\$1,107,657).

In addition to the total estimated savings, councils saved approximately \$819,000 on public lighting during the 2019/20 financial year.

Subscriptions

The statewide total for LGAT subscriptions for 2019/20 amounted to \$1.2 million, savings under the contracts more than doubled this amount. Fourteen councils made savings through the LGAT panel arrangements that were sufficient to fully offset their LGAT annual subscriptions and a further five made savings that covered more than 50% of their LGAT annual subscription.

Council and Supplier Engagement

LGAT is working to embed partnerships and increasingly engage both councils and suppliers in LGAT Procurement processes. Councils, for example, have been given the opportunity to participate in evaluation processes, to assist in developing specifications, and to advise of suppliers where appropriate for upcoming tenders.

LGAT has recently hosted a series of supplier meetings, as well as two council workshops and a civil works contract briefing. These engagements are in addition to the advice we provide both suppliers and councils on an as needs basis, since January, eight councils and sixteen suppliers have sought advice from LGAT in relation to procurement (often on more than one occasion).

Our engagement with councils and suppliers to date has produced positive outcomes in relation to LGAT Procurement. It is anticipated that with increasing council and supplier engagement, savings accrued by councils will continue to increase.

Budget Implications

LGAT Procurement operates within existing staffing arrangements.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.13 Health and Wellbeing Project
Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

That Members note the two-year extension of funding for the LGAT Community Health and Wellbeing Project.

Background

The funding period for the current Local Government Community Health and Wellbeing Project concludes at the end of June 2020. Supporting councils to further develop their capacity to deliver health and wellbeing initiatives has been a major focus of the 2017-20 Project.

The funder of the Project, Public Health Service (PHS) in the Department of Health, has committed to continuing the Project for another two years. This will enable LGAT to build on the learning and momentum developed so far. The funding agreement is in the final stages and the Project Plan is almost complete.

Research conducted by Professor Roger Hughes, School of Public Health UTAS, into the nature of the Local Government community development and health and wellbeing workforce will inform this next stage of our work. Collaboration with council stakeholders will be an important element of the research methodology, with practical actions to be developed through co-construction with council officers.

Funding will also be available to continue support for individual council projects and professional learning.

Budget Implication

The Health and Wellbeing Project is funded by the Department of Health, although LGAT is also providing significant in-kind support.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating Change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial capacity
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

2019-20 Priority

- Support councils' health and wellbeing outcomes through the Health and Wellbeing Project

3.14 Communication, Events and Professional Development Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

Decision Sought

That Members note the update which provides an overview on LGAT's communications and professional development activities for the reporting period.

Communications

Pulse

The latest issue of LGAT's newsletter the Pulse was released on 18 June (read [here](#)). Pulse is distributed to all Members and other subscribed stakeholders, providing a monthly update of LGAT activities and news. You can subscribe to the Pulse [here](#). Please check you inbox to ensure you are receiving the Pulse and that it is not going to spam or junk mail which sometimes occurs with large group mailouts.

LGAT Monthly Activity Report

LGAT monthly activity reports are issued in the Pulse and available on the LGAT website [here](#). Line item detail behind the reporting dashboard is available on request.

LGAs

The next edition of LGAs will be circulated the week beginning Monday 23 June. This is a special edition which has a focus on COVID-19 activities and initiatives being undertaken by councils throughout Tasmania. A small print run of approximately 65 will be sent directly to all State and Local Federal Members of Parliament. The digital run goes to approximately 1200 recipients including key LGAT Stakeholders, peak and industry bodies, and sponsors. Previous issues of LGAs are available [here](#).

Social Media

LGAT continues to promote achievements, issues and opportunities through our social media accounts on Twitter (@LGATasmania) and [Linked In](#).

Overview of Activities

Proactive communication activities since the last General Meeting include:

- [LGAT COVID-19 Webpage](#)
This webpage was created to highlight the activities being undertaken by Councils and includes the Council Support Measures document, links to media releases in response to COVID-19, resources for Members and other policy issues such as increased household waste.

Current resources include a remote meeting guide, template financial hardship form with commercial hardship addendum, template financial hardship policy and most recently the LGAT council meeting plan and COVID-19 safety plan guide.

Links to the [LGAT COVID-19 Webpage](#) are included on the [State Government Coronavirus Website](#) and the [Business Tasmania Website](#).

- **Premier briefing updates**

Throughout the pandemic LGAT provided a summary of key messages and links to essential information following each of the Premier's daily live streamed press conferences. This was provided to all Mayors, Communications teams, Municipal Emergency Management and Recovery coordinators and GMC.

- **Liaison with State Government COVID-19 Public Information Unit (PIU)**

During the pandemic LGAT has been playing a key liaison role between councils and the PIU to enable essential community messages to be distributed and promoted in a timely way. This has included signage for playgrounds and other spaces, social media tiles and information about events such as mobile testing. LGAT has been able to have a number of bespoke Local Government design requirements undertaken by the PIU which has helped with consistency of messaging and assisted those councils without design capacity.

- **Community Champions and messages for community leaders**

LGAT facilitated councils sharing details of local community champions to assist the PIU with community targeted messaging. LGAT has also distributed key messages each week, developed by the PIU for community leaders to Mayors, Communications teams, Municipal Emergency Management and Recovery coordinators.

- **Essential COVID-19 information flyers for North West Community**

LGAT assisted with the development of a COVID-19 information flyer distributed to all NW residences during the NW outbreak. A generic flyer was also distributed to all other councils with the offer of State Government payment for printing.

- **Variable Message Board Coordination**

LGAT liaised between the PIU and councils to apply consistent community messaging across State Government and council owned roadside variable message boards. This was particularly important, during the stay home directive.

- **LGAT communications channelled COVID-19 Member queries** into the Policy Team's liaison process with the State Control Centre.

Media

- LGAT frequently receives and actions media queries.
- Newspaper Advertorial 6 April "a [Message from Local Government in Tasmania](#)"
- Media releases:

- Additional Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding for Local Government Welcomed: 22 May. Read [here](#).
- Local leaders present united front in push to guarantee councils continue to have a seat at the national decision-making table: 29 May. Read [here](#)
- Opinion Editorials:
 - Councils are supporting their communities while shouldering a share of the COVID-19 burden: 20 April. Read [here](#). (Published Examiner and Advocate)
 - Red Tape Reduction - Red tape is not (nor should it be) the defining characteristic of our planning system: 11 June. Read [here](#).(Published Examiner and Advocate)
- Radio
 - ABC Northern: Council Response to COVID-19, 30 April (President)
 - ABC 936: Amalgamation and COVID-19, 20 May (President)
 - ABC and HOFM: Federal Roads and community infrastructure funding (President)

Events and Professional Development

Key Events And Training Activities Since Last Meeting

- Professional development workshops on data availability and analysis were held in Hobart and Devonport on 3 and 4 March. In Hobart there were 19 attendees and in Devonport there were 4.
- LGAT Procurement Workshops were conducted on 16 and 17 March with 23 attending in Hobart and 10 in Deloraine.

Due to COVID-19, the following face to face Training and Development opportunities have been postponed:

- Mayor's Professional Development Day, originally scheduled for 26 March, Devonport
- Emergency Management Forum, originally scheduled for 28 April, Campbell Town

LGAT Annual Conference

The 108th LGAT Annual Conference originally scheduled for July 2020 was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. LGAT made this decision in response to directives from Federal and State Governments and in the best interests of the safety of our members and the wider community. This was communicated to members in April.

LGAT is working with Wrest Point to have the LGAT Annual Conference return in July 2021.

Life Member Awards

As the LGAT Conference is unable to run this year, LGAT is currently preparing a special event for our Life Membership Awards presentation as these are usually awarded at the Annual

Conference Dinner. This will be a small gathering of award winners, their families and representatives from their councils and invitations are being sent directly to participants. However, LGAT will also be videoing this event to enable other members to see the awards. The video will be played at the conclusion of the General Meeting.

June Webinar

On Thursday 25 June LGAT is hosting a free webinar for members. This webinar is designed to provide guidance, inspiration and takeaway learnings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and is titled 'Leading in a time of a Pandemic'. The Webinar will be hosted by LGAT CEO Dr Katrena Stephenson and LGAT President Mayor Christina Holmdahl. Guest speakers include:

- An address from the Hon Peter Gutwein, Premier of Tasmania;
- Mathew Healey, Director, Policy and Sector Performance, State Government;
- Professor Libby Lester, The University of Tasmania, The Tasmania Project;
- Mayor Bec Enders and Sarah Wilcox, Huon Valley and Kingborough Councils; and
- David Dilger, Edge Legal's, specialist employment and safety lawyer and co-founder at Edge Legal.

The webinar is ideal for Elected Members, Human Resources, General Managers, Emergency Management, Communications and Recovery Officers.

The webinar is proving popular with over 100 registrations to date.

Future Events

LGAT is monitoring COVID-19 activities closely. As such LGAT will be hosting a series of monthly webinars while the capacity to hold face to face events remains limited. These topics will address a broad range of Local Government needs and will be advertised as details are finalised.

LGAT is also planning for the following events. The final events formats will be determined based on COVID-19 impacts and member needs:

- Young Elected Member Network;
- Mayors' Workshop;
- General Managers' Workshop;
- September General Meeting; and
- December General Meeting

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan

Building Local Government's reputation

Fostering collaboration

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4 OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSE

4.1 Life Membership of LGAT

Decision Sought

That Members note the President's advice on the awarding of LGAT Life Memberships.

The GMC have confirmed LGAT Life Membership to two nominees.

The Awards will be announced at the General Meeting.



Local Government Association Tasmania

General Meeting

Minutes

27 March 2020

Meeting held via
GOTOWebinar

326 Macquarie Street,
GPO Box 1521, Hobart, Tas 7000
Phone: (03) 6146 3740
Email: admin@lgat.tas.gov.au
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*

DRAFT



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 9.30** Coffee and tea on arrival
- 9.45am** Meeting Commences
- 10.15** Mr Craig Limpkin
Director Local Government



Because of the requirements around physical distancing related to the COVID 19 State of Emergency the General Meeting was held electronically via GOTO Webinar. The President acknowledged the unusual circumstances and the difficulty in strictly adhering to LGAT's rules. Voting was conducted through voting delegates electronically raising hands and manual transfer of votes to a spreadsheet which applied weighting.

1. GOVERNANCE

Acknowledgement of Country

The President acknowledged and paid respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land.

Welcome and Apologies

Break O'Day/Southern Midlands

That Items 1.1-1.7 be considered collectively and resolved if no exceptions are raised.

Resolved

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2019, as circulated, be confirmed.

Resolved

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 6 December 2019, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That Members note the information.

Resolved

Background:

At Attachment to Item 1.2 is a schedule of business considered at the previous meeting and its status.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Decision Sought

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

Resolved

Background:

The Agenda was restructured as follows:

- Items 1-1.7 moved collectively for resolution.
- Item 1.8 Deferred.
- Items 4.1-4.11 moved collectively for resolution.
- Presentation Craig Limkin
- Item 2.1 Deferred
- Item 2.2 – Item 2.4
- Late Item 2.5
- Any other business

1.4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background:

A table detailing action taken to date in relation to motions passed at previous meetings is at Attachment to Item 1.4.

1.5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on activity from 20 November 2019 to 6 March 2020.

Resolved

Meetings and Events

- ALGA Strategic Planning
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Charitable Rates Steering Committee Meetings
- Charitable Rates Roundtable
- LGAT CEO regular catch ups by phone or face to face
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT GMC Meeting
- Mayor's Workshop
- PLGC Meeting
- Senator Andrew Wilkie
- Senator Jacqui Lambie

Media and Communications

- Advocate re Redress
- Letter to editor Planning Reform
- Letter to editor re Air BnB
- LG Focus
- Mercury re Australia Day Dress
- MR Joint with CCA re MOU
- MR LGAT Year in Review
- MR re IWD Awards
- MR Thanking Outgoing Premier/Congratulating New Premier
- MR welcoming Mark Coulton to General Meeting
- Pulse

1.6 CEO REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on activity from 20 November 2019 to 6 March 2020.

Resolved

Policy, Projects and Presentations

- LGAT Budget Submission
- Presentation to TasWater Hackathon
- Presentation to Australian College of Health Service Managers
- Event Planning – conference, EM Weekend, etc.
- Charitable Rates Exemptions
- Elected Member Weekend
- International Women’s Day Awards Lunch

Media and Communications

- Pulse, LG Tas and LinkedIn Contributions
- Editor Kingborough Chronicle/ Kingborough AGM
- Letter to audit office re pricing
- News Clippings
- Examiner query re targeted review of Act.
- LGAT Year in Review
- Mercury re General Manager remuneration.
- ABC re stormwater/reuse and code of conduct.
- Individual councilor advice and correspondence.

Meetings, Training and Events.

- Advisor to Minister Shelton
- Ald Ewington Clarence re Health Motion last General Meeting
- ALGA Strategic Planning
- Bullyology re possible LG Program
- Business Growth Strategy Industry RoundTable
- Catholic Care/Centacare Evolve Housing
- CEO TasPlan
- Charitable Rates Steering Committee Meetings and Roundtable
- Chief of Staff and Advisors to Minister Jaensch – waste and planning matters
- Driverless Bus Trial
- General Management Committee
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council with Director of LG/ Roles and Responsibilities Session
- International Women’s Day Awards Steering Committee and Judging Panel
- Kerry Vincent/Mel Gray re SERDA
- Leadership and Change Consultants re possible LG Program

- LGAT Assist Board Meeting
- LGAT CEO regular catch ups by phone or face to face
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT GMC Meeting
- Local Government Professionals Board Meeting
- Local Government Division re rates
- MAV Insurance Board
- Mayor and General Manager Huon Valley re Planning and other matters
- Mayor's Workshop
- Meeting Greater Hobart GMs re waste issues
- Oz Help re resilience training for EM Weekend.
- Performance Review Committee
- PLGC Meeting
- PLGC Officials
- RDA Tas Board Meeting
- Safeguarding Volunteering Steering Committee
- Senator Andrew Wilkie
- Senator Jacqui Lambie
- Stakeholder Catch Up Audit Office
- Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- The Mercury re council advertising

Operations

- TasPlan Session for LGAT Staff
- Performance Review Executive Assistant
- Demonstration of My Interview online tool
- Recruitment for admin officer and project officer.
- Finalized move to modernized staff contracts and new IR suite.

1.7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS

Decision Sought

That Members note changes to the monthly activity report and that this item will be removed from future agendas.

Resolved

Background:

The LGAT monthly activity report was previously emailed to all Members. To streamline reporting and make the LGAT monthly activity report easier to read, it is now presented in a

dashboard format as part of the Pulse monthly newsletter. The detail behind the reporting dashboard is available on request.

1.8 COUNCIL ROUND UPS – DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING

That Members determine who will present a briefing at the next meeting.

This Item was deferred.

Background comment:

Derwent Valley Council has offered to conduct a brief presentation on a matter that is of interest in their municipality.

The session also allows time for questions and provides an opportunity to briefly share and highlight problems or opportunities facing councils.

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 CHARITABLE RATES

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

1. That Members note the report on LGAT's advocacy efforts around securing legislative change to enable equitable rating of Independent Living Units in Retirement Villages.
2. That Members note that LGAT has been unable to secure Government commitment to legislative change.
3. That Members endorse a formal campaign for change, overseen by the Charitable Rates Exemption Steering Committee.

This Item was Deferred to a Future Meeting

Background

In March 2019 Members endorsed the following motion:

That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.

That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act, with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes.

Since then LGAT has continued to develop a case and advocate for change in relation to the rating of independent living units. The Steering Committee continues to meet regularly, and advocacy has been supported through the engagement of Timmins Ray.

Additionally, the LGAT CEO met with the CEOs of TasCOSS and ACSA (Aged and Community Services Australia) on several occasions to discuss their concerns and to determine whether common ground could be reached. This was considered critical in progressing the matter with the Government. While some progress was made in establishing some common principles, it had become increasingly clear to the Steering Committee that such an approach was unlikely to deliver a successful outcome in time for the budget process for councils for 2020-21. To that end, the President outlined clearly our desired outcomes and timeframe in a letter to the Treasurer, the Minister, TasCOSS and ACSA on the 29 November 2019.

The Government indicated they would like to engage with critical stakeholders at a round table. LGAT made it clear that a round table must include the Treasurer and Minister for Local Government. The round table was to proceed on 20 January but was derailed by the resignation of the then Premier, Will Hodgman. While it was difficult to line up the key stakeholders, particularly with the full diary of the Premier/Treasurer, a meeting connecting the Premier and President in Launceston with the Local Government Minister, LGAT CEO and other stakeholders in Hobart via teleconference, took place on 14 February.

Key matters arising from the meeting were as follows:

- The Premier advised no options (including no legislative change) were off the table but that there were arguments on both sides.
- He wanted any solution to consider the following principles: equitable outcomes, avoidance of cost shifting and broader impacts; transparency, able to stand the test of time, certainty for both sides, consideration of transitional issues.
- The Premier considered that a one size fits all solution was unlikely.
- The CEOs of TasCOSS and ACSA had both moved on and with new representatives at the table for the first time, old ground had to be recovered.
- The Minister for Local Government expressed a clear concern for those who had already bought into retirement village ILUS.
- Working back from the March LGAT General Meeting date it was agreed that a more detailed proposal would be provided to ACSA and TasCOSS to engage with their members on, model and then provide feedback on from their perspective.
- The Charitable Rates Exemption Steering Committee convened and agreed this meant that there would be no certainty ahead of council budgeting and rate setting activities.
- The President wrote to the Premier outlining concerns and seeking an additional urgent meeting with LGAT and foreshadowing that we would be seeking support from Members for a more vigorous campaign for change at the March meeting.

At the time of writing no meeting had occurred with the Premier. Some work has been undertaken with DPAC on a proposed model of change but there has not been internal endorsement or commencement of engagement with providers.

Budget Impact

GMC discussed the possible budgetary impact of a campaign and agreed that if additional funding above that budgeted should be required this should be funded from reserves rather than a call on members at this stage.

Current Policy

As per the March 2019 Meeting resolution.

Strategic Plan:

Promoting Financial Sustainability

Priority Area 2- Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

2.2 HEADWORKS*

Council – Brighton

Burnie City Council/Kingborough Council

That the motion (2.2) be deferred to be discussed at a later date with some research to be undertaken by LGAT ahead of further consideration.

Carried by Simple Majority

Decision Sought

That LGAT advocate to the State Government and TasWater for the ceasing of the 'headworks holiday' for sewer and water infrastructure.

The Motion has been deferred to a later date.

Background

The Tasmanian Government imposed a 'headworks holiday' for a period of two years with regards to TasWater, which was then extended indefinitely. The primary goal was to facilitate development. However, there are many cases in several municipalities where the opposite is occurring.

The current system creates an untenable 'first mover' cost, which is highly inequitable and is causing key strategic growth areas to sit undeveloped.

This issue was discussed at the November 2019 STCA meeting where it was resolved to write to LGAT (letter and response included at Attachment to Item 2.2 and 2.2a).

LGAT Comment

The State Government initially introduced a 'headworks holiday' in late 2014 for a 2-year period. At the completion of this period the TasWater Board determined that it would continue the headworks holiday, and it remains today.

TasWater has indicated that this position is currently under review as part of the development of their Pricing and Service Plan 4 (PSP4) submission, due on 30th June 2020. As part of their preparation of their PSP4, TasWater has developed a specific options paper on developer charges. To inform this options paper, TasWater convened three forums to understand perceptions around their current developer charges approach and role in economic development, through November 2018 to February 2019 in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. These sessions were attended by representatives from Local Government, State Government, the development industry and associated

professionals. Participants in each of the locations expressed a strong desire for TasWater to reconsider their approach to developer charges.

At the time of writing TasWater was planning to hold further sessions on the 16th and 17th March 2020 in Hobart and Launceston respectively to consider their approach to developer charges and to discuss alternative options. All Tasmanian Councils have been invited to the sessions.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Building Local Government's Reputation
Facilitating Change.

2.3 TIMING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Break O' Day Council/Central Highlands Council

That LGAT member councils ask the State Government to consider reviewing the timing of the next Local Government Elections.

Lost

Background

The next Local Government elections are in October 2022. Earlier that year Tasmanian voters will have also participated in State and Federal elections. It is suggested this may lead to voter fatigue with a negative impact on Local Government voter participation.

It is suggested that a 6-month extension to the current 4 year term be sought with a view to overcoming voter fatigue.

LGAT Comment

2018 also saw three elections in the same year. Voter turnout for Local Government elections was relatively strong however some councils experienced a high informal vote.

If Members are supportive of the concept there is opportunity provided through the Local Government Legislative Review process to progress this position.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Building Local Government's Reputation

Facilitating Change.

2.4 NEWSTART ***Brighton Council/City of Hobart**

That LGAT Members recognise the low rate of the Newstart Allowance is contributing to an increase of poverty, poor health and homelessness for recipients within Tasmania and that LGAT advocate in writing to all relevant State and Federal ministers that the Newstart rate be increased.

Carried**Background**

The rate of the Newstart Allowance has not kept pace with most living costs, especially housing expenses. There are many municipalities in Tasmania where this has a significant impact on the community. In Brighton where the population is younger than average and there is long term disadvantage across a range of measures, such as financial, health, literacy, disability, the effects of the additional strain caused by the low Newstart Allowance can be severe.

The links between financial stress and poverty with poor health, crime, violence and other community issues are well-documented. As the closest tier of government to the community, a key role of local government is to advocate to state and federal government in the interests of their community.

Background is provided at **Attachment to Item 2.4.**

LGAT Comment

While this undoubtedly an issue of community concern it is not clearly aligned to LGAT's functions or strategic priorities.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Not aligned with Strategic Priorities

2.5 COVID RELIEF *

That LGAT Voting Representatives agree to take back the following relief mechanisms, to their Council for determination of a formal position on them as soon as practicable from this point in time with a review before 30 June 2020.

Kingborough Council/Burnie City

1. No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020

Carried Unanimously

Glenorchy City Council/Burnie City Council

2. Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.

Carried Unanimously

Tasman Council/Glenorchy City Council

3. A common approach to hardship/assistance policies with LGAT to develop a model policy based on engagement with councils.

Carried Unanimously

Glenorchy/Brighton

- 4a. Community grants to be refocussed as appropriate to support local business and not for profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy until 30 June 2021.
- 4b. As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a timely manner, councils be encouraged to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.

Carried Unanimously

Glenorchy City Council/Central Coast Council

5. A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but with the ability to increase fees and charges but not at a rate which will exceed the benefits of a 0% increase to general rates.

Amendment Motion

Dorset Council/Burnie City Council

A 0% increase on general rates, service rates, fees and charges for 2020-21

Amendment Lost

Amendment Motion

Kingborough Council/City of Hobart

A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI .

Amendment Carried

FINAL MOTION:

City of Hobart/Waratah Wynyard Council

A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI .

Carried

City of Hobart/Huon Valley Council

- 6. Seek the option of relaxing depreciation requirements or extending standard asset life for 2020-21 upon agreed criteria with the Auditor General (including asset condition) and subject to the Auditor General adjusting financial indicators accordingly.**

CARRIED

Background

Mayors and General Managers had discussions via webconference on Tuesday 24 March about possible approaches to relief that could be agreed sectorally.

Notes and questions from that meeting and a draft motion were circulated for comment.

The State Government have indicated through addresses in Parliament and legislation that there is an expectation that Local Government will assist in addressing the burden on communities triggered by COVID 19 emergency actions.

Some councils raised concerns that not all councils were equally in a position to provide the full range of relief discussed. The CEO noted on behalf of Flinders and King Island who were not able to attend, their concerns that financial viability would be at risk in face of providing financial relief.

LGAT Comment

N/A

Budget Implications

N/A

Current Policy

Priority 2. Building Local Government's Reputation

Priority 3. Fostering Collaboration

Priority 4. Promoting financial sustainability.

DRAFT

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ELECTED MEMBERS Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members discuss what constitutes best practice for Elected Member Professional Development.

This Item was Deferred to a later date.

Background

At the February General Management Committee (GMC), a discussion on sector reputation highlighted varying levels of commitment to professional development for and by Elected Members. It was agreed this would be worthy of a broader discussion with a view to assisting LGAT's service planning and advocacy.

Consultation with Members on State Government proposals regarding elected member professional development as part of the Local Government Legislative Review revealed the following:

- The concept of capability requirements for elected members generated the most discussion in this theme area. While some councils expressed limited support, others were strongly opposed on the basis that there is no similar requirement of those elected to State and Federal Government. Even where there was support, there were questions as to how the requirements would be applied - particularly where a councillor was returned rather than new to Council.
- It is LGAT's view that community and candidate education is vital to strong election outcomes. LGAT believes there would be support from our Members for candidates to at least engage with some online training prior to nominating, to cover the basics of their roles, and in particular to help them better understand what will be required when they act as a Planning Authority.
- The broader question of mandatory training for councillors which is often raised was considered as part of the Targeted Review and at that time, LGAT's submission noted:
 "The majority of responding councils felt there should be compulsory induction following elections and that even returning councillors should participate. Others felt that returning councillors might not require the full induction, more a tighter, tailored briefing in recognition of their experience. The focus of any compulsory training should be on **governance, planning and meeting procedures and supported by an ongoing professional development** program. At the July 2015 LGAT General Meeting a motion regarding compulsory training for councillors was amended and

carried as follows: *That all councillors be encouraged to undertake training courses i.e. Planning, Legislation, Code of Conduct, Meeting Procedures etc."*

In relation to the proposal for core capability requirements for elected members outlined in the Review of the Local Government Act Directions paper we note the following:

- There was no consensus on this matter and particularly during workshops this was described as an overly prescriptive direction.
- It was noted by some that because Local Government is no different to State and Federal Governments in that the elected members are democratically elected, at most this should take the form of guidelines.
- Others suggested that training extend beyond planning and Local Government to include topics directly relevant to the role of an elected member (e.g. meeting procedure training).
- One Council raised concern around the term 'core capability' as it implies there may be a pass or fail scenario for elected members. This Council suggested it be changed to 'professional development'.
- It was uncertain how weight would be given to experience both on and off Council.
- Training needs to be delivered in plain English and accessible via multiple platforms.
- Questions were raised as to how it would be implemented and how it would be affordable and accessible relative to the councillor's role and allowances.

And in relation to the proposal for reporting training there was not strong support. One reason given by councils for not supporting this reform is the different level of training required by each elected member, according to their skills, background and experience (i.e. yearly reports will not provide a complete picture of capability and/or existing qualifications). Others, however, see merit in reporting core capability training and in extending this reform to all councillor professional development.

The following feedback was received through the LGAT Performance and Improvement Survey:

- New Councillor Resources (online) and the Councillor Resource kit were the most highly rated LGAT resources.
- Suggestions for resources and tools included a Deputy Mayor toolkit, best practice templates and policies, speed reading and advanced planning authority training.
- Respondents noted they would like to see additional councillor workshops (at convenient times and places) covering a diversity of topics (e.g. project management, grant seeking, dealing with ratepayers and case studies) as well as documents and templates (e.g. best practice and discussion papers, technical reports, and data) – including guidance on how to utilise these resources.

Uptake of LGAT training offerings can be variable. While some short/focussed topics could be offered online, detailed, longer or practically focussed professional development must be face-to-face and generally requires a minimum number of attendees for viability, particularly

when an external provider is required. LGAT continues to offer brokerage services for councils wishing to deliver training locally or regionally.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

DRAFT

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

Kingborough Council/Dorset Council

That Items 4.1-4.11 be considered collectively and resolved unless exceptions are raised.

Resolved

4.1 LG ACT REVIEW

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That the Meeting note that at the time of writing, there has been no further advice from the State Government regarding either appointment of a new Director of Local Government or the Legislative Review. However, Craig Limkin, Deputy Secretary Department of Premier and Cabinet, will present to the Meeting.

Resolved

Background

Further to the report last meeting, we are still awaiting advice from the Government following public consultation on the Directions paper and recommendations from the Steering Committee.

DPAC Deputy Secretary Craig Limkin is Acting Director Local Government.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Facilitating Change

Priority Area 2 Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

4.2 COASTAL HAZARDS

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

That Members note the following report on Coastal Hazards.

Resolved

Background

LGAT has undertaken considerable advocacy on behalf of coastal Tasmanian councils regarding the problems they have been experiencing to do with managing coastal hazards and the response from the Tasmanian Government. For a full background and history on this issue, please refer to the minutes of LGAT's December 2018 General Committee Meeting¹.

LGAT's advocacy has consisted of targeted discussions with relevant Tasmanian Government personnel and escalation to the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC), describing the nature of the problem experienced and how State and Local Government can work together more effectively to improve the management of Tasmania's coastline.

As a direct result of LGAT's advocacy, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE) has published their previously internal principles for managing coastal hazards². This is an important first step in providing better coordination between coastal managers by declaring the State's position on these matters.

Also in response to LGAT's representation on this issue, the State Government has announced through the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC)³ that it will establish a State Planning Interdepartmental Committee (SPIDC) on priority planning matters and that the next steps for the State Coastal Policy will be considered by the SPIDC and provided to the Government. This is important because DPIPWE's principles for managing coastal hazards are determined in large part by the framework set by the State Coastal Policy.

LGAT will continue its work in advocating for improved collaboration and coordination between State and Local Government coastal managers.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

¹ Found here: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/minutesAgendas/Minutes%2010%20Dec-1.pdf>

² Managing Coastal Hazards, DPIPWE: <https://dipwwe.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/managing-coastal-hazards>

³ See December 2019 PLGC Communique:
http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/502629/PLGC_Meeting_58_-_9_December_2019_Communique.pdf

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change;
- Fostering collaboration; and
- Promoting financial sustainability.

4.3 WASTE

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

That members note the update on State and National waste policy.

Resolved

The LGAT Policy Director advised that despite a recent COAG decision on timelines for waste bans, matters have been put on the back burner as COVID 19 priorities are being addressed.

Background

In late September, LGAT provided a submission on behalf of Local Government to the draft Waste Action Plan (WAP). Our submission is available on the LGAT [website here](#). The State Government is currently considering feedback on the draft WAP. It is unlikely the final WAP will be released prior to further details being announced on the national waste export ban (see further below) and is also likely to be subject to the State Budget considerations.

LGAT has met with the new Minister for the Environment's staff to ensure that Local Government's agenda is recognised.

National Waste Export Ban

In late 2019 COAG agreed to a national waste export ban, commencing on 1 July 2020 with a phased approach. Ministers agreed the phase out should be completed by the following dates:

- All waste glass by July 2020.
- Mixed waste plastics by July 2021.
- All whole tyres including baled tyres by December 2021.
- Remaining waste products, including mixed paper and cardboard, by no later than 30 June 2022.

While these announcements are major commitments from the Federal and State Governments on some waste streams, the implications for the viability of kerbside recycling are very significant. To appropriately implement this ban significant infrastructure and industry development is required, otherwise the material will either end up being stockpiled or landfilled.

At the time of writing the Federal Government was seeking investment priorities from each jurisdiction, with LGAT being invited to provide feedback on the State Government's proposed projects. It is expected that the funding announcements will be made at the next COAG meeting on the 13th March.

Budget Implications

Being undertaken within current resources, although waste matters currently constitute a significant workload.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change;
- Building Local Government's reputation;
- Fostering collaboration; and
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

4.4 PLANNING

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

That members note the following report on the progress of the State Government's program of land use planning reform.

Resolved

Background

In recent months there has been delays with the next stages of Government's planning reform agenda, apart from councils completing and lodging their Local Provisions Schedules.

However, at the time of writing the Government was consulting on a draft Apartment Code for inclusion with the State Planning Provisions and consultation had commenced on the updated Major Projects legislation.

In addition, the release of the scoping paper for the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) was reported to be imminent. It is anticipated that there will be a significant role for Local Government in the TPPs, not only in responding to their scope, but particularly during the drafting stage during the later months of the year.

On the 28th February the Government released the first report on data collected under the *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2019*.

This report can be found at:

https://www.cbos.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/561012/CBOS-First-report-on-short-stay-accommodation-Feb-2020.pdf

In summary the report indicated that there are 5487 individual properties listed on short stay accommodation platforms in Tasmania and that 3113 (56.7%) are reporting as not being a principal place of residence. Of these 1083 indicated that they did not need a permit, with many claiming existing use rights.

While LGAT welcomed the collection and release of this data, we are seeking further analysis of the data in future releases by the State Government to ensure it is accurate and reliable and to determine the extent to which short stay visitor accommodation is impacting on housing availability and affordability at the local level.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation;
- Fostering collaboration; and
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

4.5 SOCIAL MEDIA

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That the Meeting note actions taken by LGAT with respect to online bullying and harassment.

Resolved

At the December General Meeting LGAT noted the following activity in relation to addressing online bullying and harassment:

- An op ed published in all three Tasmanian papers, replicated in LGAT's e-newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/lgat.tas.gov.au/the-pulse-e-newsletter-october-752899>;
- Discussion with the Director of Local Government and Minister regarding collaborative responses. This included a round table discussion with the Minister held at the Mayors' workshop on 5 December;
- Initiation of a member survey focussed on online bullying and harassment to provide some inputs to the Roundtable. Key findings are available here: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=956>

- Extension of LGAT's Peer Advisor Program beyond the end of this year and re-promotion of the program to Elected Members (for more information see <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=646&c=7991>)
- Expansion of the remit for upcoming social media training to cover both appropriate use and responding to misuse including hiring of videographer to convert materials to an online resource.
- Agreement to work with State Government on other tools and guidance and circulation of resources from the Office of E-Safety;
- Reminder to councils of LGAT's model communications and social media policy (available on the Extranet); and
- President's messaging focussed both on the need for leaders to challenge inappropriate behaviours but also that being on council is still very worthwhile.

Since that meeting:

- Training was delivered by KingThing in the South and North West.
- New Social Media resources have been placed on the LGAT extranet (each council is provided a login for the extranet for use by staff and elected Members, please contact LGAT if you need the information resent). Resources include:
 - Social Media, Local Government and Legislation
 - Social Media Overview, Statistics and Data
 - Using Social Media as an Effective Engagement Tool
 - Cyberbullying and trolls
 - How to respond to online negativity.
 - Links are also provided to other useful resources.
- The Elected Member weekend (29 Feb-1 March) has a session on resilience, mental health and bullying as well as health and safety legislation for councillors.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Facilitating Change

Priority Area 2 Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

4.6 21ST CENTURY COUNCILS*

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

That Members note the progress on the 21st Century Councils Project.

Resolved

Background

At the March 2019 General meeting members endorsed the following methodology for progressing discussions on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government sector, known under the name of 21st Century Council Project:

1. Development of a summary paper covering the history of the work that has been done to date in relation to Local Government reform in the State and the context and drivers of discussions to date;
2. Compilation of a stakeholder interest/outcomes paper; and
3. A series of pilot projects to test change ideas that fit with the issues raised in consultation with the sector and issues emerging out of the Part 2 investigations.

Part 1 has been completed and the results were presented at the July General Meeting. A copy of the paper, *21st Century Councils – Structural Reform Discussion Paper*, can be found on the LGAT website under 2019 in Report and Submissions

Part 2 involves a stakeholder engagement process, consisting of engagement at an individual council level (by the “roundtable conversations”) and targeted one on one interviews with other key stakeholders (peak bodies typically).

The council roundtable conversations are complete, and a summary report can be found as an **Attachment 4.6** to this item.

The process involved General Managers guiding a conversation with their respective councillor groups. The focus of the conversation was around two key questions:

1. What outcomes do we need to achieve for the sector?
2. What reforms could or should happen to achieve those outcomes?

The feedback process yielded the following key themes:

Localised democracy

Community proximity to elected members and decision making is a core strength of Local Government (LG). LG’s role in emergency management, local employment and local knowledge serve communities well by building social cohesion, responsiveness, resilience and regional advocacy.

Inter-council collaboration

There is a strong desire to focus on effective collaboration and consistency of service levels and operating platforms/processes regionally, through seeking efficiencies of scope rather than scale. There is a need to improve the viability of council service delivery through shared services and resources.

Rebalancing obligations

A renewed relationship with the State Government focused on strategic outcomes, including the amelioration of “burden shifting” by securing funding sources for services handed down to LG.

Climate Change

Responding to and mitigating the impact of climate change dominated local issues of concern across LGAT members. Disaster management associated with changing climate is recognised as a major future cost to LG and without thorough planning and investment now will become unmanageable burden for the sector.

The second component, key stakeholder interviews, will be commencing in March, with Andrew Paul (ex-City of Clarence Council GM) to undertake the work on behalf of LGAT. A list of 23 key stakeholders has been developed for the following questions to be posed:

- What does recent history tell us about Local Government Sector reform?
- Are there any particular issues or concerns related to Local Government you feel strongly about?
- What strengths does Local Government need to build on?
- What weaknesses should Local Government address?
- What future outcomes should we aim for? How would we know we have achieved them?
- What would make for a stronger relationship between the people your organisation represents and Local Government?
- Is there anything else you would like to add? Is there anyone else you feel we should speak with?

The results from the stakeholder consultation will be analysed alongside the Part 1 work to allow the scoping of next steps and any pilot projects.

From this work, the Sector will report its own agenda to the community, to State Government and beyond about where it wants to take the Local Government cause.

Budget Impact

Parts 1 and 2 are being undertaken within current resources, however Part 3 would require dedicated further investment to ensure the pilot projects are designed and implemented effectively.

Current Policy**Strategic Plan:**

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

4.7 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT **Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer**

That members note the report on emergency management issues.

Resolved

Bushfire

Australia has witnessed unprecedented bushfires this summer and the fire season is not yet over. Almost all states and territories have been impacted with over 18.6 million acres burnt, 5900 buildings destroyed, an estimated 1 billion animals killed and 34 people have died.

The Federal Government has established the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA) and committed \$2 billion to assist in the reconstruction. Each impacted council has received \$1 million in untied funds to support their immediate recovery needs with significant additional funding likely through the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. At this stage there is little detail on how the \$2 billion will be spent.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is advocating strongly to the Federal Government to ensure the funding restores both essential public assets and community infrastructure. It is understood that as the reconstruction funding has not been fully allocated there may be opportunities for councils to advocate for funding through their local members.

The Prime Minister has indicated the Australian Government intends to pursue a number of reforms as a result of issues arising from the 2019 - 20 bushfires, including in relation to:

- A legal framework that would allow the Commonwealth to declare a national state of emergency, and take action, including the deployment of defence forces;
- The legal interface with the states and territories on responsibilities for preparedness for and response to natural disasters and emergencies of national scale; and
- An enhanced national accountability framework for natural disaster risk management, resilience and preparedness.

In addition, the Australian Government has established a Royal Commission into the summer bushfires which is required to report to government with recommendations by 31 August 2020.

Tasmania has also experienced a number of bushfires this season including the Fingal Complex Fires (Mangana and Mt Malcom) which burnt more than 20,000 hectares, the Pelham fire which burnt over 2000 hectares and most recently the Winkleigh fires in West Tamar. In Tasmania, four residential properties have been destroyed, multiple outbuildings and sheds and a significant amount of fencing. The agribusiness impacts are estimated to be in excess of \$675,000 in Break O'Day, \$52,000 in Central Highlands, and \$498,000 in Southern Midlands.

Recovery assistance to the community has been coordinated locally by councils with regional assistance.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

Facilitating change;
Fostering collaboration; and
Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

4.8 POLICY UPDATE **Contact Officer – Dion Lester**

That Members note the policy update which provides a brief overview on a range of matters.

Resolved

Building Act 2016 and Expiry of Permits

In mid-2018, member councils raised an impending issue they were facing with a provision in the schedules of the *Building Act 2016*. This provision (Schedule 2, Part 3, Section 6)⁴ effectively forces the expiry of some older permits.

The intent behind this provision was to clear the building system of some of the older permits that had very long or unlimited expiries that had become stagnant and permit holders were not acting on. However, it would also affect the same permits where permit holders were still intending to complete the work or worse, where work had been completed but final documentation had not been obtained by the permit holder. There was great concern from council permit authorities across the state that this was an impending public relations storm with the potential for hundreds or even thousands of community members with lapsed permits mistakenly directing their frustrations at councils, who had nothing to do with the introduction and implementation of this provision.

⁴ See: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2016-025#JS2@HS3@EN>

LGAT advocated to Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) to extend the expiry date from 31 December 2018 out to 30 July 2020. With this extended date fast approaching, LGAT surveyed councils over December and January to see how they were dealing with the issue. We found around 75% of councils were undertaking a very significant amount of work to check their records for outstanding older permits of this nature, prepare letters and individually notify permit holders, requiring a lot of time and resources to complete, none of which has yet been completed.

To assist councils, LGAT has advocated to CBOS to support their efforts in notifying the public by releasing some information and raising awareness. As a result of this, CBOS has prepared and published the following information, which councils can use in their communications to advise permit holders to review their situation and seek extensions to their permits if necessary:

<https://cbos.tas.gov.au/newsroom/news-items/building-permit-expiry-dates>

LGAT will continue to monitor the situation and assist councils where necessary.

337 Certificates

On the 4th March changes to the 337 Certificates (Schedule 6 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*) came into force. The changes were made in response to a motion endorsed at LGATs July 2019 General Meeting and involved two rounds of consultation. The amendments included:

- Changes to the existing questions to bring the planning and development questions in line with recent changes to the Tasmanian Planning System; and
- The inclusion of new questions, and changes to existing questions, to bring the building and plumbing questions in line with the *Building Act 2016* and *Building Regulations 2016*. This included a new question relating to hazards, such as landslip, bushfire and flooding.

Unfortunately, the Local Government Division failed to provide councils with enough notice of the timeframe for formal commencement, which caused some concerns. This was compounded by some technical issues that prevented access to the updated Regulations on the Tasmanian Legislation website. LGAT worked closely with the Division to address the immediate issues and also the failure to close the loop with LGAT and councils prior to introducing the changes.

State of the State Address

Early March saw the new Premier's State of the State address⁵ to Parliament. In that speech there were a number of notable announcements for Local government. He announced the release of the new draft Major Projects Legislation, which seeks to provide an approvals pathway for projects that cross municipal boundaries and involve multiple acts and regulators

⁵ http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/state_of_the_the_state_address

or are of a significant scale or complexity. Major projects will be able to be referred into the process by councils, the proponent or the Minister for Planning and if they meet the criteria they can use this approvals pathway.

LGAT is currently consulting with the sector on the proposed changes.

In the area of "red tape reduction" the Premier announced that the Government will be introducing legislative timeframes for the permit process for energy and water, and sewerage services, and they will be better resourcing the land titles office so that titles can be released to the market more quickly.

Perhaps most notably, the Premier made a number of bold statements and set some ambitious targets in his role as Climate Change Minister. Please refer to the following item for further details on this aspect of the State of the State address.

Climate Change

After a horror summer of bushfires, the predictions of climate science have been looming large in the public sphere. The scale of the impact and public reaction has blindsided the Australian Government and left them struggling for a response that communities find commensurate to that impact or appropriately directed toward the known cause – a changing climate caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

After sufficient time to consider its response, the Morrison Government is currently choosing to emphasise adaptation action while continuing with its previous approach to mitigation action.

The response from the Tasmanian Liberal Government has involved the new Premier, Peter Gutwein, creating a Climate Change ministerial portfolio and taking this on himself. In addition, in the Premier's State of the State address he made a number of bold statements and set some ambitious targets. In particular, the Premier noted the following:

- *"...our response to climate change can't be limited to adaptation and risk management – we also need to mitigate the effects of climate change"*
- The Tasmanian Government will *"conduct a detailed analysis of the pathway our state would need to take and the impacts on industry and jobs to achieve a target of zero net emissions prior to 2050."*
- Reiterated the current commitment to generating 100% of our needs from renewable energy by 2022 and are on track to meet that.
- Announced a new renewable energy generation target of 200 per cent of our energy consumption by 2040.
- That Tasmania's *"net emissions profile is the envy of the nation and we are one of the lowest emitters in the world however there is more to be done."*
- *"This Government will do its part in reducing our emissions by leading by example."*

These are strong and clear statements backed by targets which are not just good environmental policy – there is a clear economic basis to them. The Premier is clearly positioning Tasmania to be a renewable energy powerhouse for the National Energy Market, anticipating the change in energy generation expected to occur in the following decades and priming Tasmania to benefit from it. This is a calculated alignment of the environment, energy and economic policy areas and finding a synergy in them.

LGAT will track changes in this policy area closely and look to put Local Government at the forefront of opportunities that develop from this

Development Standards Update

LGAT has been working closely with the Tasmanian chapter of the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA Tas) to produce, publish and maintain a suite of development standards documentation. These documents are intended to support councils primarily by providing a single, clear and harmonised set of development standards that represents a pragmatic best practice for development that is robust and defensible. The documents are also intended to support developers and designers in providing clarity and guidance on minimum standards upfront.

The status of the three development standards documents are as follows:

1. Tasmanian Standard Drawings – a review of the existing document has been completed and undergoing final sign off. Once finalised, the latest version will be published on LGAT’s website and distributed to councils for use.
2. Municipal Specifications – the IPWEA Tas management committee is conducting a final review of this new document before being published for the first time on the LGAT website.
3. Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines – LGAT & IPWEA have sought tenders from consultants to complete this work and will shortly be engaging the preferred supplier. The work will involve a consultation workshop with Local Government development engineers to work through the document and harmonise as many of the variations in standards between councils as possible.

LGAT will continue to keep members updated on progress.

Weeds

The June 2019 General Meeting passed a motion that *“LGAT lobby the heads of the Tasmanian Government’s Departments and GBE’s with responsibilities for management of public lands or works on public lands to have new increased and sustained resourcing levels committed in government agency budgets to manage weeds on public land in coordination with efforts of others in local areas.”*

The 2018-19 State Budget included the creation of a new Weeds Action Fund (WAF) of \$5 million over five years commencing in 2018. The WAF became the vehicle for progressing the aims of the motion. A priority for WAF is “to ensure that there is strong, coordinated link between the different levels of government and the Tasmanian community in tackling serious weeds...”

Stage 1 of WAF offered small grants of \$1000 to \$5000 to organisations and Stage 2 will provide funding for major projects. LGAT recently attended a stakeholder meeting to discuss Stage 2 of the WAF that will roll out from 2020 to 2023. The focus of the meeting was on collaboration between stakeholders with a responsibility or direct interest in the management of weeds in Tasmania, and this included discussion around how stakeholder organisations can contribute directly to the implementation of the WAF.

Council engagement in the Stage 2 projects is seen as critical and councils will have opportunities to work directly with government agencies and other stakeholders. Biosecurity Tasmania is currently finalising the process to implement Stage 2.

Health and Wellbeing Project

The 6 monthly progress report for July - December 2019 has been presented to the Public Health Service (PHS), with a positive response. The 6 monthly report includes proposals on how to best support councils' community health and wellbeing work in an ongoing and sustainable way. LGAT is currently working with PHS on how to progress the proposals.

Collaboration with PHS continues to be very constructive, for example, PHS officers participated in the December 2019 council officer forums. They described the important role that councils play in implementing government health policy and discussed how councils' work can be better supported.

The Central Coast Pit Stop Project and regional data workshops are highlights for the Project so far this year. The Project supported Central Coast Council and Rotary Ulverstone to add a Pit Stop event to the annual Ulverstone Festival in the Park. People were encouraged to visit a variety of health services for check-ups and information, with 367 people receiving information. LGAT involvement in preparing for the event and being present on the day were acknowledged and appreciated. An intended outcome for the Project is that other councils and community groups will take up the concept.

Professional development on data analysis and use has been identified as a priority by community development, engagement, and health and wellbeing officers. Workshops facilitated by the Project provided council officers with training by AURIN and Profile Id. Both of these nationally respected data services delivered presentations for the Tasmanian context.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change;
- Fostering collaboration;
- Promoting financial sustainability; and
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

4.9 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT SURVEY*

Contact Officer – Katelyn Cragg

That the Meeting note the outcomes of the LGAT Performance Improvement Survey.

Resolved

Background

LGAT uses an annual Performance and Improvement Survey to assess how well we are achieving for our members and how we can continually improve our service. The latest survey was conducted from December 2019 through to mid February 2020.

The 2018 survey was sent to all councillors and council staff and results were perhaps somewhat skewed by a higher proportion of non-executive staff responding with limited engagement with LGAT in the roles they were undertaking. This year the survey was sent to all Mayors, Councillors and General Managers, council executive team members and specialist technical officers/managers. This resulted in a greater level of input from elected members compared to council staff but in general the number of respondents was low at 71 (53 elected members – 20% of all elected members). This was despite direct emails, promotion in meeting papers, via the monthly report and in Pulse.

The report is included as **Attachment to Item 4.9**, with the key findings including:

- Respondents rated informing the Local Government legislation review; the waste feasibility study; waste advocacy and voter turnout as the most successful recent achievements.
- 80% of respondents rated LGAT's policy research/development as good or excellent (64% last survey);
- 72% rated LGAT's communications as good or excellent (68% last survey);
- 69% rated LGAT's advocacy as good or excellent (67% last survey);
- 74% rated LGAT's engagement as good or excellent (55% last survey);
- 72% rated LGAT's tools and training as good or excellent (52% last survey);

- 68% rated LGAT's projects and procurement as good or excellent (45% last survey);
- New councillor resources were the most highly rated tools;
- More training was a common desire; and
- Most respondents described LGAT positively (e.g. professional, hardworking, proactive, helpful, and a valuable resource).

The next Performance Improvement Survey will be conducted in the first quarter of 2021 as an input into LGAT's next strategic plan but Members should continue to raise any ideas or concerns with the CEO or President at any time.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

4.10 COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS UPDATE Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

That Members note the update which provides an overview on LGAT's communications and professional development activities.

Resolved

It was noted that key events, including the LGAT Annual Conference, have had to be cancelled in response to public health directions and ongoing uncertainty as a consequence of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pulse

The first edition of the Pulse newsletter for 2020 was issued in February (click [here](#) to read) and the March edition is due to go out in early March. The Pulse is distributed to all Members and other subscribed stakeholders and provides a monthly update of LGAT activities. We frequently receive request from organizations to include information in the Pulse. We apply a strict guideline that content must be of benefit to our Members. You can subscribe to the Pulse [here](#). Please check you inbox to ensure you are receiving the Pulse and that it is not going to spam or junk mail which is sometimes occurs with group mailouts.

LGTas

The next edition of LGTas will be circulated in late April. This edition will focus on Health and Wellbeing and the many ways Tasmanian Councils are supporting and promoting health and wellbeing in their communities.

Overview of Activities

Proactive communications activities since the last General Meeting in addition to media queries include:

- *The Pulse* Newsletter published December, February
- Regular Twitter and linked in posts. Linked In followers have grown to 138, Twitter 939 Followers.
- Four Media Releases, multiple media queries.

EVENTS and TRAINING

The key events and training activities since last meeting include:

LGAT Stakeholder Event

The LGAT Stakeholder event is held annually as an engagement opportunity with key stakeholders and to thank sponsors. Held as a casual event in the LGAT garden for several years, this year the LGAT Stakeholder event was refreshed as a more formal networking event at Gold Bar in Hobart. The event was held between 4-6pm on the 19th February and was opened by GMC Deputy Chair Mayor Ben Shaw with around 50 attendees.

Elected Members Professional Development Weekend

The LGAT Elected Members Weekend is conducted early each year and was held 29 Feb to 1 March in Launceston. The two-day program provided interactive sessions on issues key to our sector and critical to the roles and responsibilities of being an elected member. It also provided an opportunity for our elected members to network and to meet key stakeholders such as the Acting Director of Local Government. The weekend was very well attended with 51 attendees.

Topics in this year's program included:

- Resilience, Mental Health and Bullying – OzHelp;
- Understanding the Financial Reports of Local Governments – CPA Australia;
- Conflict of Interest Session – Tasmanian Integrity Commission;
- Health and Safety Legislation for Councillors - Edge Legal;
- Local Government Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet – Update; and
- LGAT Policy Update and Question Time – LGAT.

International Women's Day Joint Luncheon and 2020 Tasplan International Women's Day Awards for Excellence

Following a successful, sell out event in 2019, LGAT again jointly hosted an International Women's Day Luncheon with the Tasmanian State Government and TasCOSS on 6 March at Blundstone Arena, Hobart. The event featured our International Women's Day Awards for Excellence and Guest Speaker CEO of AFL Tasmanian Trisha Squires, sponsored by UTAS. The event again sold out, with over 250 people attending.

The Tasplan International Women's Day Awards for Excellence are designed to celebrate and encourage excellence for women in Local, State Government and the Community Sectors. Two awards are given in each sector, focusing on inspirational and aspiring leadership. The winners of this year's awards for Local Government are:

Inspirational Leader – Elected Member: Heather Chong, Deputy Mayor, City of Clarence
 Inspirational Leader Council Officer: Tracey Bradley, Director of Community Services, Circular Head/Waratah Wynyard Councils

Other Events:

- Pit Stop Central Coast, 23 February 2020
- Professional development workshop; data availability and analysis, Hobart & Devonport (3 & 4 March)
- LGAT Procurement Workshops (16 & 17 March)

Upcoming Training and Development opportunities include:

- Mayor's Professional Development Day, 26 March, Devonport
- Emergency Management Forum, 28 April, Campbell Town

LGAT Annual Conference

The 108th LGAT Annual Conference will be held at Wrest Point Convention Centre on July 22-24 2020. The 2020 Annual Conference theme is "Inspire, Innovate, Include". The sponsorship prospectus has been released and we are happy to advise that MAV Insurance is returning as our Platinum Partner.

Our plenary program is nearing finalisation, featuring a range of interesting topics including:

- Kirsha Walsh of MONA speaking about her outstanding 24 Carrot Garden community project;
- Mayor Dale Williams of New Zealand on innovative ways to get young people into work and their role in Local Government;
- Bullyologist Jessica Hickman speaking on breaking the silence on bullying; and
- David O'Loughlin on the national Local Government agenda.

After the success of last year's program, we are again hosting some local policy issue focused workshops, symposium sessions featuring partner or supporting organizations as well as presentations on successful local member projects and programs.

The looming threat of COVID-19 should not go unmentioned. LGAT is currently undertaking a risk analysis and contingency planning around the possibility that our Conference may be significantly impacted.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources

Noting that event cancellation as a result of COVID-19 impacts would likely result in financial loss.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation;
- Fostering collaboration; and
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

4.11 ANNUAL PLAN*
Contact officer – Dion Lester

<p>That members note the report.</p>	<p>Resolved</p>
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A report against the progress of the LGAT Annual Plan is at **Attachment 4.11.**

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

Members noted recent correspondence from the ASU seeking support in the advocacy campaign for Federal Wage subsidies for council employees.

While recognising the key role of Local Government in providing essential services and in leading recovery, and acknowledging the hard work of staff, LGAT Members determined they needed more information and more opportunity to discuss wage subsidies and other mechanisms at a council level prior to forming a sector view. It was agreed that without having been able to have the conversations prior to today's LGAT General Meeting, that council representatives could not vote on the matter today.

There being no further business the President declared the Meeting closed.

Items with Weighted Voting

COUNCIL	Vote Weight	Item 2.3		Item 2.4		Item 2.5 (6)		Item 2.5 (5)		Item 2.5 (5)		Item 2.5 (5)		Item 2.5 (1)	
		YES =1	NO=1	YES =1	Y NO	YES =1	Y NO	YES =1	NO=1	YES =1	Y NO=	YES =1	Y NO=	YES =1	Y NO=
Break O'Day Council	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Brighton Council	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	0
Burnie City Council	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	0
Central Coast Council	3	0	1	3	0	1	3	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	3
Central Highlands Council	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Circular Head Council	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Clarence City Council	4	0	1	4	0	1	4	0	4	4	0	1	2	1	4
Derwent Valley Council	2	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	0
Devonport City Council	3	0	1	3	1	3	1	3	3	3	0	1	3	3	0
Dorset Council	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Flinders Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
George Town Council	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Glenorchy City Council	4	0	1	4	1	4	0	4	4	4	0	1	4	4	0
Hobart City Council	4	0	1	4	4	0	4	0	4	4	0	1	4	4	0
Huon Valley Council	2	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	2
Kentish Council	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Kingborough Council	3	0	1	3	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	1	3	3	0
King Island Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latrobe Council	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	2
Launceston City Council	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meander Valley Council	2	0	1	2	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	2	2	0
Northern Midlands Council	2	0	1	2	2	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	0
Sorrell Council	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
Southern Midlands Council	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Tasman Council	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Tasman Council	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	2	1	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	0
West Coast Council	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
West Tamar Council	3	0	1	3	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	1	3	3	0
TOTAL	58	YES 8	NO 1	44 YES	33 NO	19 YES	27 NO	25 YES	43 NO	9 YES	18 NO	34 YES	34 YES	34 NO	14

Yellow: Apology/Absent

Motion - as Amended

Dorset Amendment

Kingborough Amendment

General Meeting 27 March 2020

Item No		
2	Items for Decision	
2.1	Charitable Rates	Refer AGM Agenda Annual Plan
2.2	Headworks	Refer Item 2.2
2.3	Timing of Local Government Elections	Motion Lost No Further Action
2.4	Newstart	Refer Follow up of Motions
2.5	COVID Relief	No Further Action
3	Items for Discussion	
3.1	Professional Development Elected Members	Deferred and will be listed at a future meeting
4	Items for Noting	
4.1	Local Government Act Review	Refer Item 3.1
4.2	Coastal Hazards	Ongoing
4.3	Waste	Refer Item 3.1
4.4	Planning	Refer Item 3.2
4.5	Social Media	Refer Item 3.14
4.6	21st Century Councils	Ongoing
4.7	Emergency Management	Refer Item 3.8
4.8	Policy Update	No Further Action
4.9	Performance and Improvement Survey	No Further Action
4.10	Communications and Events Update	Refer Item 3.14
4.11	Annual Plan	Refer AGM Agenda

Follow Up of Motions Report

Report to the General Meeting

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

Local Government Legislation	
<p>Rating</p> <p>That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.</p> <p>That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act, with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes</p>	<p>Passed: March 2019</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has established a Steering Committee and sought legal advice on amendments to the Local Government Act. Further engagement with the Government and other stakeholders was put on hold at the commencement of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Steering Committee have determined that given the changed context, this matter would best be dealt with as part of the review of Local Government legislation at this time.</p>
Environment	
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>That the LGAT call upon the Federal and Tasmanian State Governments and Parliaments urging them to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Acknowledge the urgency created by climate change that requires immediate and collaborative action across all tiers of government; b) Acknowledge that the world climate crisis is an issue of social and environmental injustice and, to a great extent, the burden of the frontline impacts of climate change fall on low income communities vulnerable groups and future generations; and c) Facilitate emergency action to address the climate crisis, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet or exceed targets in the Paris Agreement. 	<p>Passed: July 2019</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has written to the Premier and the Prime Minister, urging them to acknowledge and take action to address climate change in accordance with this motion. We are awaiting a response.</p> <p>However, subsequent to LGAT's letters, the new Premier has created a ministerial portfolio for climate change and taken it on personally. The Premier's State of the State report¹ on 3 March 2020 made very strong statements addressing climate change and they were consistent with most aspects of this motion.</p>

¹ See: http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/state_of_the_state

<p><i>Waste and Resource Recovery</i> That Members endorse the proposal to establish a LGAT led Waste Action Plan Reference Group to lead the sectors input into the State Waste Action Plan</p>	<p>Passed: December 2019 Notes: LGAT has received nominations from the sector for the Reference Group. At this point no further work has been required, as the State Government has not substantially progressed the next stages of the draft WAP.</p> <p>This motion will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p><i>Weed Management</i> That LGAT lobby the heads of the Tasmanian Government's Departments and GBEs with responsibilities for management of public lands or works on public lands to have new increased and sustained resourcing levels committed in government agency budgets to manage weeds on public land in coordination with the efforts of others in local areas.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2019 Notes: Stage 2 of the Weeds Action Fund (WAF), which will roll out from 2020 to 2023, has "shared responsibility" as a key principle. The focus of the WAF is on collaboration between stakeholders with a responsibility or direct interest in the management of weeds in Tasmania.</p> <p>The tender process for a preferred service provider to administer the allocation of funds for the WAF closed on 21 April and DPIPW is currently finalising the process.</p> <p>In addition, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Break O'Day, Southern Midlands, Tasman and Sorell Councils have all signed agreements for funding under the drought and weeds program. This will allow them to subsidise the salary of a council Weeds Inspector and to support on-ground, targeted weed control activities.</p> <p>The funding will also allow councils to undertake further weeds planning, surveillance, training and awareness activities to reduce the risk of weeds spreading.</p> <p>This motion will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>

Planning and Building	
<p>Building Act</p> <p>That LGAT request that the State Government provide the necessary resources and undertake an urgent review of the Building Act 2016 to address the shortcomings being experienced by Local Government in relation to the operation of this Act.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2018</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has raised this issue with the Director of Building Control and while a root and branch review was not supported, he did accept there was an opportunity for continual improvement to the Building Act. Prior to COVID-19, LGAT had commenced planning for regular meetings with permit authorities, which will be used both as a direct engagement forum to inform LGAT's advocacy for changes to the Building Act and also for permit authorities to accrue CPD points. This work will now re-commence, with the first forums expected to be rolled out prior to the end of this year.</p>
<p>337 Certificates</p> <p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the Tasmanian Government for:</p> <p>1. Urgent review of the 337 certificate form under Schedule 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 to address the following omissions from current regulatory regimes that impact the subject lands:</p> <p>a) Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993: Codes (such as landslip); Specific Area Plans; Local provisions; applications for a new planning scheme - including the Tasmanian Planning Scheme; or applications for amendments to local provisions under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.</p> <p>b) Building Act 2016: Submitted form 80's for low risk building work; Whether any natural hazard considerations affect the lands; Question 31 (a) add a new section (iii) asking about onsite waste waters systems approved prior to the Plumbing Regulations 1994 Questions 38-40 be revised to ask whether notifiable building work has been completed and then to provide details regardless of the answer; and</p>	<p>Passed: July 2019</p> <p>Notes: Throughout late 2019 LGAT worked with the Government on part 1 (337s) of the motion. An amendment to the Regulations came into effect on the 4 March. LGAT has surveyed councils to see how the amended list of questions is working for them and is following up on the responses received.</p> <p>In relation to part 2 of the motion (the <i>Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016</i>), LGAT has written to the Minister for Building and Construction. The Minister responded by noting that vendor disclosure was considered in 2016 with no consensus among stakeholders but committed to continuing discussions to inform any potential future decisions around reforms.</p> <p>This motion will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>

<p>2. Revisions to the Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016 to consider:</p> <p>a) Requiring a 337 certificate prior to listing of a property and making it available as part of the sale process; and</p> <p>b) Seeking full disclosure for properties as part of the listing process rather than the current process</p>	
Roads and Infrastructure	
<p>Heavy Vehicle Road Tax</p> <p>That Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government provides an immediate commitment to reinstatement of the equitable distribution of the total heavy motor vehicle road tax collected, to the percentage distribution at the time of inception of the scheme in 1996/1997.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2019</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has written to the Minister for Transport seeking their response to this motion and intentions regarding the Heavy Vehicle Road Tax. The Minister responded in the negative, deflecting appropriate attribution among road management authorities by referring to other streams of funding. However, the argument hinges on an economic principle and matters of good governance, not simple funding amounts. LGAT intends to escalate this issue to the Treasurer in the coming weeks, where economic arguments may be better received.</p>
<p>Indexation of Heavy Vehicle Road Tax</p> <p>Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government make to all Local Councils a one off additional annual payment allocation of the heavy motor vehicle road tax distribution as compensation for 24 years of no indexation of the funding allocation.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2019</p> <p>Notes: As above.</p>

Emergency Management	
<p><i>Fire Services Levy</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate on behalf of all Councils the deep concern at the level of the Fire Service Contribution that councils are expected to collect from ratepayers each year on behalf of the State Fire Commission; and 2. Seek justification for the excessive level of financial burden that has been imposed over the last five years. 	<p>Passed: July 2018</p> <p>Notes: The Fire Services Act is currently under review. The Act is the key piece of legislation which dictates the Fire Service Contribution and how increases to the contribution are decided. LGAT provided a submission to the issues paper as part of the review and advocated concern and the need for more transparency and justification in relation to increase to the contribution. LGAT also met with Mike Blake as part of his consultation on the Bill in which we discussed the LGAT submission and the issues raised as part of this motion. It is understood that a draft discussion paper is with the steering committee for final comment. Once finalised it will go out for public consultation for 3 months.</p>

Local Government Business and Finance	
Social Policy	
<p><i>Growing Health Crisis</i></p> <p>A. Council requests the State Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge that Tasmania is facing a growing health crisis caused by chronic and preventable disease. 2. Acknowledge that one of the statutory functions of councils is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community. 3. Recognise that a continued costly focus on hospitals and traditional medical treatment cannot improve community health and health outcomes in the same way that a strategic focus on healthy behaviours and physical activity can. 4. Create adequate funding mechanisms through new and existing budget allocations for Local Government - to allow for the adequate provision of sportsgrounds, playgrounds, outdoor walking, cycling and jogging trails and other infrastructure that will increase the exercise and activity options for all Tasmanians, with a key focus on children. 5. Facilitate and fund appropriate public health awareness campaigns focused on the need to increase the uptake of healthy exercise behaviours by the wider Tasmanian community. <p>B. That Council requests LGAT support recommendations 1-5 above and advocate to the State Government on behalf of the Local Government sector accordingly.</p>	<p>Passed: December 2019</p> <p>Notes: The Local Government Community Health and Wellbeing Project is focussed on supporting councils to improve community health and wellbeing outcomes.</p> <p>LGAT has been discussing the motion and the issues raised with the Department of Communities. Specific actions have been delayed by the Department's significant engagement in planning immediate and longer recovery from COVID-19. The Department noted that the context has significantly changed in recent months. For example, there has been a \$200M Local Government Loans Program available for councils to support infrastructure projects, including sport and recreation facilities. While the Department's immediate focus is around return to play and supporting sport organisations and facility owners/operators to put in place appropriate mechanisms to respond to and recovery from COVID-19, LGAT will continue discussing how both levels of government can strategically address the health crisis.</p>

<p><i>Women's Shelter</i></p> <p>That LGAT advocate for the State Government to investigate the need for a Women's Shelter/s to be located in and to service regional Tasmania and other rural areas, to service the population across the greater part of rural Tasmania.</p>	<p>Passed: December 2019</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has written to the Minister and we are awaiting a response. The letter notes the increased urgency for action and the positive context for action created by the government's interest in addressing family and domestic violence and recent announcements of significant spending on social and affordable housing.</p>
<p><i>Public Spaces By-Laws</i></p> <p>That Tasmanian Councils consider adopting the provisions in the City of Hobart Public Spaces By-Law so that a person is not guilty of an offence in relation to camping in public spaces if at the time they are homeless</p>	<p>Passed: December 2019</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has written to all GMs encouraging their councils to consider the matter. A summary of the case that was provided with the motion and the work of the City of Hobart are included in the email.</p> <p>This motion will be removed following the July General Meeting.</p>
<p>Other matters</p>	
<p><i>Government Services Decentralisation</i></p> <p>Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government provides a strategic commitment and resources funding program for the implementation of a state and federal government services decentralisation action plan to leverage and ensure the dispersal of employment opportunities across the state.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2018</p> <p>Notes: In its 2018 election platform, the Tasmanian Government made some statements and commitments of relevance to this motion. LGAT is reaching out to State Government partners to determine what actions have been taken to date regarding these and how they might contribute to the Tasmanian Government implementing and delivering a decentralisation/regionalisation action plan.</p> <p>In the post-COVID-19 environment of economic recovery, LGAT intends to advocate directly to the Minister's for Strategic and State Growth for support for this motion.</p>

<p><i>Tourism Signage</i></p> <p>That LGAT seek that the State Government provides a strategic commitment of a 4 year resources funding program for the implementation of international (Non English) visitor interpretive signage to ensure the dispersal of the increased international tourism economic benefits across the state.</p>	<p>Passed: July 2018</p> <p>Notes: LGAT has written to Tourism Tasmania and the Department of State Growth (DSG) and have received a response from Tourism Tasmania. Tourism Tasmania CEO provided a detailed and constructive response that noted that while he considered an interpretive signage program would not achieve improved regional tourism economic activity, Tourism Tasmania is motivated and has programs and measurable targets to increase visitation outside Hobart and the gateway cities into regional Tasmania.</p> <p>We are awaiting a response from DSG.</p>
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Southern Tasmanian
COUNCILS AUTHORITY

3 December 2019

Mayor Christina Holmdahl
President
Local Government Association of Tasmania
362 Macquarie Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mayor Holmdahl,

I write in relation to the issue of TasWater headworks charges and request the support of the Local Government Association of Tasmania in lobbying for a review of the current 'headworks holiday'.

The Tasmanian Government imposed a 'headworks holiday' for a period of two years with regards to TasWater with the intent that it was to assist development and developers. This 'holiday' was then extended indefinitely.

It is the view of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority that the lack of a headworks system is stifling development in critical growth areas (including those specifically identified as key growth sites in the Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy) in Greater Hobart.

The current system means that there can be an untenable 'first mover' cost, whereby the costs of the necessary sewer and water infrastructure to develop an area are too high for the first mover where there are multiple land owners in an area, which there generally are. All subsequent developers would effectively be subsidised by the 'first mover'.

TasWater demands that the infrastructure be suitable to service the area and will not fund the difference to then recoup it later from subsequent developers.

Brighton, for example, has a key growth precinct that has been sitting undeveloped for many years as no-one can fund the cost of the sewer pump station for the area alone. Getting the 20 or so land owners to co-fund is equally impossible.

Most other states have a system for headworks as Tasmania used to. The methodology is robust and transparent, and provides for equitable outcomes. Importantly, it also ensures that the cost of basic infrastructure is not a handbrake on orderly development and growth planning.

Given the above, the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority seeks the support of the Local Government Association of Tasmania to canvas the views of its membership in order to determine whether this issue is statewide and in the case that it does affect the majority of councils, the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the State Government to review the current arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Bec Enders

CHAIR
SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCILS AUTHORITY

18 December 2019

Mayor Bec Enders
Chair
Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority

Dear Mayor Enders

TasWater Headworks Charges

Thank you for your letter dated 3 December seeking the Local Government Association of Tasmania support in lobbying for a review of the current 'headworks holiday' provided by TasWater. I am responding on behalf of the LGAT President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl.

The State Government initially introduced a 'headworks holiday' in late 2014 for a 2-year period. At the completion of this period the TasWater Board determined that it would continue the headworks holiday, and as you note in your letter it remains today.

On receipt of your correspondence LGAT contacted TasWater to clarify their policy position and it was indicated that it is currently under review as part of the development of their Pricing and Service Plan 4 (PSP4) submission, due on 30th June 2020.

TasWater have further indicated that as part of their preparation of their PSP4 they have developed a specific options paper on developer charges. To inform this options paper, TasWater convened three forums to understand perceptions around their current developer charges approach and role in economic development, through November 2018 to February 2019 in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport, for key stakeholders from Local Government, State Government, the development industry and associated professionals. Participants in each of the locations expressed a strong desire for TasWater to reconsider their approach to developer charges.

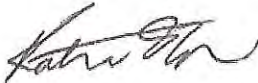
TasWater will be consulting on the options paper in early 2020. This engagement will include councils and we have informed TasWater of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority concerns with the current headworks holiday.

Should you wish LGAT to advocate for the ceasing of the headworks holiday then it will need to be raised as a motion at our March General Meeting for broader sector

endorsement. I appreciate that the timing of this meeting is not ideal given the likely timing of the consultation on the options paper on developer charges (January to February). However, we understand TasWater recognises this is an important issue for councils and is committed to meaningful engagement.

I trust this satisfies your concerns and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or assistance.

Yours sincerely



Dr Katrena Stephenson
Chief Executive Officer

Where LG sector view varied from reform direction		
Reform Direction	Sector View	Final Decision of Government
5. Reform eligibility for the General Manager's Roll	<p>Generally supported although a number of councils felt that permanent residents should also be allowed to vote, reflecting our growing migrant population.</p> <p>One Council suggested that inclusion on the House of Assembly electoral roll be an additional criterion for inclusion on the General Manager's Roll.</p> <p>One Council felt the General Manager's Roll should be removed entirely.</p> <p>At the July 2015 General meeting the following motion was carried: <i>That the LGAT urge the State Government to support the transfer of the administration of the General Manager's Roll to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. Further members also agreed, via motion, That 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 catch all citizens inclusive of refugees and permanent residents living in local government area.</i></p>	<p>Clarified as</p> <p>The following criteria will apply to the General Manager's Roll:</p> <p>Criteria 1 – A person must be an Australian citizen to be eligible to be enrolled to vote in local government elections.</p> <p>Criteria 2 – Individuals who are Australian citizens and own or occupy property in a municipal area where they are not residents should be eligible to enrol to vote in that area.</p> <p>Criteria 3 – A person is eligible for enrol to vote if they are the sole nominated representative of a business operating from a property in the municipal area, provided that person is an Australian citizen and is not already on the Roll in that municipal area under any other entitlement.</p> <p>No changes are proposed with regard to eligibility to vote based on enrolment on the House of Assembly roll.</p>
12. Introduce a pre-nomination training package	<p>This was supported by most councils although a few raised concerns that it might prove a barrier or obstruction if not accessible in multiple formats.</p> <p>Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That training be optional or only be required for candidates not already on Council; • That training be simple, interactive, and accessible via multiple platforms; and • That training be used to support, rather than replace, regional face-to-face sessions. <p>One Council submitted the continued availability of induction and training resources to be sufficient and did not support this reform. Another Council suggested a standard code of conduct be developed for candidates.</p>	<p>Clarified as</p> <p>Potential electoral candidates will be required to complete a training package in order to nominate as a candidate. The training packages would be completed in a simple online format and will provide information about the roles and responsibilities of councillors, rather than testing a potential candidate's knowledge.</p>

<p>13. Introduce a candidate nomination fee</p>	<p>There was no clear position from the sector on this proposal. Some councils support this reform in order to deter candidates who are not serious, whilst others do not – labelling it as an anti-democratic, stumbling block which limits the socioeconomically disadvantaged.</p> <p>One Council noted that the suggested nomination fee is potentially not high enough to achieve the desired outcome. Another Council suggested that the scale of fees should be based on the level of allowances relative to the position.</p> <p>There was a greater level of support for a Mayoral candidate fee.</p>	<p>This proposal will not proceed. A candidate fee will not be introduced.</p>
<p>17. All councils will develop and adopt a community engagement strategy</p>	<p>While most written submissions to LGAT supported this proposal, there was a strong opposition expressed in face to face forums. Much of this may be related to the lack of underlying detail and a concern that this was an overly prescriptive move, especially when most councils already have community engagement strategies.</p> <p>Councils generally agreed that more flexibility around engagement processes is needed.</p> <p>If it does proceed it is imperative that engagement requirements are not prescribed in an overly detailed way, thus creating more administration, delays, and red-tape. The strategy should reflect the circumstances and expectations of individual councils who themselves decide what will/won't be engaged on.</p> <p>Some councils view this as a step too far and would prefer that the Act set minimum requirements for consultation and information, so that these are clear and consistent for all councils. Councils can then meet those requirements and still be flexible in their consultation approach beyond the minimum standards.</p> <p>It was also raised that there is a risk, particularly for small councils, of the requirements creating an unsustainable administrative burden not aligned with the services the community expect.</p> <p>A formal requirement to renew after each election was considered overreach.</p>	<p>Clarified as</p> <p>Councils will develop a Community Engagement Strategy after each election, in collaboration with their communities. The Community Engagement Strategy will inform how councils will engage, involve, consult and inform their communities on plans, projects and policies. Councils will be required to follow their Community Engagement Strategy when engaging communities on their Strategic Plan, in determining their service delivery priorities and when setting their budget (including rating decisions).</p> <p><i>Direct to gov council written submissions</i></p> <p><i>14 for</i></p> <p><i>4 against</i></p> <p><i>2 undecided</i></p>

<p>19. Remove requirements for public meetings and elector polls</p>	<p>Supported - One Council noted that public meetings and elector polls could be addressed within the adopted community engagement strategy.</p> <p>The retention of community initiated public meetings is supported by a small number of councils but only on the basis that the threshold number of electors are increased.</p> <p>It was suggested by one Council that elector polls only be capable of being held in conjunction with an election and LGAT feels, based on anecdotal evidence, that there would be support for that.</p>	<p>Not agreed by Gov but some amendment</p> <p>In recognition of strong community views about this Reform Direction, community-initiated elector polls and public meetings will be retained in the new Act. However, the threshold to trigger an elector poll will be increased to 20% of electors (currently the threshold is 10%). It will also be a condition that any elector polls or public meetings must relate to an issue over which local government has decision making authority. Councils will retain the power to initiate elector polls and a new power will be provided for the Minister to initiate a state-wide elector poll on a particular issue if required.</p>
<p>20. Legislate the eight good governance principles</p>	<p>Mostly supported by the sector although in general it was felt by LGAT Members that it would be sufficient to maintain these principles as guidelines due to their subjectivity and likely restrictiveness. The 'consensus oriented' principle was particularly problematic for one Council, being seen to be contrary to good governance. In all, the Act should establish expectations of a culture of governments rather than be overly prescriptive in approach.</p>	<p>No real change</p> <p>The principles from the Local Government Good Governance Guide will be legislated and linked to the behaviours in the Code of Conduct.</p> <p><i>11 councils supported</i> <i>4 supported with caveats</i> <i>5 against</i></p>
<p>21. Set high-level financial management principles that encourage efficiency and value for money in council service delivery</p>	<p>Council largely felt hamstrung in commenting on this proposal because of the lack of detail. While not strongly opposing, it was suggested that additional policy tools, such as guidelines, would be sufficient. It was hard to elicit what the major benefit over s28 (1) to (4) would be.</p> <p>Even those cautiously supportive felt the principles identified might be too narrow and did not capture the need for alignment of strategic planning documents.</p> <p>One suggestion arising from face to face discussions was that a practical and useful action would be to review the various accounting methodologies being used by councils and develop standardised reporting. This would</p>	<p>No real change</p> <p>High-level financial management principles will be established to provide a clear expectation for councils when developing their strategic plans and budgets that focus upon transparency, accountability and sound financial management.</p>

	<p>address some of the complexities such as volume/length of reporting driven by disclosures currently required in the Local Government Act and International Accounting standards, which are not necessarily relevant to Council operation.</p>	
<p>22. Establish core capability requirements for elected members</p>	<p>There was no consensus on this matter and particularly during workshops this was described as an overly prescriptive direction.</p> <p>It was noted by some that because Local Government is no different to State and Federal Governments in that the elected members are democratically elected, at most this should take the form of guidelines.</p> <p>Others suggested that training extend beyond Planning and Local Government to include topics directly relevant to the role of an elected member (e.g. meeting procedure training).</p> <p>One Council raised concern around the term 'core capability' as it implies there may be a pass or fail scenario for elected members. This Council therefore suggested it be changed to 'professional development'.</p> <p>It was uncertain how weight would be given to experience both on and off Council.</p> <p>Noting that training needs to be delivered in Plain English and accessible via multiple platforms, questions were raised as to how it would be implemented and how it would be affordable and accessible relative to the Councillors role and allowances.</p>	<p>Shifted to</p> <p>Core competency requirements for elected members will be outlined with general managers needing to develop and deliver an induction plan for elected members following each council election. It will also be a requirement for councillors to complete training about their role as a Planning Authority.</p> <p><i>In written submissions</i></p> <p><i>11 councils supported</i></p> <p><i>5 neutral</i></p> <p><i>1 against</i></p>
<p>23. Require councils to publicly report the core capability training that each elected member has completed annually</p>	<p>This was not strongly supported although there was less concern about broader reporting on training participation. One reason given by councils for not supporting this reform is the different level of training required by each elected member, according to their skills, background and experience (i.e. yearly reports will not provide a complete picture of capability and/or existing qualifications, thus creating an unnecessary compliance burden). Others, however, see merit in reporting core capability training and in extending this reform to all Councillor professional development.</p>	<p>Shifted to</p> <p>Reporting of training completed by elected members will not be required to be reported publicly, rather general managers will be required to develop induction plans for elected members, with meeting procedures training to be completed prior to the first meeting.</p>

<p>24. Establish principles for all Council staff that set minimum standards of behaviour</p>	<p>Not supported without further detail.</p> <p>Most councils feel that it is not necessary to include these principles within legislation as Local Government staff are employed and managed under an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and all councils already have workplace policies to manage behaviour.</p> <p>It is suggested that overly prescriptive legislation often causes more problems than it solves and that setting minimum standards would disempower the relationship between a council's General Manager and staff.</p> <p>Some Members feel that a level of prescription is appropriate and that there is merit in enhanced consistency.</p> <p>How these principles are applied to engagement with Council employee groups and/or contracts under commonwealth approved enterprise agreements requires clarification.</p>	<p>Clarified as</p> <p>Local government employment principles will be set, aligning with the principles applying to employees under the Tasmanian State Service Act 2000. The consequences for a breach of these minimum staff standards of behaviour would be a matter for each council to determine.</p> <p><i>Original proposal supported by 4 councils, 5 councils neutral, 6 councils against. (in written submissions)</i></p>
<p>25. Prescribe minimum standards for General Manager recruitment, contracts, performance management and termination</p>	<p>Not generally supported.</p> <p>While several councils support this reform it was only to the extent that best-practice recruitment practices (i.e. tools and support materials) are contained within Ministerial Orders. However, for these councils, prescription within the Act is not supported. It was noted that councils need flexibility in order to recruit staff that best suit their needs/situation.</p> <p>It was suggested by a number of Members that such a reform overreaches on one of the main responsibilities of Councillors and can open channels for an aggrieved individual to mount legal challenges.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>Minimum standards will be set for general manager recruitment, contracts, performance management and termination. The current power to issue a Ministerial Order on the appointment and performance of general managers will remain.</p> <p><i>Note in submissions direct to Gov 6 councils supported, 2 were neutral and 6 were against.</i></p>
<p>29. Establish an independent rates oversight mechanism</p>	<p>Generally not supported, although this is another proposal on which councils were frustrated by a lack of detail.</p> <p>It was noted that appropriate oversight already exists for councils' financial management and that Local Government is not confident that the Economic Regulator has the experience or capacity to undertake this role.</p> <p>Councils should be given discretion and be guided by their community's needs which change over time.</p>	<p>Amended</p> <p>Rather than the proposed oversight of rates increases by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator, council Audit Panel chairs will be required to review any proposed rate changes that deviate from a council's Long-Term Financial Plan, and/or any changes to a council's Long-Term Financial Plan. Audit Panel Chairs will continue to be independent of their councils and the Panels must have a majority of independent members.</p>

	<p>Other reasons for a lack of support include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils already have the Auditor General monitoring rating policies – this reform will therefore impose unnecessary additional prescription; and • Overuse may place unnecessary financial hardship on councils if they are required to pay for these interventions – an option for the State to resource any intervention measures should therefore be available. <p>A more logical approach, according to one Council, would be to consider how the Local Government Division could provide oversight on rating policies and monitor Council financial sustainability. Providing a more comprehensive financial benchmarking system has also been suggested.</p>	
<p>30. Set principles or guidelines for setting fees and charges</p>	<p>Not supported.</p> <p>While several councils are supportive of a more transparent and consistent approach to the setting of fees and charges there was concern that this approach is overly prescriptive and does not recognise the different scales and nature of councils business operations. For example, technology now allows differential and flexible parking meter charges to influence behaviour and improve traffic.</p> <p>Fee setting should be done on a true cost recovery basis with flexibility for local circumstances. There is no clear benefit to the proposed bureaucratic requirements.</p> <p>Reform which is only for purpose of consistency does not properly reflect the financial plans, practices and costs of an individual Council in providing the service for which the fees and charges apply, instead, the focus should be on providing principles or guidelines as a tool to assist councils.</p>	<p>Clarified to note</p> <p>The principles or guidelines will promote greater consistency in the approach to setting fees and charges without prescription of the amounts themselves. Fees and charges should be reflective of the cost of the service being delivered as they are not a tax to raise general revenue.</p> <p><i>In written submissions 11 councils opposed the original reform direction.</i></p>
<p>37. Create a power for the Director of Local Government to require an undertaking from a Council as a measure to address compliance issues</p>	<p>Not generally supported without further detail.</p> <p>An increase in oversight and intervention powers needs to be supported by powers to address non-compliance. Consideration must also be given to a review/appeal mechanism to address disagreement with the actions of the Director.</p>	<p>Clarified as</p> <p>The Director of Local Government will have the power to accept an undertaking by a council, councillor or general manager to <u>either correct an act of non-compliance with the Act, or to ensure that there is no recurrence.</u></p>

	<p>Other comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That such a direction should only be issued by the Minister (an elected representative); • That such a direction should be directed to Council for Council to ensure the General Manager corrects the non-compliance; and • That direction should only be able to be issued once Council agrees there is an instance of non-compliance. 	<p><i>Original proposal supported by 10 councils, 2 councils neutral and 5 not supporting.</i></p>
<p>38. Establish a Monitor/Advisor role</p>	<p>Not generally supported.</p> <p>It is suggested that only the Director should be able to recommend the engagement of a Monitor (and Financial Controller), and that functions of elected councils should only be used in overridden by Ministerial decision.</p> <p>An alternative suggestion is that all Closed Session Agendas be sent to the Director of Local Government in order to monitor the information being discussed.</p> <p>Of the councils supporting this reform, it was suggested by one that it be extended to include a Mentor role.</p>	<p>Modified</p> <p>To be renamed 'Advisor'. The Director of Local Government will have the power to require the appointment of an Advisor to enter a council to review its operations, request information from the council administration (and the Audit Panel), provide guidance to elected members and senior staff, and make recommendations to the council. Councils may also decide that an Advisor be engaged as an early intervention to assist a council before issues result in more serious outcomes.</p> <p><i>In direct submissions on original proposal 8 councils supported (in principle or with caveats, 2 were neutral and 6 did not support</i></p>
<p>39. Establish the power to appoint a Financial Controller</p>	<p>Not strongly supported. If progressed, there needs to be clarity around when this might occur. As mentioned previously, a review mechanism will need to be in place to allow for disagreements to be addressed.</p>	<p>Modified</p> <p>To be renamed 'Financial Supervisor'. Similar to Reform Direction #38, the Director of Local Government may appoint a Financial Supervisor to a council to manage serious, demonstrated financial challenges, similar to powers that exist in New South Wales.</p> <p><i>In direct submissions on original proposal 6 councils supported (in principle or with caveats, 6 were neutral and 5 did not support</i></p>

<p>41. Provide for the Minister to dismiss a Council or individual Councillor</p>	<p>Mostly supported. Several councils feel that the current system of the Minister only having the power to dismiss the whole and not individual Councillors needs amendment, however a number of issues need to be considered and detail is not available.</p> <p>The concerns with this proposal relate to the role of the Director vs that of a Board.</p> <p>One Council feels very strongly that the powers of the Director should be reduced (not strengthened). This Council states that advice from the Director often conflicts with their own legal advice and that Local Government Officers are biased and at times incompetent in their investigations.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>The Minister will have the ability to dismiss a council or councillor on recommendation of the Director. The Minister will retain the power to establish a Board of Inquiry and, in response to findings, recommend the Governor dismiss a council or councillor.</p> <p><i>In direct submissions on original proposal 11 councils supported 2 were neutral and 4 did not support</i></p> <p><i>For 36-42 SC noted that natural justice/procedural fairness would be important in legislation and these would require the sector to be consulted on in drafting Bill.</i></p>
<p>42. Create offences for mismanagement and to address poor governance (maladministration)</p>	<p>While further detail is required, as a concept this is mostly supported. The following concerns/comments were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The performance of councils should be left to councils (as much as possible), intervention should only occur when there is a clear breach of the Act; • The need for clarity around the role of Mayor in managing the elected body, General Manager in managing the organisation, and relationship between the General Manager and elected members; • A potential detrimental effect on Local Government management, those with management skills will seek positions with greater financial reward and less potential for criminal prosecution; and • This must relate only to those areas which the General Manager has control over, not to decisions by or actions of councillors. <p>Such provisions, both for the Council and individual Councillors, would need to be tested through the courts. One Council endorsed the Tasmanian Audit Office as the current means of potentially identifying any financial mismanagement.</p>	<p>Clarified as</p> <p>An offence of maladministration will be created for systemic failures or a major consequence resulting from a single act of impropriety, incompetence or neglect. The offence will be directed to all councillors, individual councillors and general managers but not other senior executive council staff.</p>

<p>45. Require councils to publish a compliance statement in the Annual Report</p>	<p>No clear sectorial position. Some councils feel that this reform is unnecessary and that existing audit panel requirements are sufficient to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Other councils feel that the Directions Paper does not provide sufficient detail in order to determine whether this reform is supported. Depending on the nature of this statement, there could be practical challenges with determining compliance – for example.</p> <p>If this reform was to be introduced, a compliance certificate would need to be developed so there is consistency, according to one Council.</p>	<p>Amended</p> <p>Compliance statements would only be completed for ‘material’ or ‘significant’ matters. General managers will be required to sign-off and account for the council’s material compliance obligations under the Act and some associated legislation, and report to the community a formal attestation that material compliance obligations have been met.</p>
<p>48. Introduce the option to create Regional Councils</p>	<p>No clear sectorial position. Some councils feel that this reform would allow communities to maintain their own identity while achieving economy of scale benefits of working with other councils.</p> <p>Support was largely predicated on participation in a regional Council not being compulsory and where there is no preferential treatment granted to a regional Council over individual councils.</p> <p>More information (re. establishment processes, governance arrangements, funding, accountability, and dissolution) is required before many councils can support this reform.</p> <p>Those who do not support this reform site the following as concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation risks are considered too high and benefits difficult to identify/quantify; • The impracticality of councils needing to deliver and operate in the same or similar manner; and • The potential unnecessary of this approach given existing Joint Authority powers. 	<p>Not proceeding</p>

6 June 2020

Tony Ferrell
Secretary
Department of Treasury and Finance
secretary@treasury.tas.gov.au

Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the PESRAC.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993*, our functions being:

- (a) To protect and represent the interests and rights of councils in Tasmania;
- (b) To promote an efficient and effective system of local government in Tasmania; and
- (c) To provide services to member councils, councillors and employees of councils.

The views and opinions expressed in this submission are representative of the Local Government sector and consider the feedback from LGAT's members at a senior officer level. Given the tight timeframes it was not possible to formally engage the broad membership. However, officer level feedback was received from 27 of 29 councils. In addition, LGAT has been meeting regularly with the three regional council authorities and RDA Tasmania to discuss and compile the impacts being felt across the Local Government sector.

This submission is focused on impacts. LGAT is currently finalizing a second submission for PESRAC which is forward looking.

We are happy to engage directly with the PESRAC and support your engagement with our Members.

Please contact me at any time.



Your sincerely

Dr Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc - Adrian Christian, Director adrian.christian@treasury.tas.gov.au
PESRAC Secretariat secretariat.PESRAC@treasury.tas.gov.au

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TASMANIAN COUNCILS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

1. General Comments

Key points:

- *Tasmanian councils have made significant financial and human resource investment in responding to covid-19*
- *all councils and communities will be impacted differently and have different pathways to recovery.*

The COVID19 pandemic has impacted every Australian home, business and community. Even for those who remained in work, the associated uncertainty and changes to our way of life have had an impact. COVID - 19 will continue to influence how we operate for a long period after people start to resume social contact and work.

To date all levels of government have invested to ensure that Australia's community capacity remains in place to support the operation and recovery of our society, economy and livelihoods post the COVID - 19 national shut-down. And while the investment from Federal and State Governments has been significant, Local Government's contribution cannot be underestimated.

COVID-19 can be seen as a magnifying glass that highlights and heightens divides that already existed in our community. Indicators such as financial disadvantage, job insecurity, digital access issues, homelessness, nutritional voids, alcohol, tobacco and recreational drug use, domestic abuse, mental health and gambling issues have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and its related disadvantage.

Tasmanian councils have already committed to nearly \$40 million in relief measures¹ to support their communities through the crisis and into recovery through a variety of means. These include:

- a 0% rates increase for the 2020/21 financial year;
- direct business and community support grant programs;
- hardship assistance policies

¹ To be applied through the period March 2020 through to 30 June 2021 and as at 1 June 2020. Councils are continuing to invest in this space.

- rates remissions for certain businesses;
- relaxing or waiving of certain penalties, fees and charges;
- suspended debt collection;
- waiving of rent on council properties; and
- a variety of local and regional programs to support business and communities.

For more detail see the relief measures link on LGAT's COVID-19 Resources Page:
<https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/media-and-publications/covid-19>

This investment in relief equates to 6.85% of 2017-18 revenues (as published by the State Grants Commission). For the sake of comparison, State Government's investment in COVID relief represents 6.58% of revenue².

Overall, the Local Government sector anticipates the impact to the Tasmanian economy will be felt most acutely in the shorter term, although there is a high level of uncertainty around future impact aligned with the easing of restrictions as well as the risks of further outbreaks. It is anticipated that economic and social disruption will have long-lasting effects on the Australian, Tasmanian and local economies over a number of years.

All councils and communities will be impacted differently by COVID-19. Each local community has its own unique makeup of residents and businesses, which inherently means that some communities will be more vulnerable than others in both a health and economic sense. Because of this, as Local Governments plan their response and recovery activities, additional focus will be directed towards the community cohorts that will require more support than others.

² Economic and Fiscal Update Report May 2020

2. What impacts are currently being seen by your sector or members (including clients/households/individuals as relevant in your context) and what impacts are anticipated in the coming weeks and months?

Key points:

- *Councils' initial focus was on health and wellbeing and delivery of essential services and most experienced significantly increased workloads.*
- *Financial impacts flowed shortly after including through lost revenues, implementation of relief measures, increased cleaning costs and loss of TasWater dividends. Some councils, like businesses, have experienced cash flow difficulties.*
- *Less common council functions such as childcare and airports have been severely affected.*
- *In their communities, Councils are reporting increasing financial stress, disconnection and isolation. The impact on the use of volunteers by councils and local not-for-profits and sporting groups has been widely noted. There is increased demand for mental health services and domestic violence services.*

The immediate impacts for councils related to protecting the health and wellbeing of workers including staff, councillors, contractors and visitors to council sites. Councils were required to quickly work through the public health directions and implement appropriate precautions, including the closure of some business areas and a significant shift to staff working from home. This led to an immediate reduction in access to council facilities for ratepayers and community groups. It also proved difficult to maintain capital/maintenance programs and ensure a safe workplace with appropriate physical distancing, with some work being deferred.

There was an immediate and substantial increase in workload for many council workers, both in managing their own functions but also supporting communities and ratepayers. This combined with reporting on actual and likely world, Australian and Tasmanian COVID-19 scenarios has led to worker fatigue, nervousness and impact on mental wellbeing. While some have embraced new and innovative ways of working, others have been less able to adapt. Historic investment in cloud-based ICT systems has been a strongly determining factor in the ease of maintaining business as usual from less than usual workplaces.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic presents many challenges for Local Government. (Councils) themselves are complex medium-sized businesses experiencing many of the same challenges as other small to medium businesses, they are also the first point of contact with our communities and play a key role in supporting our local businesses and communities during times of challenge.

Local Governments are often the first line of connection to the communities they serve. During the coronavirus pandemic, they are being enlisted to enable and enforce the federal and state government's restrictions in regards to their communities needing to be physical distancing and self-isolating. Many of our essential services are delivered by the local councils, and often involve a high degree of interaction with vulnerable members in our communities ... (Councils) have customers, they have a large number of employees, key services, and costs and revenues to be managed during this time.

Toni Jones, Partner in Charge Industries, Enterprise and Local Government Sector Leader KPMG Australia.

Financial Impacts

It has not taken long for councils to start experiencing significant financial impacts from:

- lost fees and charges revenue e.g. parking, sports centres and child care;
- relief measures as outlined above, including deferral of payments, remissions, waivers and grants;
- lost revenue from TasWater dividends - with no dividends to be paid for the second ½ of this financial year (having an immediate cash flow impact) and the likelihood of no dividends none next year; and
- increased cleaning costs.

With cashflow a significant concern, the recent forward payment of the Federal Government's Financial Assistance grants is welcome. However, this is not universally effective, as the metro councils receive only the minimum grant. This was mitigated to some extent for the Cities of Hobart and Launceston where their successful State Government stimulus loan applications covered not just capital but some operational/relief cost. Provided these are processed and paid quickly it will provide significant relief on stressed cash flows.

Case Study - Council Airports: While not impacting all councils, the downturn in Tourism has had a particular impact where councils own and maintain airports.

It is clear that the Federal funding being provided to regional airlines is not leading to reduced pressure for those councils who own regional airports. For our small remote councils, the cost of regional airports is already a significant and unsustainable impost. This is being exacerbated under the COVID-19 Pandemic, with airlines now owing significant amounts to councils. For Flinders and King Islands there is a critical need to keep both airports open as vital public infrastructure. However, maintaining operational compliance standards (which prevents cost savings) while at the same time incurring a substantial loss of landing fee revenue places these councils under significant financial strain.

Flinders and King Islands have identified three major issues related to the sustainability of the airports:

- Large infrastructure costs related to upgrading the runways, taxi ways and aprons.
- High operational costs to address the day-to-day safety and management of the airport and its Terminal (including labour, plant and equipment required to operate and maintain the airport facilities).
- Challenging financial conditions: For example on Flinders, Sharp Airlines currently owes council an amount equal to 50% of its annual Passenger Takes, experiencing a 30% decline in passenger travel in the first month of COVID-19.

On Flinders Island landing fees and passenger taxes represent 20% of total rate income, on King Island cash losses from the airport are expected to be equivalent to 25% of rate income.

Case Study- Childcare: Similarly, while limited to eight councils, the impacts on council run childcare facilities has been significant. Tasmanian councils play an integral part in ensuring access to early learning and care for local communities across Tasmania. These centres, whilst owned by the Local Government, are operated as separate entities, where any operational deficits must be funded from the centres' operating cash reserves.

Across the impacted councils, LGAT estimates that around 80 casual and 90 permanent staff have been impacted by decreased childcare revenue. Prior to COVID-19 these centres were supporting upwards of 1000 children.

Since the introduction of the Federal Government's Early Education and Care Relief Package, these centres have all been under considerable financial pressure due to the limited financial support available to centres owned by Local Government. Unlike privately owned centres, council run centres are unable to access Job Keeper Payments and are not eligible for the Exceptional Circumstances Supplementary Payments. This ineligibility continues to put the centres under financial strain, with some councils making the difficult decision to temporarily close their centres. As we enter the recovery phase the childcare sector is crucial in supporting people to return to work. To ensure centres remain financially viable and sustainable, financial support from the Federal Government for Local Government centres is essential.

Other impacts

There have been a range of impacts on councils' operations and services. For example, councils had to reluctantly suspend or cancel community programs and events. Less predictable was the significant increase in household waste and recycling volumes related to the shift to people being home based. On a more positive note all councils have reported increased used of walkways and cycleways for passive recreation.

Overcoming the statutory requirements for council meetings to be conducted face-to-face emerged quickly as a priority with a varying ability of councils to switch to remote/online meetings with public access through live streaming. Sometimes this is

Huon Valley Children's Services provides Long Day Care (LDC) and outside School Hours Care (OSHC) for up to 171 children across Dover, Geeveston and Huonville.

The closest private providers are located in Cygnet (45 places LDC & OSHC) and Huonville (26 places LDC & OSHC).

The provision of Care by the Council is on a fee for service basis, where no financial support is provided by the rate payer. The Services all rely on the fees paid by families, funding from the Federal Government Childcare Subsidy System as well as the Community Childcare Fund.

related to councils' ICT infrastructure but in some of our rural and remote communities, access to sufficient high-quality internet proved challenging for both the council collectively and for individual staff and councillors. For example, on King Island, the only facility with sufficient bandwidth to conduct videoconferencing is the school. To enable the Council chambers to live stream meetings would require a new 4G Tower at the cost of many millions.

Regardless of technology issues, there have been positives and negatives related to moving to an online environment with more councils live streaming their council meetings and experiencing significantly enhanced public participation.

One of the positives out of this state of emergency is that the long experienced Local Government collegiality and collaboration has been magnified with regular engagement between key officers across council through a variety of innovative and electronic means.

COVID-Safe Business Planning

As restrictions ease and councils begin to resume operations, like other businesses they have to undertake the Work Health and Safety/Business Safe Plan requirements. Given the diversity of workplace types overseen by councils and the broad nature of interactions with those workplaces, many are finding this particularly onerous. This was unanticipated and the workload significant.

There have been expectations on council Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) expressed publicly by State Government - in relation to education and enforcement - but with no clarity or detail on what this will involve. Regardless of the final position, any COVID related responsibility for EHOs is likely to impact councils, as there is a nationwide shortage of EHOs.

The University of Tasmania (UTAS) has identified that there is little evidence to suggest that the current Tasmanian EHO workforce is large enough, nor adequately or equitably distributed or coordinated to minimise public health risks associated with environmental hazards and provide an optimal health protection workforce under the current regulatory requirements, let alone with additional duties. LGAT is currently working with UTAS, the Department of Health and the EPA on building future EHO capacity in Tasmania.

.idcommunity reports the following COVID-19 impacts on Tasmania:

- *GRP change (-9.4%);*
 - *Local job change (-7.2%);*
 - *Employed resident change (-7.2%);*
 - *Local jobs (-17,915) – compared to 18/19 average;*
 - *Net migration expected to be 85% down in 2021.*
 - *-4,537 jobs in accommodation and food services*
-

Communities

In relation to community impacts, councils have particularly noted the effects of *closure of businesses* both temporary and permanent, increasing financial stress, disconnection and isolation. The *impact on the use of volunteers* by councils and local not-for-

profits and sporting groups has been widely experienced. A number of councils have reported an *increased demand for mental health services* and domestic violence services. It was noted they are seeing many families experiencing poverty for the first time.

Councils also noted the difficulty faced by community cohorts where there was no access to *affordable and reliable internet*. This was felt to have significantly impacted on opportunities for education and social engagement during COVID-19 restrictions. All councils have reported that their communities feel *overloaded with information* and have difficulty in understanding or applying advice, especially where there have been apparent contradictions in verbal and written guidance.

Councils have identified a *range of vulnerable groups* including single parents (no respite), migrants and humanitarian entrants, people with disabilities, young people, people with no fixed abode and seasonal workers.

They note that many businesses are struggling with cashflow and some have been less able to move to an online environment. The *disproportionate impact on tourism and hospitality businesses* is consistently reported but the impact on the arts sector was also emphasised. *Uncertainties of global markets* and future commodity trade positions are perceived as impacting primary producers, while some communities have experienced the closure of banking services.

3. What factors are likely to shape the medium and longer-term impacts for your sector/members?

Key points:

- *Financial and operational uncertainty limits the capacity to forward plan.*
- *Council revenues will be impacted by a freeze on any increases to general rates.*
- *Councils will continue to be able to function, but we may see a contraction in discretionary spending.*

The high level of budget and operational uncertainty limits the capacity to forward plan and there is an inexorable link between the speed of Tasmania's recovery (capacity to pay rates) and councils' ability to deliver and be financially sustainable.

For the Local Government sector, the worsening economic outlook will impact on the sector's expenditure and revenue sources. Rates revenue will be negatively affected in 2020-21 due to most councils responding to political and community pressure and not applying an indexation to general rates. Combined with an increase in bad debts, negative impacts on fees and charges revenue due to lower levels of economic activity and service use, it is anticipated councils will run deficit budgets for at least the next few years. While this is unlikely to see councils fall over, it is likely to lead to a focus on statutory services and may result in a contraction of discretionary spending and service delivery.

While not COVID-19 related, a compounding pressure on councils is the erosion of the rate base. This is not, as commonly suggested, simply a matter of demographic change but can relate to emerging business models and legislated rates concessions - such as is the case for charitably owned independent living units and University of Tasmania student accommodation and the transfer of public housing stock to not for profit entities.

Each year LGAT releases a Council Cost Index³. The 2020 / 21 Index was released in March this year and was 2.18%. However, as mentioned above most councils are not applying any increase to general rates for next financial year and the economic outlook is looking particularly uncertain for their 2021-22 budgets. Like any business councils will be keeping a close eye on the speed of recovery and contemplating revenue and expenditure measures to return to surplus in the medium term. Councils

³ Since 2006 LGAT has published a Council Cost Index (CCI) to better reflect the cost increases associated with the delivery of Local Government services recognising that the CPI alone does not reflect cost increases across the range of council services. Wage costs, road and bridge costs and the CPI are the most common elements used in Local Government cost indexes across Australia and Tasmania is no different in that these elements are significant components of operating costs.

- Turner, K (2020), *Councils as Place Makers (draft)*, Regional Development Australia Tasmania.

will be reviewing their financial management strategy, their budgets, their service levels, and their long-term plans. They will be applying vacancy controls over the next 12 months and where possible seeking to delay pay increases. Local Government will also be looking to embed further efficiencies and collaborations driven by the necessity of responding to COVID-19.

There will be a strong focus on council capital programs as a key plank in economic stimulus. Twenty councils will be accessing \$147 million State Government three-year interest free stimulus loans. All councils are eligible for an allocation of funding under the Federal Government's Road Transport and Community Infrastructure Stimulus Program (\$16million statewide) and a number of councils have already brought forward some of their capital program. New capital initiatives can be a double-edged sword for councils, however, often bringing with them significant depreciation costs and asset renewal liabilities.

*The multiplier effects of Local Government place-making is notable; our survey found the 29 Councils were actively delivering (i.e. procuring for and constructing) \$389.5 Million of projects which modelling shows creates 1,744 direct jobs in construction and 1,153 indirect jobs in other industries and with multiplier effects add an extra \$193.90 Million to the Tasmanian economy.**

As will be the case for many Tasmanian businesses, the ongoing physical distancing and hygiene requirements will have a considerable impact on council operations. Councils will also be ensuring they are prepared for a second wave or another more traditional emergency event (fire, flood); noting that their flexibility to respond will now be significantly constrained.

Other concerns for the medium to longer term include:

- Recovery/retention of volunteers for community groups and council facilities;
- Risks to waste recovery markets;
- Community engagement processes and community event restrictions;
- Assisting organisations with the development of Safety Plans as more industries open and community groups try to re-establish; and
- Vacancy control/tightening resources.

Communities

When it comes to their communities, councils anticipate that anxiety around the return of tourists (particularly cruise boats) and relaxing of physical distancing will remain an issue over the medium to longer term, especially for vulnerable groups.

The likely ongoing restrictions on large scale gatherings and the threat to viability of sporting groups was regularly noted in our consultation with councils, as was the concern about individual vulnerability upon cessation of the JobSeeker/JobKeeper payments and the freeze on evictions. There is strong concern for young people with a view that school leavers will struggle to compete in the job market. The risk of an increase in child development delays as a result of limited use of early learning centres was also raised.

Nearly all councils indicated that recovery in the tourism sector will be vital to regional recovery and many expressed concerns at the vulnerability of services reliant on volunteers or donations. As indicated earlier, the uncertainty with respect to macro-economic environment, trade and supply chains is of concern for a range of industries.

4. What data or information can currently be provided to the Council on the nature and magnitude of impacts for your sector/members?

Key points:

- *The value of Local Government COVID-19 relief measures to date is approaching \$40M*
- *On average, councils' relief measures equate to 7.8% of rates revenue.*
- *On average, councils will have deficits in the order of \$2M for 20-21.*
- *The value of planned capital works across the LG sector in 20-21 is nearly \$137M.*

LGAT furnished several financial data requests to councils, with 26 councils able to assist. It should be noted however that it has been challenging for councils to make accurate estimates ahead of their budget process, with policy decisions still being made, the impacts of decisions made still being assessed and the impact on rates, fees and charges through decreased use, remissions, discounts or arrears still being measured. That being said, a broad sector picture is developing.

Key data:

Estimated value of all policy decisions made including freeze on rate increases from end of March to 30 June 2021. (excludes capital program and loss of TasWater Dividends).	\$38,946,949
Estimated value of relief measures to 30 June 2021 (as provided previously) as a % of general rates	Council average 7.8% Range: 3 - 16.8%
Estimated value of relief measures to 30 June 2021 (as provided previously) as a % of total revenue	Council average 4.1% Range: 3 – 8.4%
Predicted deficit for 19-20	Council average -\$836,335 Range: +\$1.5M to -\$9.5M
Predicted deficit for 20-21	Council average -\$2.018M Range: +\$467,000* to -\$12M *Only 2 councils predicting a surplus of around \$500k each
Current borrowings	Council average \$7.63M Range: \$0 – \$55M
Predicted borrowings to end of 20-21	Council average \$11.523M Range: \$0 – \$86M
Estimate of income lost through closed business units, downturn in fees/charges	Council average \$1.735M Range: \$0 – \$26.94M
Value of unpaid TasWater dividends 19-20	\$10M
Value of TasWater dividends 20-21	Anticipated at least \$10M likely \$20M
Anticipated additional cleaning costs across all council business for 6 months (based on 24 councils)	Council average \$30,000 Range: \$0 – \$90,000

Staff losses (number people and FTE) casuals	208 (estimated 78 FTEs). Note figures do not differentiate stand downs vs permanent losses.
Staff losses (number people and FTE) part-time	12 (estimated 6.4 FTEs)
Staff losses (number people and FTE) full-time	5 FTEs
Value of planned capital program 19-20	Total \$110.440M Average \$4.2M Range \$2.6M to \$59M
Value of capital works brought forward	Total \$25.326M Average \$9.7M Range \$0M to \$26M
Anticipated value of capital works program 20-21	Total \$136.772M Average \$5.26M Range \$2.8 to \$43.9M
Value of any new service offerings around recovery	\$5.1M

5. What mitigation measures are currently in place that aim to address these impacts?

Key points:

- *Councils have implemented a range of relief and mitigation measures and these are communicated through the LGAT website.*

Councils have implemented a range of relief and mitigation measures and as outlined earlier many of these have been captured in a single resource by LGAT. This is updated regularly on our website to reflect new decisions, but by way of example the document as at 3 June 2020 is provided as Attachment 1.

Other examples include:

- 1) By LGAT: regular communication and advice on Government announcements and council specific responses, development of templates such as the Hardship Policy and Remote Meeting Guidelines, refreshing of LGAT Procurement contracts to broaden local offerings.
- 2) For council operations: employment of mental health and wellbeing coordinators; cloud based IT solutions; leveraging off a strong financial position; reviewing and updating the long term financial plan; safe business planning; deferring enterprise bargaining; collaboration and resource sharing with other councils; and implementation of cross disciplinary response teams.
- 3) For communities: free flu vaccination programs, engagement of professionals to support business recovery planning, regional project and priority identification; volunteer engagement; planning for more partnerships across council, private sector and not for profits; and local employment programs.

Councils are also promoting safe community activities, supporting the delivery of crisis services by impacted not for profits, delivering a range of community services online, undertaking community engagement surveys and connecting community organisations and businesses.

6. What impacts are not being mitigated or for which there is no plan in place to mitigate?

Key points:

- Councils perceive there may be insufficient skilled labour and resources for capital works.
- The impact of a potential second wave is of concern to all.
- The immediate impact on volunteer numbers will be hard to address given that volunteers are predominantly from the vulnerable older population.

Two key areas were identified as being difficult to mitigate:

- 1) The competition for skilled labour and resources to undertake building and construction is seen as a key risk for recovery with a shortage of skilled labour driving up costs and delaying projects even prior to COVID-19. With borders closed and no access to interstate or foreign skilled workers this will be exacerbated. Additionally, when it comes to construction there are difficulties in ensuring appropriate physical distancing – *it is simply not always safe or feasible in relation to key tasks*. If there is to be recovery based on construction and building, what measures are being put in place to ensure there will be a skilled workforce to support such initiatives, particularly into regional areas of the state?
- 2) There is concern that no level of Government will have capacity to respond to a second wave of pandemic or a deep and prolonged economic recession.

At a community level councils noted:

- There is no real strategy about managing increased visitation from outside a municipality – messaging needs to be developed to alleviate anxiety.
- There seems to be nothing to address sporting groups and community groups other than onerous workplace safety requirements.
- There is a lack of readiness for support for individuals and families when social security payments are reduced.
- There needs to be consideration of the profound and long-term impact on young people.
- There needs to be a continued call for personal responsibility for basic mitigation measures to protect vulnerable people.
- The immediate impact on volunteer numbers will be hard to address given that volunteers are predominantly from the vulnerable older population.

7. What responses, both within the sector and more broadly, are front-of-mind and over what timeframes - what should be stopped, what should continue and what should be started?

Key points:

- *Lack of certainty about TasWater dividends and accuracy of long-term financial plans.*
- *There are increased service delivery expectations in the face of declining revenues and skills shortages.*
- *Councils have significant capacity to stimulate local economies through their capital programs.*
- *LG engagement must continue as we move from response to recovery, through the various recovery committees and with local leaders.*

Financial

For councils, the long-term financial impacts are front of mind, particularly going into a budget period. The lack of certainty about TasWater revenue, as illustrated by the immediate non-payment of dividends, has councils deeply concerned about the accuracy of their long-term financial plans. There was a strong feeling that councils had already provided significant relief through a range of measures and should not have to provide relief through dividend hits as well.

Related to financial concerns is the expectation that councils will increase their service delivery, while at the same time seeing a significant decline in revenue. For example, there are likely to be increased requirements for

“Local Government is different to State/Federal Government in that while we have to deal with zero increases etc. and loss of income, ultimately the same people (community) will have to deal with those impacts”.

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), but no increase in available EHOs or revenue to cover their expense. Similarly, there are proposed reductions in planning time frames, with the increased workload that places on planners. However, similar to EHOs, there is a national shortage of planners and no extra income to bring on more. In general, determining how to respond to sudden needs and how to do business as usual in the face of reduced funding is occupying the attention of all councils in Tasmania.

The status of Enterprise Agreements (EAs) has also required early consideration. Some councils are at the end of Enterprise Agreements and are able to delay enterprise bargaining and freeze pays for several months. Other councils are having to apply an automatic pay increase as per a current EA. The difficulty of varying EAs in the context of busier than usual council activity, has seen most councils reluctant to go down that path, however this will inevitably lead to inequitable staff outcomes across the sector. Advice to LGAT is that there is limited opportunity for a coordinated approach to Fair Work as each EA has to be dealt with separately. It is understood that the broad issue of EAs and automatic pay increases was discussed at national cabinet without resolution.

Despite the issues outlined above, councils have significant capacity to stimulate local economies through their capital programs and many are exploring what they can bring forward to generate additional employment opportunities, but note the limitations around the availability of skilled workers outlined earlier. The challenges of program management for a significantly increased capital works and maintenance program, including project governance, delivery capacity, procurement challenges, monitoring and reporting, are not to be underestimated.

Engaging Communities/Local Recovery

Now of course, there is a focus on the gradual reopening of Tasmania and what that means for councils. There should be a continued understanding that steps on the road map to recovery may not automatically occur in their current order, and that the timeline may be affected by outbreaks, clusters or other unanticipated events. A council's roadmap to recovery may look a little different than that mapped by the State Government and may not directly align with the dates announced by the Premier. Councils are undertaking a raft of protective measures to make sure when recreational spaces and facilities do open, the safety of their community and council staff is the highest priority.

One of the issues of concern for Local Government has been the limited use of established community recovery arrangements. While acknowledging the nature of the disaster is different from a fire or flood, the core principle of recovery needing to be led by communities is still essential. It is important that the processes put in play by the PSERAC include engagement at the local level and that the State's response addresses the unique recovery requirements of the regions. Engagement must continue as we move from response to recovery, through the various recovery committees and with local leaders to ensure there is a full understanding of impact and recovery needs.

Front of mind for communities is the challenge around bringing business out of hibernation and reconnecting to employment opportunities; access to affordable

housing where work is located and addressing the health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19, including those stemming from social isolation. It was also raised by a few councils that funding being provided to NGO's who are not normally involved in recovery should have reduced priority going forward.

8. What has been overtaken?

Key points:

- *Planned and strategic activity has been delayed.*
- *There has been an increase in single use and disposable products.*
- *Councils are seeing major private sector projects put on hold.*
- *Face to face engagement and community events have been severely disrupted.*

Councils have consistently reported that they have had to push planned activity to the side for the last few months (and likely some months more) to respond to issues created by COVID-19. The deferral of activity spans strategic (e.g. community planning); operational (e.g. EBAs, community events) and capital works activity (e.g. DEC/Wilkinsons Point).

Single use and disposable products have popped back up everywhere within the community and many businesses that used to promote and encourage bringing in containers/bags from home have had to refuse the practice. Most cafes refuse to handle "keep cups".

Councils also noted that the new work health and safety requirements have pushed other regulatory reforms into background and that COVID-19 responses have overtaken the community's "war on waste".

Councils have reported seeing the following in their communities:

- Increased short-term housing availability (including use of hotel rooms for homeless) but no significant easing of overall housing affordability, particularly in the south;
- Limited community participation in social wellbeing activities;
- Business expansion plans being placed on hold;
- Community events on hold;
- Reduced youth engagement;
- Major projects on hold, eg MONA hotel;
- A temporary easing of congestion; and

- Increased use of walkways and bicycle paths.

9. What would help your sector/members re-employ where there have been reductions in jobs, or grow employment levels?

Key points:

- *Councils have largely been able to avoid significant staffing impacts.*
- *Casual staff servicing business areas closed under public health directions have been most impacted.*
- *Local Government is a significant employer.*

When considering the sector as a whole, Local Government has endeavored to maintain existing staff through a variety of activities such as redeployment and bring forward internal project work. Consequently, there have not been significant staffing impacts. Where staff have been staff reductions (stand downs predominantly), they have largely been confined to those councils who run specific business functions affected by public health orders such as sports and aquatic centres and childcare centres. Affected councils have stood down or laid off casuals but mostly have redeployed permanent employees. While it is likely there will be future reengagement of those employees as restrictions ease and services recommence, in the short term access to Job Keeper or equivalent would be beneficial.

Employment is one of the key areas where Local Government has made a significant contribution to their local economies. In addition to providing services, councils are a significant employer – over 3000 FTEs in Tasmania and around 200,000 nationally. Importantly, Local Government is a significant employer in rural and regional areas.

In Councils, as with other businesses, the pandemic has exposed the need for a highly skilled and adaptable workforce.

There are undoubtedly opportunities for councils to grow employment to deliver programs which promote economic and social recovery – with appropriate funding. Many councils already play a significant role in delivering health and wellbeing services, apprentice/trainee programs, volunteer recruitment and support, and economic development.

Given that employment is often central to notions of economic development, councils can be understood as key employers and businesses, particularly in some areas where the council is the largest source of employment. This helps to affirm that councils can be important economic actors, but does little to shine light on the role and functions that they perform in the pursuit of local and regional development goals⁴.

10. Possible Priorities

State Government

Councils were asked what they felt should immediate priorities for State Government now and into the future. Suggestions included:

- An accelerated program of residential rental construction.
- Meaningful engagement with Local Government in relation to local recovery actions.
- Legislation to provide certainty around future TasWater dividends.
- Provision of robust and well-resourced emergency response capability with health of community a focus.
- A “Rural on Purpose” policy to support jobs growth, regional and remote population retention and workforce growth solutions for rural industries.
- A strategic whole of state approach to the Circular Economy.
- Investment in energy including hydrogen and Marinus.
- Advocacy for Local Government access to Federal Childcare Financial Support Packages.
- Targeted actions for young people, noting they are generally less resilient.
- Work closely with the Local Government sector to leverage infrastructure investments to maximise benefits for local communities and contractors; and
- Land Use Planning reform – the process needs to be finalised with a higher level of urgency.

In developing policy or programs for which Local Government is anticipated to play a role, it is important to note that the overall financial position of councils and their capacity is variable and there needs to be sufficient flexibility in responses to account for those differences.

In relation to supporting communities, councils noted the following possible actions by State Government:

- Support for major events with clear and logical guidelines.
- Reducing the onerous and bureaucratic approach to Business Safe Planning.
- Clear and consistent communication around restrictions and guidelines.
- Plan for homelessness once hotels are no longer an option.
- Increased free wifi, particularly in low SES communities.
- Funding for community transport e.g. home delivery of groceries, prescriptions etc for vulnerable.
- Technology funding for State schools to improve learning outcomes based on experience of learning from home.
- Continue implementation of strategic growth agenda.
- Systems and funding for place-based solutions.
- Inspiring leading policy innovation that supports regional productivity with small to medium enterprise growth into high value add products and experiences in the regions.
- Investing in regional infrastructure to inspire new visitor experiences.
- Investment in skills and training.
- Transitioning from an immediate relief and rescue model to a longer-term community led empowerment model.
- City Deal Projects to stimulate the economy.
- Increased business and employment support through hubs and incubator projects.
- Sufficiently resourced outreach services dealing directly with vulnerable cohorts.

Federal Government

When asked to contemplate what was needed from the Federal Government, overwhelmingly councils indicated that restoring the level of Financial Assistance Grants (or non-grant untied funding) should be a priority. They also noted that infrastructure programs should have to provide both a community benefit and an economic stimulus and noted that grant processes needed to be simplified and expediated (they routinely take 5-6 months).

Federal investment for communities should focus on jobs growth, housing security, food security, investment in infrastructure critical to improving logistics and innovation (to value add to primary industries), Project Marinus; placed based initiatives and investment in economic development; strategic and prompt investment in mitigation plans and actions for future shocks, continuation of JobKeeper and

JobSeeker and more City Deals. There is also a need to consider the particular issues related to council owned airports in regional areas.

All levels of Government should be supporting individuals to look for/seek change, innovate, and be open to doing things differently.

11. Resilience

As we move out of the response stage an important focus must be on resilience – at individual, organisational/business and community levels.

For councils, resilience has the following components:

- Rebuilt financial sustainability;
- Up to date Business Continuity and Pandemic Plans;
- Innovative practice;
- More interdisciplinary teams;
- Workforce planning to reduce key dependencies;
- Shared learnings;
- Collaboration across geographical boundaries;
- Strong connectedness to communities and strong leadership.

They also noted that it will be important to review legislation and ensure there is capacity to adapt requirements, particularly timeframes, during an incident. A few councils felt that organizational resilience stem from a stronger focus on core statutory roles.

I think most Councils will acknowledge that whilst everyone would have a Business Continuity Plan in place, very few were prepared for a pandemic

Councils indicated that community resilience would stem from:

- A diversified economy with increased social engagement with economic producers.
- Direct community capacity building to ensure communities have strong networks and methods of communication and staying in touch with each other as the environment changes.
- Not becoming complacent around health and hygiene.
- Higher value adding to local world class primary products.

- Diversity of tourism – with operators taking a broad, rather than specialised focus (e.g. just Chinese market).
- Stronger trading relations.
- Multi-skilled work forces that are adaptable and can step up in times of need.
- Ongoing commitment to place based Community and Economic Development.

Key to note is that councils found that distance, remoteness and isolation added a particular dimension to the pandemic response. While engagement of 'hard to reach' citizens was challenging for some, another perspective on the presence of vulnerable residents has been that there is now a greater understanding of who and where they are.

12. Community Social Recovery and the Importance of Place

Tasmania has well established recovery arrangements through the Emergency Management Act 2006, the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (2019) and through the State Special Plan for Recovery. Throughout these arrangements the fundamental principle of recovery is that it should be community led. As such Local Government is a critical player in recovery and historically this has been well recognised.

A significant amount of recovery planning is also occurring at the municipal and regional level, particularly in relation to social recovery. Councils are currently having input into this process through the municipal recovery coordinators through the social recovery committees.

Councils are well placed to inform initial recovery efforts with local knowledge and networks, noting that the fundamental principle of recovery is that it should be local community led. As we move forward into longer term recovery planning, developing mechanisms for Local Government to inform and guide efforts needs to be a key focus.

From an economic recovery perspective, traditional sectoral approaches do not provide the means for adequately dealing with the challenges and their constantly changing faces. They don't help identify or understand how we can respond to effectively recover, rebuild and importantly transitioning our economy to be more resilient in the future. To support this and more so than ever, recovery from the COVID - 19 emergency, will require all levels of government, stakeholders and community members to work together to leverage everyone's contribution.

Recovery will be long-term, and the planning for it needs to be strength based, people centred and anchored in place, it should be planned strategically but be dynamic.

Responses that better combine all levels of government, business and the community sector offer the greatest opportunity to support community wellbeing and livelihoods.

They should also reflect the reality of how our places work including through enabling analysis of where there are opportunities to transition our local economies to be more resilient.

Reflecting on learnings from the Black Saturday Bushfires, authors Taylor and Goodman⁴ noted that councils *reported “feeling disrespected. They found prior rules and roles were overturned and disregarded, they often struggled to establish lines of authority, and felt inadequately resourced for the tasks they had to pursue. ... politicisation of bushfire recovery, struggles with being insufficiently resourced to deal with the media... becoming the ‘meat in the sandwich’.*

State Government approaches that compounded the difficulties for Local Government, included a ‘one size fits all’ approach; an overemphasis on physical infrastructure and the built environment; the setting of unworkable time lines for project delivery; and in particular, approaches that weren’t aligned to ‘community development’.

LGAT asked councils what community social recovery looked like for them. Firstly, they acknowledged that community social recovery will not be quick, with an anticipated time span of 1 to 2 years. It would stem from community led models (such as outlined in the National Principles for Disaster Recovery) and that Local Government was a key facilitator of connections between communities and other regional, state and national programs.

Safe business planning and new forms of service delivery are a key plank of recovery as are active volunteers and community groups and strong, proactive partnerships. Some noted that recovery will be variable and is dependent on how events are reshaped and how quickly consumer confidence builds.

Communities will need direct and targeted information and engagement. Many people may be reluctant to return to life as it was before the pandemic. Whilst there are still restrictions and timeframes subject to public health advice councils do not

Social community recovery should be community led. Each community has its own issues and strengths which will determine how best to meet those needs. Strong links between the community members and those seeking to support the recovery is essential.

⁴ Taylor, D. & Goodman, H. Place-Based and Community-Led: Specific Disaster Preparedness and Generalisable Community Resilience. CatholicCare Bushfire Community Recovery Service. Melbourne, 2015.

want to be building expectations and then not be able to deliver. There needs to be understanding that everyone's experience of COVID-19 is different.

Recovery initiatives already being delivered by councils include:

- Financial relief and support.
- Assistance with Business Safe Planning.
- Volunteer appreciation programs.
- 'Buy local' promotions.
- Appointment of specialist recovery staff.
- Joined up community/subregional/regional recovery planning.
- Business Mentoring program.
- Social and Economic Recovery Committees/ COVID Response Committee that work across the diverse functional areas of councils.
- Bringing forward of capital works.
- Targeted grants – eg technology support.
- Leaflet drops/kindness cards.

13. Where to Next

During Black Saturday and beyond, the capacity of Local Government for closer relations with community compared to other levels of government, was overlooked. It was noted that emergencies were seen to make this local quality 'fragile, easily forgotten, and can be undermined'.

Such underestimation can stem from not understanding the role of councils. As the Australian Local Government Association articulates:

- *Local governments have increasingly taken the lead role in regional economic development reflecting their presence on the ground, control of many of the levers of growth and Federal, State and Territory Governments' withdrawal from these roles. The vast majority of councils have economic development strategies and provide investment, training and networking to stimulate and grow local economies.*
- *Local Government brings strengths that other levels of government do not – a grass roots perspective that is apolitical and the resources and capacity to support local implementation in the majority of communities.*
- *The scope of local government roles and responsibilities which make it an important partner. Public health, water, sewerage, aged care, childcare, roads, bridges, walking and cycling paths, community transport, economic development, immunisations, recreation and sport, culture and arts, social inclusion, and cultural cohesion, etc.*
- *Local Government along with the Australian, State and Territory Governments, are jointly involved in funding or service delivery in a large number of policy areas including*

transport infrastructure, human services (child care, aged care), land use planning, population management, natural resources and environmental management, emergency management, and many other generators of economic development at the local level.

- *Local Government supports intergovernmental efforts and its role in reform. It has extensive roles in the development and implementation of regulations that could hamper or accelerate recovery.*
- *The management and productivity of cities is a fundamental building block of the vitality and health of the nation. Local governments have the primary responsibilities for the efficiency and amenity of cities, the quality and efficiency of development assessment processes, investment in economic infrastructure such as roads and public realm, and a range of regulatory levers to manage the complex issues such as construction impacts, parking provision and turnover, outdoor dining and flexible land uses.*
- *Regional economies are increasingly driven at the local level, with employment attraction and retention strategies run by Local Government. Business support networks, coordinated strategic planning, freight route modelling to improve productivity and coordination of advocacy for targeted funding s investment opportunities are all driven from the local level.*

Local Government is as an undervalued sector, which is at the same time expected to do the impossible, pick up any slack and be all things to everybody, particularly when help is needed regardless of capacity or resource constraints.

Local Government is community-based; it is community oriented and community-driven.

Local Government can do a lot to help Tasmania's recovery but of course it can't do everything.

LGAT is nearing completion of another submission for PESRAC that outlines some possible partnership pathways between State and Local Government, as well as industry, to deliver social and economic improvements for Tasmania. In addition to highlighting some existing initiatives which can be leveraged for broader outcomes (such as the Department of Health funded Local Government Health and Wellbeing Project), we have identified the transformative potential of a circular economy led recovery for Tasmania and provided a possible process for mapping local economies to determine what circular economy opportunities exist and how they should be supported.

Perhaps more so than any other stakeholder, councils deliver the services and infrastructure that shape the daily experiences of Tasmanians. Services that are major determinants of our community's prosperity and wellbeing. Councils are place shapers who drive most people's attachment to, and satisfaction with the area in which they live, making them an essential partner in working to create liveable places.

The greater Tasmanian community and its associated economy must, more than ever, be thought of as resulting from the combination of connected and interdependent smaller local areas.

We must focus locally to effect positive social and economic change at the regional and State level. It is imperative for our State's future success, and we must ensure that there are opportunities for all, and that no community is left behind. To address the specific priorities that exist at a local community level, flexible service delivery and funding models are often required for effective results.

While the specific focus of Local Government might be local and regional, these geographic areas represent the fundamental building blocks that make the State a great place to be.

The Local Government sector must be considered a crucial partner in any attempts to effect, economic, social and cultural change and to promote strong, healthy, liveable, viable, sustainable communities. It is not a secondary stakeholder.



Local Government Association Tasmania

Special General Meeting

Minutes

26 June 2020

West Tamar Council

326 Macquarie Street,
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Phone: (03) 6146 3740
Email: admin@lgat.tas.gov.au
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**PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
RULES REGARDING CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

(10) SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) In addition to the Annual General Meeting and General Meetings, there may be Special General Meetings.
- (b) Special General Meetings may be called:
 - (i) by the President; or
 - (ii) by any 3 members of the General Management Committee acting together; or
 - (iii) by 3 or more of the Members in writing to the President stating the reasons for calling a Special General Meeting.
- (c) Notice of any Special General Meeting shall be given to all Members at least 14 days prior to the date of the Special General Meeting.
- (d) Subject to Rule 10(e), at any Special General Meeting, only business of which notice is given shall be transacted.
- (e) The General Management Committee may notify the Members that, due to an emergency, amendments to these Rules will be considered at a Special General Meeting called pursuant to Rule 10(b).

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*



1. GOVERNANCE

Acknowledgement of Country

The President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl acknowledged and paid respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land.

Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed Mayor Albert van Zetten, Launceston City Council and, Clr Geoff Lyons, West Tamar Council and declared the Meeting open at 10.30am.

Apologies were noted along with voting delegates as appointed for the Meeting.

Council	Apologies	Voting Delegate
Break O'Day Council	Mayor Mick Tucker Mr Jonn Brown	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Brighton Council	Mayor Tony Foster Mr Ron Sanderson	Clr Geoff Lyons
Burnie City Council	Mayor Steve Kons Mr Andrew Wardlaw	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Central Coast Council	Mary Jan Bonde Mrs Sandra Ayton	Clr Geoff Lyons
Central Highlands Council	Mayor Loueen Triffitt Mrs Lyn Eyles	No Proxy Appointed
Circular Head Council	Mayor Daryl Quilliam Mr Scott Riley	No Proxy Appointed
Clarence City Council	Mayor Doug Chipman Mr Ian Nelson	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Derwent Valley Council	Mayor Ben Shaw Mr Brain Barrett	Clr Geoff Lyons
Devonport City Council	Mayor Annette Rockliff Mr Matthew Atkins	Clr Geoff Lyons
Dorset Council	Mayor Greg Howard Mr Tim Watson	Clr Geoff Lyons
Flinders Council	Mayor Annie Revie Mr Warren Groves	No Proxy Appointed
George Town Council	Mayor Greg Kieser	Mayor Albert van Zetten

Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	Mr Shane Power Mayor Debbie Wisby Ms Marissa Walters	Clr Geoff Lyons
Glenorchy City Council	Mayor Kristie Johnston Mr Tony McMullen	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Hobart City Council	Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds Mr Nick Heath	Clr Geoff Lyons
Huon Valley Council	Mayor Bec Enders Mr Emilio Reale	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Kentish Council	Mayor Tim Wilson Mr Gerald Monson	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Kingborough Council	Mayor Dean Winter Mr Gary Arnold	No Proxy Appointed
King Island Council	Mayor Julie Arnold Mr Greg Allomes	No Proxy Appointed
Latrobe Council	Mayor Peter Freshney	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Launceston City Council	Mr Michael Stretton	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Meander Valley Council	Mayor Wayne Johnston	No Proxy Appointed
Northern Midlands Council	Mr John Jordan Mayor Mary Knowles Mr Des Jennings	Clr Geoff Lyons
Sorell Council	Mayor Kerry Vincent Mr Robert Higgins	Mayor Albert van Zetten
Southern Midlands Council	Mayor Alex Green Mr Tim Kirkwood	Clr Geoff Lyons
Tasman Council	Mayor Kelly Spaulding Ms Kim Hossack	No Proxy Appointed
Waratah - Wynyard Council	Mayor Robby Walsh Mr Shane Crawford	Clr Geoff Lyons
West Coast Council	Mayor Phil Vickers Mr David Midson	Clr Geoff Lyons
West Tamar Council	D/Mayor Joy Allen Mr Rolph Vos	Clr Geoff Lyons

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 CHANGE TO THE LGAT RULES FOR ONLINE AGM *

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Clr Geoff Lyons/Mayor Albert van Zetten

That Members note the advice related to the conduct of LGAT's AGM remotely.

That Members note that the July AGM may have to be held remotely.

That Members attend the Special General Meeting by proxy, appointing either Councillor Geoff Lyons or Mayor Albert van Zetten to vote on their behalf.

That Members agree to the proposed rule change.

Carried
48 For/0 Against

Copies of the Vote Tally Sheet are at **Attachment to Item 2.1**.

Background

In accordance with *Section 329 of the Local Government Act 1993*, the Association may make rules relating to, amongst other things, the management of the Association. As the Act does not set out how meetings are to be held and given the Association is not incorporated as a corporation's law company, the LGAT Rules provide how meetings are to be conducted.

However, the LGAT Rules do not permit the AGM to be held online with online voting. Unlike meetings of the General Management Committee, the LGAT Rules do not allow meetings to be held by telephone or other technology, see Rule 22(c) which provides the ability of meetings of the General Management Committee to be held by telephone or other technology.

Therefore, the LGAT Rules will need to be amended to allow for meetings, including the AGM of the Association to be held by telephone or other technology.

The Amendment is provided at **Attachment to Item 2.1**

The risk in proceeding without an amendment to the Rules is that any resolutions passed at meetings held online may be deemed to be void, as they were not made in accordance with the Rules. We ignored that for the March General Meeting given the sudden change in circumstances but need to fix this going forward, especially as the budget and subscriptions are determined at the AGM.

In accordance with Rule 10(e), the General Management Committee can call a Special Meeting to consider amending the Rules due to an emergency. It could be argued that the emergency is the inability of the AGM to be held and the consequences that flow from that.

Provided Members agree to do so, the Members can attend the Special Meeting by proxy under clause 14 (each appointing the same person as their proxy) and via their proxy, vote in favour of amending the Rules.

It is proposed that the President, Mayor Holmdahl convene the special meeting at West Tamar Council, with only the West Tamar Delegate and the Launceston Delegate to allow for a mover and seconder and voting by proxy.

For the changes to be passed, at least two-thirds of the Members will need to assign a proxy for voting in the affirmative (Rule 16(f)(iii)).

LGAT may be able to have a face to face meeting in July, depending on public health advice, venue size and gathering limits but this change would provide the flexibility if that were not able to be achieved.

In parallel, LGAT is exploring, with our electronic voting software provider, a mechanism for online weighted voting to have in place for our July meeting. In doing so, we are also looking at whether we could combine face to face voting and remote voting in future to assist our more remote councils in relation to travel costs by allowing them to attend the meeting from a distance where we have the right technological set up and support.

Budget Implications

Legal advice has been sought within current budget.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There are no Items for Discussion

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

There are no Items for Noting

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl declared the Meeting closed at 10.35am.

Attachment to Item 2.1

COLOUR CARD	Total Votes	COUNCIL	Nominated Proxy			
			Clr Geoff Lyons		Mayor van Zetten	
			For	Against	For	Against
Red	1	Break O'Day Council			1	
White	2	Brighton Council	2			
White	2	Burnie City Council			2	
Blue	3	Central Coast Council	3			
Red	1	Central Highlands Council				
Red	1	Circular Head Council				
Green	4	Clarence City Council			4	
White	2	Derwent Valley Council	2			
Blue	3	Devonport City Council	3			
Red	1	Dorset Council	1			
Red	1	Flinders Council				
Red	1	George Town Council			1	
Red	1	Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	1			
Green	4	Glenorchy City Council			4	
Green	4	Hobart City Council	4			
White	2	Huon Valley Council			2	
Red	1	Kentish Council			1	
Blue	3	Kingborough Council				
Red	1	King Island Council				
White	2	Latrobe Council			2	
Green	4	Launceston City Council			4	
White	2	Meander Valley Council				
White	2	Northern Midlands Council	2			
White	2	Sorell Council			2	
Red	1	Southern Midlands Council	1			
Red	1	Tasman Council				
White	2	Waratah - Wynyard Council	2			
Red	1	West Coast Council	1			
Blue	3	West Tamar Council	3			
	58	Total Votes	25	0	23	0

Total Votes For	48
Total Votes Against	0
Votes Capable of Being Cast	58
Majority	30



About LGAT

The Local Government Association of Tasmania is the voice of Local Government to other spheres of government, stakeholders and the wider community.

LGAT has been the peak body for Local Government in Tasmania for over 100 years and is part of a national network of associations. It is funded by councils and earns other income through projects delivered on behalf of Local Government, services to members and sponsorships.

LGAT provides specialist services to its member councils including policy and strategic support, capacity building for Local Government elected members and officers and procurement of goods and services. LGAT also coordinates the Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence, the LGAT Annual Conference and the LGAT Assist Program.

LGAT works collaboratively with members to support council staff and elected members. The communities our 29 councils serve are represented by 263 elected members and supported by nearly 4000 staff.



Local Government Association Tasmania
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STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2021



1-255

Facilitating change

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Number of positive concessions achieved in State Government policy and legislative reform
- ◆ Number of proactive policy successes

Building Local Government's reputation

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Continual improvement in community satisfaction survey findings
- ◆ Improvement in satisfaction rating in member survey results

Fostering collaboration

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Increase in joint submissions and projects
- ◆ Uptake in whole of sectoral projects

Promoting financial sustainability

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Improvement in Auditor General report measures
- ◆ Growth in sectoral procurement Savings

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Reduction in upheld Code of Conduct complaints
- ◆ Increased attendance at training events

- To achieve this plan, in the next 12 months (2020-2021) we are committed to completing the following priorities:**
1. Lead the waste management reform agenda
 2. Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government reform
 3. Influence the planning and redtape reduction agendas
 4. Continue to expand the procurement program
 5. Support councils' role in community health and wellbeing
 6. Support councils' infrastructure planning and financing arrangements
 7. Continue to support Member's professional development
 8. Support council's recovery efforts from COVID-19



WORK PLAN 2020 - 21



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 this planning period, it forms the basis on which this work plan is developed. The Strategic Plan contains five key focus areas for the 2017 to 2021 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 2020 - 21

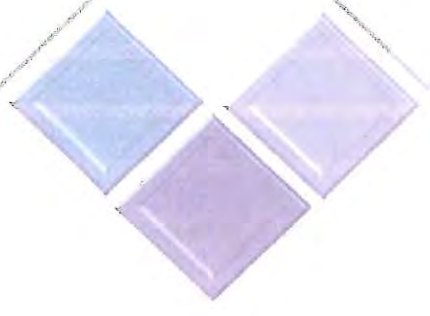
This document is the LGAT Work Plan for 2020 - 21. It constitutes the key activities LGAT will undertake over the next financial year to progress our strategic plan and, in particular, the critical priorities for the organisation.

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

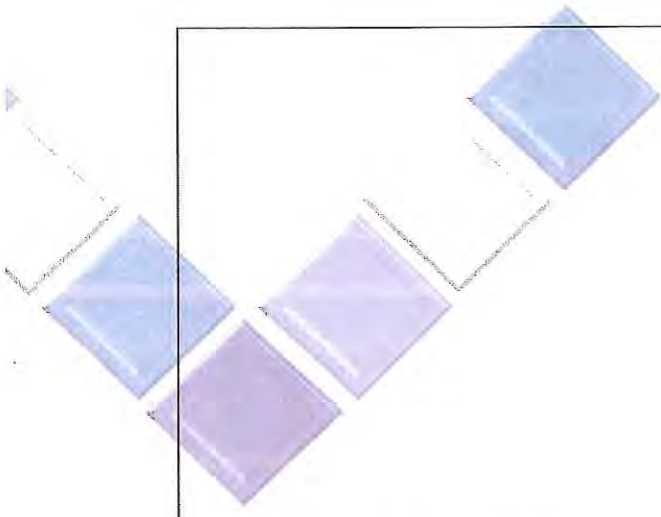




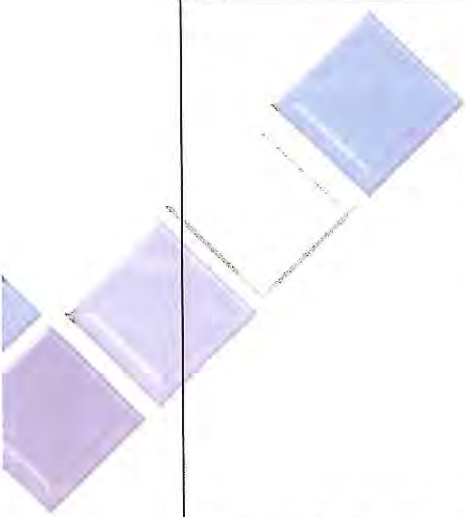
Key Priorities 2018 - 2019		Strategic Plan Priority Areas				
	Facilitating Change	Building LG's Reputation	Fostering Collaboration	Promoting Financial Sustainability	Developing Capacity and Capability to Deliver	
1. Lead the waste management reform agenda	✓	✓		✓		
2. Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government reform	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3. Influence the planning and red tape reduction reform agendas	✓	✓			✓	
4. Continue to expand the procurement program			✓	✓	✓	
5. Support councils' role in community health and wellbeing		✓	✓		✓	
6. Support councils' infrastructure planning and financing arrangements	✓		✓	✓	✓	
7. Continue to support Member's professional development	✓	✓		✓	✓	
8. Support councils' recovery efforts from COVID-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



Priorities	Planned Outcomes	Actions
<p>1. Lead the waste management reform agenda</p>	<p>State Government support of the State-wide waste arrangements. Final Waste Action Plan adopts sector suggestions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for implementation of the recommendations in the feasibility study into State-wide waste arrangements. • Participate in the development and implementation of the Continer Refund Scheme and statewide waste levy. • Ensure appropriate implementation of the Waste Action Plan initiatives from a Local Government perspective.
<p>2. Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government reform</p>	<p><u>Review of the Local Government Act:</u> LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government. <u>Local Government Sustainability</u> Determination of the best structure / alignment for councils so they can service the needs of modern Tasmanian Communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play a central role in the review, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparing a response to the draft Bill ○ Collating and summarising sectoral responses; ○ Facilitating follow up activities (e.g. workshops) with the sector, to confirm recommendations; and ○ Lobbying for implementation of changes sought by the sector. ○ Advocating for equitable rating outcomes in legislation. • Continue to progress the 21st Century Councils Project through identification of and implementation of pilot programs.



Priorities	Planned Outcomes	Actions
3. Influence the planning and red tape reduction reform agendas	LGAT's recommendations for Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) and red tape reduction priorities accepted by the State Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for increased focus on strategic planning and policy. • Work to ensure that the interests of Local Government sector are advanced and protected through the current red tape reduction reform process. • Work with the sector to inform the content of the TPPs and governance of the Regional Land Use Strategies.
4. Continue to expand the procurement program	Growth in sectoral procurement savings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Procurement Action Plan. • Work with the National Procurement Network (NPN) and Tasmanian councils to develop and implement improved procurement practices. • Continue to progress whole of sector projects & contracts when appropriate which deliver financial savings for councils.
5. Support councils' role in community health and wellbeing	Informed local strategic planning and actions for community health and wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide professional learning for council officers and support for case study council projects. • Deliver the community health and wellbeing workforce research project.
6. Support councils' infrastructure planning and financing arrangements	Establish an appropriate infrastructure contributions policy position for the sector to reduce rate subsidisation of development establishment costs. Improve current challenges with the stormwater planning and regulatory environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research into infrastructure contributions policy regimes in other jurisdictions. • Work with the sector to develop a preferred position and advocate for its adoption by the State Government. • Work with key stakeholders, such as the regional NRM bodies and technical professionals, to map deficiencies in the stormwater planning and regulatory environment. • Advocate for the necessary changes to this system.



Priorities	Planned Outcomes	Actions
<p>7. Continue to support Member's professional development</p>	<p>Deliver key professional development opportunities including the Annual Conference, Elected Member Weekend, Mayors' and General Manager's Workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the forward training program for elected members and staff. • Leverage off collaborative alliances in delivering integrated professional development opportunities. • Identify, promote and, where available, secure grant funding for training and sectoral capacity building. • Continue to develop and deliver timely and affordable online training & materials.
<p>8. Support councils' recovery efforts from COVID-19</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of the important role councils play in recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the essential contribution of councils in sustainable social recovery post COVID-19. • Promote the important contribution councils have made and continue to make to community recovery. • Support councils in their recovery efforts.



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
Workforce capacity and planning	Complete the Environmental Health Officers Workforce Development Plan.
Climate change	Ensure Local Government's interests are represented in the new Climate Action Plan.
Member engagement	Continue to build on member engagement via improved and updated communications channels.
Emergency management	Support councils with risk assessment, planning and developing community resilience through sharing information, and advocating for change, support and funding.
National funding	Support ALGA in their efforts for ensuring appropriate and ongoing funding at a Federal level

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