



General Meeting

Minutes

29 March 2019

**The Paranapple Convention Centre
145 - 151 Rooke Street
Devonport**

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**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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RESULTS OF ELECTRONIC VOTING ON DECISION ITEMS ARE ATTACHED AT END OF THIS DOCUMENT

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

9.30	Coffee on arrival
10.00	Meeting Commences
	Council Round Up
	Mayor Kristie Johnston
	Glenorchy City Council
11.30	Morning Tea
11.45	Kathleen Priestly
	David Adams
	Festival of Learning – A Statewide Approach
12.00	Mr Garry Bailey
	Chair
	Road Safety Advisory Council
1.30 approx	Lunch

1. GOVERNANCE

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, welcomed Members and declared the Meeting open at 10.00am.

Apologies were received from –

Mayor Mick Tucker	Break O’Day Council
Mr John Brown	Break O’Day Council
Mayor Tim Wilson	Kentish Council
Mr Shane Power	George Town Council
Mayor Annie Revie	Flinders Island Council
Mr Brian Boehm	Flinders Island Council
Mayor Tony Foster	Brighton Council
Mr Ron Sanderson	Brighton Council
Mr Michael Stretton	Launceston City Council
Mr Tim Kirkwood	Southern Midlands Council
Ms Kim Hossack	Tasman Council
Mr Gerald Monson	Latrobe/Kentish Councils
Mayor Julie Arnold	King Island Council
Ms Kate Mauric	King Island Council
Mr Scott Riley	Circular Head Council
Mayor Bec Enders	Huon Valley Council
Mrs Lyn Eyles	Central Highlands Council
Mayor Steve Kons	Burnie City Council
Mayor Kerry Vincent	Sorell Council
Mr Robert Higgins	Sorell Council
Mr Andrew Paul	Clarence City Council
Mayor Bridget Archer	George Town Council
Clr Teeny Brumby	Burnie City Council

NOTING That while Central Highlands Council representatives were not in attendance at the Meeting, Mayor Christina Holmdahl, West Tamar Council was nominated as the Voting Delegate for Central Highlands Council.

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2018, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 December 2018, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the information.

Carried

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

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

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

Carried

Background:

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

1.4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

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

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the report on the President's activity from 30 November 2018 to 15 March 2019.

Carried

Media and Events

- Council of the Ageing Tasmania (COTA) Embracing the Future Launch
- Inaugural tri-sector International Women's Day Awards Luncheon
- LGAT Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- Media – Tassie Future Survey
- Pulse, LG Focus articles

Meetings

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting
- ALGA Strategic Planning
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Dr Rachel Bacon – Federal Deputy Secretary Regional Development and Local Government and Elizabeth Bennet Director Regional Development Australia
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT General Management Committee (GMC) Meetings (Dec and Feb)
- Premier's Local Government Council Meeting

1.6 CEO REPORT

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the report on CEO activity from 30 November 2018 to 15 March 2019

Carried

Policy, Projects and Presentations

- Teleconference with LGAT Peer Advisors – mid program check in
- Produced additional resource on asset management for website
- Significant input into Review of the Local Government Act review discussion paper
- International Women's Day Event – working group and Judging panel (Awards for Excellence)
- Planning/preparation for General Manager's workshop
- Planning for Mayor's Workshop
- Planning/preparation for General Meeting
- Planning/preparation for Elected Member Weekend

Media

- Container deposits
- Caravans
- Rating
- Cats

Meetings, Training and Events

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Dr Rachel Bacon – Federal Deputy Secretary Regional Development and Local Government and Elizabeth Bennet Director Regional Development Australia
- International Women's Day Award Luncheon – MC
- International Women's Day Event - Working Group Meetings
- Kate Huntington re partnerships with UTAS
- LG Professional President - follow up from joint workshop
- LGAT General Management Committee (GMC) Meetings (Dec and Feb)
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee (monthly) and out of session work on discussion paper and reference group
- Local Government Professionals Board Meeting (teleconference)
- Mayors' Workshop (November 2018)
- Mike Blake regarding Fire Service Act Review
- Monthly Catch Ups with the Local Government Division
- Presented at the Break O'Day Councillor Induction
- Presented to Kingborough Council Workshop
- President and of EO Men's Sheds re opportunities to work together

- Road Safety Advisory Council
- Rosalie Woodruff (Greens) re LGAT Budget Submission
- Teleconference with Crime Stoppers re their strategic plan
- Tom Middleton (ALP) re LGAT Budget Submission
- Wayne Davy CEO Tasplan re new developments
- Women's Honor Roll Luncheon (as judge)

Operational

- Commenced recruitment/ undertook interview processes to replace Policy Officer/Project Officer
- Executive Assistant and Strategic Communications Director Annual Performance Review
- Organised and participated in combined Conference Workshop with LG Professionals (Refer Agenda Item 2.7)
- Budget preparation activities
- Preparation for Performance Review
- Review of new draft IR Policies for LGAT
- Demonstration SharePoint Records Management
- Update of LGAT Governance Framework

1.7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the reports for December 2018, January and February 2019.

Carried

Background:

Monthly reports to Councils that briefly outline Association activities and outcomes for the previous months are at **Attachment to Item 1.7**.

1.8 COUNCIL ROUND UPS

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members determined there will not be a briefing at the July General Meeting.

Carried

Background comment:

Glenorchy City 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 LGAT RULE CHANGE

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Circular Head Council/City of Hobart

That the Meeting agree in principle to a change to 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, with the change to be ratified at the LGAT AGM.

Carried

Background

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 the AGM, by securing agreement in principle, this minimises any risk of foreshadowing the change in the conference registration forms.

Budget Impact

There is a small budgetary risk related to delegates not differentiating between the AGM and General Meeting. This means some delegates may not register for the General Meeting believing it is also free to attend, or some may not leave after the AGM despite not being registered (impacting on catering etc). This can be managed through clear messaging in the lead up to the AGM/Conference as well as advice on the day.

Current Policy

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

2.2 21ST CENTURY COUNCILS * **Contact Officer – Dion Lester**

Central Coast Council/Latrobe Council

That Members endorse the following methodology for progressing the discussion on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government Sector.

Carried

Background

At the July General Meeting, Members noted the outcomes from the State Government funded feasibility studies into voluntary mergers and resource sharing and the continued public debate about the structure and number of councils.

As a result, the following question was posed:

Are Tasmanian councils best orientated¹ to service the needs of modern Tasmanian Communities?

In order to begin to address this question, at the December General Meeting LGAT staff facilitated a qualitative session (“kitchen table”) focussing on three key questions:

1. What are the current issues/weaknesses in how we deliver Local Government services?
2. How could we address these?
3. How should we progress the conversation about the future with the sector more broadly?

¹ Or structured, aligned, organised, arranged

The results of this kitchen table session have been analysed independently by two LGAT staff, with the key themes and ideas documented. The paper at **Attachment to Item 2.2**, provides a discussion on the results and is split into three parts.

Part 1:

A summary of the themes and some general suggestions for action. The themes are broadly categorised into four areas resources, services/facilities, standards and identity.

Part 2:

A framework to support critical thinking and analysis around the future of Local Government. This consists of two suggested actions:

- A. A summary paper - This is an important step in bringing all Local Government stakeholders up to speed on the history, context and drivers of discussions to date – we are not all at the same starting point; and
- B. A stakeholder interest/outcomes paper – Reform is not an outcome, it is a process. There is significant interest in “Local Government reform” but what outcomes are different stakeholders actually seeking.

In order to develop strategies and a process to address needs and support the sector through change, there is a need to have a sound understanding of the varying interests and desired outcomes. It is important to have a clear understanding of the diverse interests of key stakeholders comprising Local Government staff and elected members, residents, various industry organisations and other levels of Government.

Part 3:

A series of pilot projects to test change ideas that fit with the issues raised in the kitchen table exercise and the ideas and issues emerging out of the Part 2 investigations.

Prior to scoping any pilot projects, there is a need to consider those matters considered important by the various stakeholders, including the benefits and risks of different options (Part 2). In order to progress any work on the future of our sector to successful outcomes requires small incremental steps with involvement of stakeholders at each point.

Budget Impact

Parts 1 and 2 can be 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
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

2.3 MOTION – RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIA DAY *

City of Hobart/Kingborough Council

That LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day.

Lost

LGAT Comment

At its 23 October 2017 Meeting the City of Hobart Council resolved that-

- 1) The Council officially support a change of date for Australia Day, to be held on a day other than 26 January, advocated by
- 2) Submitting the following motion to the next Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General/Meeting “that LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day”.

At that time, it was less than twelve months since a similar motion had been considered by LGAT Members (put forward by City of Hobart at the July 2017 General Meeting) and which had been LOST.

Under 12c of the LGAT Rules:

“the General Management Committee may negotiate with a Member regarding the inclusion, or not, on the agenda of a subject matter seeking to be discussed at, or included in the Agenda of, a General meeting

If the subject matter or item:

- (i) Does not advance or concern the objects of the Association;*
- (ii) Has been considered at a General Meeting held in the period 12 months before the date of the notice from the Member;*
- (iii) Is considered by the General Management Committee not to concern a Sector Matter; or*
- (iv) Requires consideration by the Tasmanian Government and should be considered at the General Meeting to be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting.*

Hobart City Council had written seeking advice from LGAT with respect to progressing this matter and following feedback from GMC agreed to hold the item over so it was not debated again within 12 months. GMC also suggested that Council re-test the matter after Local Government Elections prior to resubmitting to LGAT was agreed.

LGAT Comment

At the July 2017 General Meeting the following motion was debated and narrowly lost (26 for, 27 against, 5 abstained) –

That LGAT, the 29 Councils and any individual Elected Members be requested to lobby the Federal Government to commence a conversation with the Australian public regarding the date of recognition of Australia Day.

A copy of the original motion and background is at **Attachment to Item 2.3**.

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

The Board of ALGA met subsequently to the NGA to consider this and other Assembly resolutions and determine Board Actions. While the ALGA Board noted the level of debate and the closeness of the result of the debate it was determined that it was not a priority for ALGA at that time.

In more recent times ALGA has responded to the Federal Government's commentary around Australia Day and Citizenship ceremonies. For example see **Attachment to Item 2.3** or the ALGA submission on Citizenship Ceremonies at <https://alga.asn.au/alga-submission-on-review-of-the-australian-citizenship-ceremonies-code/>

That submission notes:

"it is the responsibility of councils to be responsive to the views of their local communities. It appears that a very small number of councils that have moved their Australia Day celebrations and associated ceremonies away from 26 January are, in the spirit of Australian democracy, reflecting the desires of their communities. It may be uncomfortable to acknowledge the fact that some Australians identify 26 January as a day of mourning but this should not stop councils from trying to find a way to accommodate legitimate community views whilst celebrating everything that is great about our wonderful country. I do note that according to the Australia Day National Council, since Federation in 1901, Australia day has only been consistently celebrated on 26 January since 1988. It was previously celebrated on 30 July, 28 July and a variety of other dates".

2.4 MOTION – CHARITABLE EXEMPTION – RATES *

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

That LGAT ask the State Government to immediately amend the *Local Government Act, Section 87, Exemption from rates*, to provide rate certainty and social equity. In particular rates should be applicable on all self-contained residential properties regardless of who owns the property.

Amendment Motion

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

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.

Carried

Background

Currently there are issues with certainty and social equity around exactly who is exempt from rates under the *Local Government Act*. Councils and rate payers have recently relied on the courts to assist in certainty and in some cases resulting in social equity issues. The recent Full Court decision handed down in the Supreme Court in Hobart on 12 November supported retirement villages owned by charitable organisations to be exempt from rates, yet retirement villages owned privately are not exempt. Even the term charitable is not clear when applied to an organisation.

Another example includes where currently Housing Tasmania properties are subject to rates, yet uncertainty exists if rates are exempt where ownership of that same property is transferred to a not for profit entity to manage.

Clearly if more properties are now exempt from rates then the rate burden will fall greater on the remainder that are left to pay rates.

LGAT Comment

This matter was discussed at the December 2018 General Meeting, refer **Attachment to Item 2.4**.

The High Court has since dismissed the special leave applications made by Kingborough/Clarence/Hobart/Meander Valley in relation to Southern Cross Care's rating and those councils have been ordered to pay costs.

The decision will have broader implications for rates paid by other similar entities throughout Tasmania. Since the Full Court decision is now the law on the correct interpretation of this exemption, it will extend to other ratepayers which are in similar circumstances. Since that time LGAT has raised the issue for discussion at the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) and in meetings with the Director of Local Government. We have pressed the need to provide legislative clarity as soon as possible, rather than wait for the outcomes for the Review of Local Government Legislation and/or High Court proceedings.

Pending the outcome of this Agenda Item, LGAT will formally write to the Minister to seek an urgent review, and in the meantime is building an understanding of how charitable exemptions are dealt with legislatively in other States.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 COUNCILS ROLE AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Circular Head Council/Devonport City Council

That Members note the feedback from the recent regional Planning Authority training workshops and initial consultation as part of the review of the Local Government Act and discuss the long-term future of councils role as a Planning Authority.

Carried

Follow general discussion it was determined that councillors had an important and influencing role when acting as a Planning Authority that should be maintained and that no further action or follow up was required in relation to this matter.

Background

LGAT has recently completed regional training sessions with (predominantly) new elected representatives covering the Tasmanian Planning System and councils' role as a Planning Authority. These sessions were attended by over 70 people. At each of these sessions there was considerable discussion on the issues and benefits of councils role as a Planning Authority. The central point discussed was the limitations imposed on elected representatives when acting as a Planning Authority, in essence a tension between wishing to represent their community's view and making decisions strictly in accordance with the planning scheme. This is a common feature of feedback from newly elected councillors after each Local Government election.

In parallel, LGAT attended each of the regional consultation sessions on the review of the Local Government legislative framework. A number of themes emerged from these discussions but one common theme across each of the regions was again questioning councils role as a Planning Authority under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

As members would appreciate, when a council is acting as a Planning Authority it must make decisions only in accordance with the planning scheme, and also limited to the discretions triggered by a particular application. The Planning Authority can only consider community views (via representations) as they relate to the particular discretion(s) exercised in each case. There are numerous cases of councils determining applications on the basis of community feedback that does not relate to the discretions and these decisions being overturned by the Appeal Tribunal, often resulting in significant costs being awarded against the council.

It is important to note that the feedback from the processes discussed above indicated a strong desire to retain the development of planning policy, should there be any change to council's role. Strategic planning, local area planning etc, planning scheme development and amendments would remain a council function with only the statutory planning (development applications) considered as a part of any discussions.

Should there be an appetite from the sector to explore options around removing the role of Planning Authority from councils, then there are examples of a number of different models already operating in other jurisdictions that we can draw on. **Attachment to Item 3.1** was prepared in 2015 and provides a brief summary (correct at the time of writing) on the models in place interstate (Development Assessment Panels in particular).

It is worth noting that the current State Government planning reform agenda has created a negative public perception of our planning system, which by association includes Local Government's performance in delivering it.

Local Government has also had to be reactive to the various reforms, both from a resource and communication perspective and has meant that some of the critical aspects of the planning system, that many argue require reform, have been ignored to date.

While LGAT Members have had similar discussions over the last decade and determined not to press for change, the significant turnover in councillors, the public debate on planning matters and the extended planning reform agenda means that it is timely to once again test this matter.

Planning reform will be a significant and ongoing part of the State Government agenda for many years. As a sector we need to decide whether we wish to wait to see what further changes are proposed by State Government and react accordingly, or whether we get on the front foot and clearly articulate what we believe are the important reforms and lead the discussion accordingly.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW * Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the report on progress on the review of the Local Government Act.

Carried

Background

In June 2018 the Minister for Local Government announced a ‘roots and branches’ review of Tasmania’s Local Government legislation framework. Comment was sought on the Terms of Reference which were finalised in November 2018. There are a number of matters out of scope of this review including council amalgamations and Code of Conduct provisions.

A governance structure was finalised at the end of 2018. The Review is being governed by a Steering Committee. Local Government representatives on that Committee are the LGAT CEO Katrena Stephenson, former Tasman Mayor, Roseanne Heyward and former Meander Valley General Manager (and Chair of the Local Government Board) Greg Preece. The Steering Committee meets monthly.

The Steering Committee will be supported by a Reference Group comprising membership from a broad range of backgrounds including Local Government and Industry. Appointments to the Reference Group have now been announced. They are:

- Doug Chipman Mayor, Clarence City Council
- Peter Freshney Mayor, Latrobe Council
- Kerry Vincent Mayor, Sorell Council
- Cheryl Arnol Councillor, Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council
- Claire Smith Director Organisational Performance, Waratah Wynyard Council
- Lynette While Director Community & Development Services, Meander Valley Council
- John Brown General Manager, Break O'Day Council
- Andrew Paul General Manager, Clarence City Council
- Karen Abey Solicitor, Simmons Wolfhagen
- Margaret Taylor Community member
- Pamela Allan Adjunct Professor, School of Technology, Environment & Design, UTAS
- Craig Perkins CEO, Regional Development Australia, Tasmania

- Rhonda Skelton Board Member, Northern Midlands Business Association
- Kym Goodes CEO, Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCoss)
- Luke Martin CEO, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania
- Brian Wightman Executive Director, Property Council of Australia, Tasmania Division
- Michael Bailey CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)

The Reference Group will be independently facilitated with each meeting to focus on a particular subject matter. Reference Group meetings commence in March. Steering Committee Members will not be attending the Reference Group Meetings.

The Premier's Local Government Council will have ongoing oversight of the project and following release of a Government Directions Paper, technical working groups will be formed to support the development of appropriate legislative responses.

A discussion paper was released in late 2018 inviting submissions until 1 March 2019. The paper is seeking only broad input on principles and represents Phase 1 of consultation. A number of forums were held regionally to allow for public, sector and industry input into the paper as well as through a survey or written submission. The Paper canvassed a range of questions around governance and powers, democracy and engagement, revenue and expenditure, performance transparency and accountability as well as seeking feedback on any other matters. Over 370 submissions were received. LGAT's submission, the draft of which was tested with Members, is at **Attachment to Item 4.1**. All submissions, as well as a summary, are now available on the Local Government Division website.

There will be further opportunity for broad sector input into the process in Phase 2 (June to August 2019) with the release of the Directions Paper and in Phase 3 (March-May 2020) with the release of a draft Bill.

The Project Team are releasing a regular newsletter. Anyone can subscribe through the Local Government Division website.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Focus Area Facilitating Change

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

4.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

Improved waste and resource management has been an on-going and sustained area of LGAT advocacy for many years now, with recent activity including the commencement of the LGAT Statewide Waste Arrangements Feasibility Study (the Study). The Study is looking at how existing or new arrangements would potentially cover the planning, co-ordination and delivery of waste policies, strategies, programs and services to support better waste management across the state of Tasmania. In the latter part of 2018 LGAT was successful in securing a 50% funding contribution from the State Government for this work, reducing council contributions to \$45,000.

In late 2018 tenders were sought from a range of providers to undertake the Study. There were four very high-quality submissions, with Victoria based firm Urban EP selected to undertake the work.

The project is being delivered in two parts:

- Part A:** Collate evidence and present findings on the needs for and benefits of a Statewide Waste Management Arrangement.
- Part B:** Develop the purpose, role, functions and governance of this statewide arrangement as necessary to deliver on its agreed functions and support local and regional initiatives.

In delivering on Part A, engagement with core stakeholders was seen as integral to building the evidence base for a statewide arrangement. Further, engagement will build legitimacy in the study's findings and help bring councils together in prosecuting the case for a statewide arrangement (pending the project's outcomes and recommendations).

Workshops were held from 13 to 22 February 2019. The table below summarises the organisations that participated in each two-hour workshop, with attendance facilitated through invitations and reminders sent by LGAT & regional waste authorities.

Date & locatio	Targeted participants	Representation achieved
13 Feb 2019 Hobart	Waste Strategy South Member council staff Member council elected representatives	12 participants spanning: Hobart Council Huon Valley Council Kingborough Council Brighton Council Derwent Valley Council Glenorchy Council

15 Feb 2019 Burnie	Cradle Coast Waste Management Group Member council staff Member council elected representatives	14 participants spanning: Devonport Council Latrobe Council Kentish Council Waratah-Wynyard Council Circular Head Council Burnie Council Central Coast Council
20 Feb 2019 Hobart	Tasmanian Government representatives (officers and managers)	6 participants spanning: EPA Tasmania Department of State Growth
20 Feb 2019 Hobart	Resource recovery industry representatives	3 participants spanning: Veolia Waste Management Glenorchy Recovery Shop
22 Feb 2019 Launceston	North Tasmania Waste Management Group Member council staff Member council elected representatives	12 participants spanning: Launceston Council West Tamar Council George Town Council North Midlands Council Break O'Day Council Meander Valley Council

The workshops each involved an introduction and background to the project and two exercises with participants.

Exercise 1 involved having participants share their views on the successes and challenges in waste management at statewide, regional and local levels. This activity yielded a range of thematic areas that could then be delved into during Exercise 2 and provided an indication of the areas of demand to which a statewide arrangement could potentially respond.

The purpose of **Exercise 2** was to unpack up to three priority themes where it was felt (across the workshop) that current outcomes in waste management could be improved, potentially via the introduction of additional functions at a statewide level.

Based on this exploration of themes during the workshops, the Part A report will focus its analysis on the case for a statewide arrangement that carries functions associated with the following priorities, while retaining scope to adapt to emerging concerns:

- Organics resource recovery;
- Package waste recycling and minimisation;
- Addressing barriers to services and infrastructure; and
- Managing end of life tyres and dealing with illegal dumping.

For the Part A report, which will be completed by early April, a comparison with other jurisdictions will examine how these themes are dealt with in those locations, as well as investigating how state, regional and local entities work together to deliver better waste management outcomes across those various scales.

At the completion of the Part A report, the Project Reference Group will make a recommendation for General Management Committee endorsement if the Study moves to Part B. This will be based on Part A demonstrating a need and benefits from additional or amended Statewide Waste Management Arrangements in Tasmania.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.3 PLANNING REFORM

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

The State Government's number one planning reform priority is to establish the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which they accept can best be achieved by supporting councils in the preparation of their Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs). The Government has indicated that the other key areas of reform, being the development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies, update of the regional land use strategies, review of the residential provisions and improvements to subdivision legislation, will only commence once all councils have submitted their LPSs to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC).

Councils are currently preparing their LPSs, with a number having been submitted to the TPC in draft form and Meander Valley Council advertising their LPS in the latter part of last year, with hearings expected in the next few months. The Minister for Planning has set a target date for the submission of all LPSs to the TPC by the middle of 2019. To support this target the Government has established a specialised project team within the TPC, to assist the councils. The team is currently working with council planners to identify what further assistance might be required. Council visits are also underway by the TPC Commissioner, John Ramsay, to provide councillors with an update and outline important aspects of the process.

In addition, LGAT facilitated a statewide meeting of Local Government Strategic Planners in late 2018 to discuss issues and concerns and to share information on beneficial approaches. At this meeting the online platform that Meander Valley Council used for public exhibition of their LPS was discussed and generally recognised as useful. LGAT has collated a list of councils interested in utilising it and has secured a commitment from the State Government to contribute towards a whole of sector licence, to reduce the cost for interested councils, which will be hosted by LGAT. We are currently awaiting further details from the State Government.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.4 LOW COST AND FREE PUBLIC CAMPING

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

At the December 2017 Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting, the State Government agreed to establish a stakeholder group to provide advice to Government on the practical application of competitive neutrality principles to council-owned RV parking and camping facilities. This was in response to Local Government concerns on the interpretation and application of National Competition Policy principles.

This review has been overseen by senior representatives from the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance and State Growth. As part of the process a stakeholder reference group was established with representatives from LGAT and Local Government generally, caravan park operators and RV tourists and camping facility consumers. The stakeholder group met on three occasions, the first to outline issues and concerns and the second and third to provide feedback on draft options papers developed by Treasury.

The Final Policy Statement for the application of Competitive Neutrality Principles has now been approved by the Minister for Local Government and is available on the Department of Treasury and Finance's website at:

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/public-camping-competitive-neutrality-policy>.

The Final Policy predominantly provides a codification of the general approach that the Economic Regulator has been applying to all the recent complaints. Although there are some useful improvements that have been made. These include confirming a threshold of 10% within a 60km drive for determining significant business activity and also allowing councils to get a Ministerial Statement confirming a public benefit to not applying full cost attribution.

Pages six and seven of the policy provide a useful summary and the two attachments will be useful for their relevant applications.

The release of the policy generated significant public interest, with a number of external stakeholders contacting LGAT with concerns. LGAT has maintained our initial position that updating the competitive neutrality policy for public camping was not addressing a number of the key causes of the issue, being a lack of understanding around the demand and supply of low cost (and commercial) camping in Tasmania. Since the release of the policy we have continued our advocacy for this work to occur.

While this is a Final Policy statement, LGAT has written to all General Manager's to invite feedback on the practical application of the Policy over the next twelve months, to inform future advocacy efforts.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.5 ROADS AND JETTIES ACT 1935

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

At the March 2018 General Meeting, LGAT Members considered and approved a motion (Item 2.5) for LGAT to advocate to the Tasmanian Government to amend section 11 of the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*. The aim was to improve the way this section delineated road maintenance responsibilities between State and Local Government.

LGAT has been successful in its advocacy and the Tasmanian Government has passed amendments to section 11 of the Act, which now reads:

11. Maintenance of State highways, &c., in cities, &c.

- (1) Subject to [subsection \(2\)](#), where in a city, town or village there is a footpath on one side or both of a State highway or subsidiary road –

- (a) *the Minister is required to maintain and reconstruct –*
- (i) *the carriageways and the surface lying between them, in the case of 2 paved carriageways divided by a median strip;*
 - (ii) *the carriageway and the overtaking lane, in the case of a single paved carriageway incorporating an overtaking lane;*
 - (iii) *a paved carriageway not exceeding 7.4 metres in width, in the case of a single undivided paved carriageway;*
 - (iv) *a paved carriageway not exceeding 4.3 metres in width, in the case of a carriageway providing a traffic lane to a traffic interchange; and*
 - (iva) *in the case of a State highway comprising more than one lane in a single direction, the carriageway; and***
 - (v) *the culverts and bridges over which the State highway or subsidiary road runs; and*
- (b) *the remainder of the State highway or subsidiary road, including drainage and shoulders but not culverts and bridges, shall be maintained and reconstructed by the local authority.*
- (2) *The Minister, with the agreement of the relevant council, may maintain or reconstruct a State highway or a subsidiary road otherwise than in accordance with [subsection \(1\)](#).***

Councils may now negotiate an alternative maintenance arrangement with the Tasmanian Government through agreement with the Minister for this Act, currently the Minister for Infrastructure², Jeremy Rockliff MP.

Although this amendment provides more and better options for councils in delineating road maintenance responsibilities, the change opens up the potential for varying and inconsistent arrangements and delineations across the state. Therefore, councils may want to consider liaising with their neighbouring councils when proposing road maintenance arrangements with the State. Furthermore, early discussions with Department of State Growth personnel are recommended prior to formal proposals being presented to the Minister.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability

² See *Administrative Arrangements Order 2019*:

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sr-2019-006#JS1@HS14@EN>

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER TRAINING. Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following update on training and workforce development for Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).

Carried

Background

At the July 2018 General Meeting, members supported a motion for LGAT to lobby the University of Tasmania (UTAS) for the continuation of the Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) or similar tertiary degree that is eligible for the Environmental Health University Course Accreditation with Environmental Health Australia.

UTAS' Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) was a professionally accredited program designed to produce graduates who could work as EHO's in State and Local Government and specialised allied health fields. In January 2017 the University announced the course was in teach out mode (that is to be phased out).

LGAT, the Department of Health, EPA and Environmental Health Australia (EHA Tas) have had a number of discussions with UTAS for a replacement course. The University's School of Medicine has agreed to progress with collective planning and mapping for a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health course, with a course commencement in 2020, subject to UTAS approving the course governance and business planning processes.

As part of this training course, the need for student placements within Tasmanian councils was raised as an issue that would need to be addressed.

The likely replacement course for EHOs in Tasmania will go some way to addressing the workforce shortage, however there are a number of other factors that must also be addressed. To investigate these factors and also support the development of the Graduate Diploma, LGAT is lobbying the Department of Health, UTAS and the EPA to support a project that would result in a workforce development plan for EHOs. If successful, the plan will:

- Document the legislative and desirable tasks required of an EHO in Tasmania;
- Determine the factors influencing the recruitment and retention of EHOs in Local Government; and
- Determine strategies to support training for a Tasmanian environmental health workforce.

If completed the workforce development report would inform the course development process of UTAS, but also help to characterise and address the other challenges to establishing a sustainable EHO workforce in Tasmania. At this stage there is strong support for the concept

from the key stakeholders but a final agreement has not been reached on level of contribution.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.7 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Contact Officer – Deb Leisser

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report and indicate to LGAT their interest in being involved in the community satisfaction at the local council level by 30th April.

Carried

LGAT State-wide Survey

The Community Satisfaction Survey, being conducted by Metropolis Research, is close to completion. To date around 1000 of the 1200 surveys have been completed and some preliminary key results (State-wide) are below.

Rating Scale

<i>Excellent</i>	Scores of 7.75 and above are categorised as excellent
<i>Very good</i>	Scores of 7.25 to less than 7.75 are categorised as very good
<i>Good</i>	Scores of 6.5 to less than 7.25 are categorised as good
<i>Solid</i>	Scores of 6 to less than 6.5 are categorised as solid
<i>Poor</i>	Scores of 5.5 to less than 6 are categorised as poor
<i>Very Poor</i>	Scores of 5 to less than 5.5 are categorised as very poor
<i>Extremely Poor</i>	Scores of less than 5 are categorised as extremely poor

Satisfaction with Council's Overall Performance

Overall satisfaction with council is 6.92 out of ten, which is “good”, it’s notably lower in the City regions (Burnie, Clarence, Devonport, Glenorchy and Launceston) at 6.5 and notably higher in the Urban regions (Brighton, Central Coast, Kingborough, Meander Valley and West Tamar) at 7.46.

The previous satisfaction survey in 2015 reported average satisfaction of 70, which equates to 7.00 on the scale used for this survey. Metropolis Research advises that it is too early to report change over time with significant certainty, however the preliminary judgement is that satisfaction has effectively remained the same.

Satisfaction with Services and Facilities

Average satisfaction with services and facilities was 7.2 out of ten or “good”. Highest satisfaction was for the regular garbage collection service (8.11) or “excellent” and the lowest satisfaction was for Council planning and building (5.61) or “poor”.

Satisfaction with Governance and Leadership

Satisfaction with aspects of governance and leadership were marginally lower than overall satisfaction (which is as expected) but all have satisfaction scores in the “good” range.

The fact that satisfaction with governance and leadership is lower than overall satisfaction reflects that satisfaction with services and facilities tends to be a significant factor underpinning the higher overall satisfaction result.

Customer service

A little more than one-quarter of respondents had contacted Council in the last twelve months. Most contacts were via telephone (52%) and visits in person (32%). Overall satisfaction with the customer service experience was 6.83 “good”.

Most Important Issues to Address in the Local Area

The most important issues that respondents believe should be addressed in their local area were roads maintenance and repairs, traffic management and planning and development issues.

The Image of Local Government

The image of Local Government more broadly was rated at only 6.11 or “solid”, a result that is measurably lower than satisfaction with Council’s overall performance (6.92). This is an interesting result and will be explored further in the final report.

Population Growth

Satisfaction with the change in population over the last four years was 6.64 “good” and, satisfaction with planning for population growth was 5.99 “poor”.

Housing

Average satisfaction with the availability of housing that meets community needs was 5.02 out of ten “very poor” and satisfaction with the affordability of housing was almost identical at 5.08 “very poor”.

These housing related results are very low and suggest significant community concern around housing availability and affordability. They are clearly correlated with the satisfaction with population growth results.

Perception of Safety

The average perception of safety during the day was very high at 8.62, with just 3.2% of respondents feeling unsafe (rating 0 to 4). Safety at night was lower than during the day at 7.72, with 10.2% of respondents feeling unsafe in public areas at night.

The surveying will continue until 1200 surveys are completed. The final report will provide data analysis at the City, Urban and Rural and South, North and North East and Northwest and West area levels.

Community Satisfaction at the Local Council Level

Individual council surveys will follow and LGAT will work with interested councils and Metropolis Research to develop and run these surveys that will provide accurate and reliable information at the local level and compare local area level performance with region and state performance.

So far Glenorchy City, Northern Midlands, Break O'Day, City of Launceston, Central Coast, City of Hobart and Sorell have expressed early interest in working with LGAT and Metropolis Research to complete Local Government area level surveys. Other interested councils are requested to let Deborah Leisser (Deborah.Leisser@lgat.tas.gov.au) know by Tuesday 30 April.

Budget Implications

The State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey is already funded through council contributions to LGAT.

Facilitation and coordination of Community Satisfaction Surveys at the individual council level by LGAT (in consultation with councils) is not currently funded and will be costed on a fee for service basis, with the cost to be determined once the final number of interested councils is known.

Current Policy

Strategic plan:

- Building Local Government's Reputation
- Developing Capacity and Capability to Deliver

Priority Area 8

Deliver a refreshed statewide community satisfaction survey.

4.8 FINANCIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

LGAT is continuing to support councils in asset management. To do this, LGAT is collaborating with Local Government asset management professionals and supporting council-led initiatives.

One outcome of the statewide asset management meeting in October was a desire from professionals for improved communication with and guidance from the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO). Consequently, LGAT met with the TAO Deputy Auditor-General, Ric De Santi, who was very willing to contribute to the continuing professional development of the sector through attendance and presentations at our state-wide meetings, responding to sector questions and issues, providing input into the production and upkeep of LGAT's asset management resources, and other options. The next statewide meeting is in April and will include participation from the TAO and also the Local Government Division.

Amongst the resources hosted on the LGAT Extranet is a set of twenty-one Financial and Asset Management Practice Summaries, a copy can be found for reference at <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=623>.

These Practice Summaries provide guidance for asset managers on a range of topics, specific to the Tasmanian context and legislation. These resources are now four years old, so LGAT is liaising with IPWEA members and the Tasmanian Asset Management Group to scope a project to update the practice notes (reflecting updates to legislation and accounting standards) and to identify useful additions or improvements to the set. The TAO has given an early indication of willingness to assist in technical review.

LGAT will continue to support the collaboration between councils' asset management professionals and find ways to promote the initiatives that arise from it.

Budget Impact

Asset Management Practice Summary Update project work is currently being scoped, but as the original Financial and Asset Management Project retains some residual funding, the update work is intended to be fully funded within that residual amount.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.9 POLICY UPDATE

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the Policy Update which provides a brief overview on a range of matters.

Carried

Emergency Management

Fire Services Act

The State Government is currently reviewing the *Fire Services Act 1979* and all subordinate legislation. An issues paper was released in June last year with several councils and LGAT providing submissions. The Independent Chair of the Steering committee, Mr Michael Harris, resigned from his position on 30 January 2019 and has been replaced by Mr Michael Blake.

Mr Michael Blake met with LGAT in February to discuss the LGAT submission and Local Government issues. It is expected that a further discussion paper with a range of options will be released to stakeholders for consultation in the next couple of months.

Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines

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

Andrea Heath has been engaged as the consultant to manage the project and consultation. The project plan has been completed and consultation commenced.

Energy

Pricing Advocacy

LGAT has been active in its advocacy role around the TasNetworks network and distribution pricing reset, particularly in relation to street lighting. LGAT has provided two submissions to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in relation to the TasNetworks pricing reset. The revised TasNetworks proposal included some savings to councils for street lighting but it is hoped that when the AER hands down its final decision in April further savings will be included.

Procurement

In 2014 non-metered public lighting energy became contestable. As a result, LGAT facilitated two rounds of competitive procurement processes for the sector, which to date has resulted in significant savings (approximately \$500K- \$800K per annum) for the sector. The latest contract is coming to an end on 30 June 2019 and LGAT will run a similar combined competitive procurement process for non-metered public lighting for the sector. A request for quotation is currently being put together for a consultant to coordinate the tender process.

Climate Change Projects

LGAT is continuing to support councils on climate change related issues through coordinating with the Tasmanian Government and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) on several projects.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office's (TCCO) *Coastal Hazards Management for Existing Settlements and Values Project* is at its final stage, with the report understood to be complete. LGAT assisted in an advisory capacity and document review. The Tasmanian Government is now beginning the process of considering the findings and how to take them to the next stage. The report may be released to stakeholders or the public in the future.

The TCCO's Climate Resilient Councils project is temporarily on hold as the Office undergoes some reorganisation.

LGAT is also collaborating with the STCA Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) in two projects, a Regional Coastal Hazards Strategy and a combined Regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Template. Although necessarily focused on STCA councils, LGAT's involvement represents an opportunity to both support southern councils and share lessons from the projects with north and north-west councils in pursuing their own regional responses and strategies or informing state wide initiatives involving Local Government.

Recycling

Many of you would have seen the media reports on the temporary closure of a couple of SKM's facilities in Victoria (Laverton and Coolaroo).

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-18/melbourne-councils-send-recycling-to-landfill-after-plants-shut/10814412>

In mid February, SKM voluntarily shut down its Geelong site in order to prevent a level of stockpiling that would attract a further notice from EPA. It seems likely that most of the affected councils (approx. 30 Victorian councils) will have little choice but to start sending recyclables to landfill.

The following has been taken from a recent report from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV):

Victoria's recycling industry is in crisis, with four sites of one of the major recyclers, SKM, unable to receive recycling material due to significant non-compliance issues of concern to the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) at two of those sites. Another recycler, Polytrade has also been served with a non-compliance notice on one of its sites. As a result, many councils have had no option but to redirect their kerbside recycling to landfill. The stockpiling of recyclable materials is causing EPA and others significant concern with an EPA taskforce set up to regularly inspect high risk sites they have identified across the state.

For Southern Tasmania, our understanding is that to date there has been no impact on services as the majority of recyclables processed at Derwent Park are sent direct to markets both within Australia and Internationally. The only product that is sent to Victoria's SKM facilities are some bulk grades of paper, and SKM is looking to move these deliveries direct to market from Derwent Park, rather than to Victorian Materials Recovery Facilities.

LGAT is monitoring the situation closely.

4.10 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX ABUSE **Contact Officer – Dion Lester**

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) has been completed and the recommendations handed down.

On 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish a National Redress Scheme for individuals who experienced institutional sexual abuse as

Children. In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government committed to joining the National Scheme.

Each State Government has been asked to engage with Local Government by the Scheme Operator (the Commonwealth Department of Social Services) to provide information which may assist your sector to consider whether to participate in the National Redress Scheme and how that may occur. Staff from the Tasmanian Royal Commission Response Unit in the Department of Justice are currently meeting with councils to progress this discussion.

Attachment to Item 3.2 provides a Fact Sheet on the National Redress Scheme in Tasmania.

In addition, there is also a project underway by the State Archivist to implement the recordkeeping recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission. The additional **Attachment to Item 3.2** provides a briefing note for General Managers and Mayors on this project.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration

4.11 NATIONAL UPDATE

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the report on activity being undertaken by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Carried

Background

In February this year, the ALGA Board undertook a facilitated strategic planning meeting to consider a variety of corporate and strategic issues. Matters discussed included waste and recycling, population, settlement, housing and planning, community services, Local Government workforce issues, regional tourism and arts and culture. The Board Members also had the opportunity to meet with the Federal Minister for Local Government, Bridget McKenzie and the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Stephen Jones.

Participants considered outcomes against the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan as part of the broad review and generally agreed that the priorities were still current with one revision to be considered at the 14 March Board meeting relating to preparation and response to disasters.

Also to be considered is the draft Action Plan, developed to reflect the Board's detailed discussions on strategy and priority areas for action over the next year.

Additional items for discussion at the forthcoming Board Meeting include:

- Federal election advocacy;
- 'State of the Assets' reporting;
- The National Waste Policy Action Plan; and
- The upcoming National General Assembly (16-19 June)

A further verbal update will be provided at the LGAT General Meeting.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Focus Areas

Building Local Government's Reputation, Fostering Collaboration.

4.12 COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following update regarding LGAT's communications, events and training.

Carried

Communications

LGAT's monthly e-newsletter, the Pulse, brings you information regarding Local Government activities, policies, legislation and LGAT's advocacy activities as well as upcoming LGAT events and training for members. The Pulse includes links to the LG Noticeboard and our Better Councils Better Communities page. Sign up [here](#).

Also keep an eye out for the next edition of LGTas, due to be released in April 2019. LG Tas is a bi-annual online magazine style publication to promote the Local Government sector with a focus on Member's achievements and activities.

Overview of Activities

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

- LGAT President feature article on Tasmanian Local Government Sector in LG Focus February edition;

- Articles promoting the LG Tas sector submitted to Australian LG Handbook and LOIS Magazine;
- Letter to the editor Advocate 11 March 2019 correcting and providing context on rates capping; and
- The Pulse February edition.

Since the last General Meeting LGAT has facilitated key events and training activities including:

- Mayors' Professional Development Day;
- Break O' Day Councillor induction;
- Fire abatements training;
- LGAT Stakeholder Event;
- Engaging Champions Workshop;
- Cross Sectoral International Women's Day Awards Luncheon;
- Audit Panel Training; and
- Planning Authority Training in the north-west, north and south

International Women's Day Awards Luncheon

This inaugural event, held on 8 March attracted over 270 attendees. The Awards represent a partnership between LGAT, TasCoss and the State Government with sponsorship by Tasplan. The event was designed to inspire and recognise excellence being achieved by women in the Local Government Sector, the Community Service Industry and the State Public Service in Tasmania. Attendees were addressed by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, Minister for Women the Honourable Jacque Petrusma MP and Kat Henry (NIDA Corporate) over lunch. The event was live-streamed to Devonport.

Local Government Award Winners were Mayor Bec Enders (Huon Valley Council) and Erica Lowry, Community Services Project Officer (Break O' Day Council).

See the latest edition of The Pulse for more <https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=a3fb6b694cc457805027bda84&id=8d06564b9e>

Upcoming Events and Training

The LGAT Events Calendar can be found on our website [here](#)

Upcoming Training and Development opportunities include:

March 2019	Date	Location	Information
Elected Members Professional Development Weekend	23-24 March	Launceston	Click here
April 2019			

Engaging Champions Leadership Program Session 3	1 April		
General Managers' Workshop	3-4 April		
May 2019			
LGAT Regional Breakfasts	8,9, 16 May		
Mayors' Professional Development Day	30 May		
June 2019			
2IC Workshop	5 June		

LGAT Annual Conference

The 2019 LGAT Annual Conference will be held from 3-5 July at Wrest Point, Hobart. Planning for the Conference, themed "Finding Your Voice" is well under way. The Sponsorship Prospectus has been launched with many sponsors and trade exhibitors already coming on board.

Program development is almost complete including the following Plenary Speakers:

- Heather Rose, Award winning Tasmanian Author;
- Mayor Tim Shadbolt, New Zealand's longest serving Mayor;
- Penny Terry, ABC radio presenter and Creative Director of Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd;
- Matt Pinnegar, CEO LGA South Australia; and
- David O'Loughlin, President ALGA.

We will also be bringing back the Panel discussion by popular demand, featuring our federal elected representatives following the federal election.

Based on feedback from Members, the workshop series will be refreshed, with a greater focus on showcasing Tasmanian councils' achievements as learning opportunities. In addition, there will be greater opportunity for members' networking and direct contribution through a revised structure incorporating symposium style shorter presentations and collaborative working. Registration will be available very soon!

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan:

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

4.13 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That the Members note the following report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

Carried

Background

At **Attachment to Item 4.12** is a report against the LGAT Annual Plan for consideration.

Budget Implications.

Within current budget.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the President declared the Meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Item 2.1 LGAT Rule Change

Total Responses: 51

Item 2.1 LGAT Rule Change

Circular Head Council/City of Hobart

That the Meeting agree in principle to a change to 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, with the change to be ratified at the LGAT AGM.

1. For 51
2. Against 0
3. Abstain 0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	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	[No Response]	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	[No Response]	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 2.2 21st Century Councils

Total Responses: 51

Item 2.2 21st Century Councils

Central Coast Council/Latrobe Council

That Members endorse the following methodology for progressing the discussion on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government Sector.

1. For  47
2. Against  4
3. Abstain  0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	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	[No Response]	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	Against	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	[No Response]	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 2.3 Recognition of Australia Day

Total Responses: 51

Item 2.3 Recognition of Australia Day

City of Hobart/Kingborough Council

That LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day.



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	Against	2

Central Coast Council 4	Against	3
Central Highlands Council 5	Against	1
Circular Head Council 6	Against	1
Clarence City Council 7	Against	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	Against	2
Devonport City Council 9	Against	3
Dorset Council 10	Against	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	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	Against	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	Against	2
Launceston City Council 21	Abstain	4
Meander Valley Council 22	Against	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	Against	2
Sorell Council 24	[No Response]	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	Against	1
Tasman Council 26	Against	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	Against	2
West Coast Council 28	Against	1
West Tamar Council 29	Against	3

Item 2.4 Charitable Exemption – Rates

Total Responses: 49

Item 2.4 Charitable Exemption - Rates

Foreshadowed Amendment

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

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.

1. For 49
2. Against 0
3. Abstain 0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	[No Response]	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	[No Response]	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	[No Response]	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

General Meeting 29 March 2019		
Item No		
2	Items for Decision	
2.1	LGAT Rule Change	Refer AGM Agenda Item 6
2.2	21st Century Councils	Refer Item 9.4
2.3	Recognition of Australia Day	No Further Action
2.4	Charitable Exemption - Rates	Refer Item 9.1
3	Items for Discussion	
3.1	Councils Role as a Planning Authority	No Further Action
4	Items for Noting	
4.1	Local Government Act Review	Refer Item 9.2
4.2	Waste Management	Refer Item 9.3
4.3	Planning Reform	Refer Item 9.5
4.4	Low Cost and Free Public Camping	Completed
4.5	Roads and Jetties Act 1935	Completed
4.6	Environmental Health Officer Training	Refer Item 9.11
4.7	Community Satisfaction Survey	Refer Item 9.6
4.8	Financial Asset Management	Ongoing
4.10	Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sex Abuse	Refer Item 8.1
4.11	National Update	No Further Action
4.12	Communications , Events and Training Update	Refer Item 9.19
4.13	LGAT Annual Plan Update	Refer AGM Agenda Item 7

FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS REPORT

Report to the General Meeting

This report details motions where LGAT is still pursuing an outcome

Local Government Legislation

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.

Passed: March 2019

Notes: A Steering Committee and Working Group have been established and a communications firm engaged to support progression of an amendment to restore equity in the rating of independent living units. A range of other matters related to charitable rating exemptions have been identified for consideration within the broader Local Government legislation review. See item this meeting agenda for further information.

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

Environment

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

Passed: July 2017 and July 2018

Notes: The State Government has released a consultant's report on a model framework for the implementation of a Container Refund Scheme (CRS), however is yet to commit to implementing a CRS in Tasmania.

That Tasmanian Councils, through LGAT, support a container deposit scheme within Tasmania and call on the State Government to investigate the best model for implementation within the State.

LGAT continues to advocate for the introduction of a CRS in Tasmania.

That Members reaffirm their commitment to improving waste management and raise with the State Government -

Passed: November 2017

Notes: The State Government is currently preparing the draft State Waste Action Plan. LGAT is actively lobbying the State Government for this Action Plan to contain the actions highlighted in the LGAT Waste and Resource Management Strategy, endorsed by the sector in 2017 as well as more recent sectoral motions related to waste. The draft Waste Action Plan is expected to be released in June 2019.

- The importance of Waste Management, in particular plastics;
- Our disappointment in the lack of progress of the waste strategy; and
- The need for additional resourcing to be implemented.

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the State Government for the introduction of legislation to phase out the provision of petroleum-based single-use take-away food packaging currently used to enable prepared food or beverages to be carried from the retailer's premises. **Passed: July 2018**
Notes: See agenda item this meeting.

That LGAT urgently consider through its appropriate body a response to the recent increase in costs of recycling to Local Government as a consequence of changes to the Chinese government's policies and consider development of a range of responses, including collective negotiations between the Federal and State Governments and other stakeholders, to prompt a market response for recycling opportunities in Tasmania.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

Following the near collapse of the recycling industry in Australia's, LGAT wrote to the Tasmanian Minister for Environment seeking urgent action. In response the Minister hosted a roundtable on waste and recycling with Local Government and key industry stakeholders seeking to identify challenges, barriers and opportunities for managing waste and recycling in Tasmania. At the round table the Government again committed to the release of a State Waste Action Plan.

Beyond this, the State Government's response has been disappointing. Despite this, LGAT is continuing to strongly and regularly advocate for action from the State Government, while also supporting councils in acting locally and will continue to do so.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

That LGAT lobby all councils to adopt the use of reusable and compostable items for use in council sponsored events. **Passed: July 2018**

Notes:

LGAT has written to all GMs seeking that they adopt a recycling waste diversion policy for council events. To support councils in the transition, LGAT is also preparing a package of support material.

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting

That Local Government Consult with Fruit Growers Tasmania and the State Government re the bio security risk with roadside fruit trees on state and local roads.

Passed: July 2018

Notes: Advice has been sought from Fruit Growers Tasmania and the State Government.

The Fruit Growers Tasmania did not consider there was a significant risk from roadside fruit trees. Similarly, DPIPWE noted that roadside fruit trees do not pose a threat to spreading fruit fly in Tasmania as the pest is not present in the State. While the fruit on trees and fallen fruit could present a risk during an outbreak, we have never experienced a widespread or high intensity outbreaks. For example, in the 2017 outbreak there were a very small number of flies involved in discrete locations.

If roadside trees were to be considered a biosecurity, then so would all fruit trees including those in home gardens and poorly managed orchards and abandoned orchards.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

That LGAT lobby the State Government to take greater responsibility for the management of streams.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has recently raised this through the Premier's Local Government Council Officials meeting and are waiting for feedback.

Planning and Building

That LGAT seek from the State Government a strategic commitment to developing and implementing in the new state-wide planning scheme provisions to allow the as of right development of existing small titles of land in the rural production zone that does not compromise or fetter agricultural production capacity and provides opportunities to diversify and reinvigorate local economic prosperity and community wellbeing.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT wrote to the Planning Policy Unit (PPU) in the Department of Justice and they indicated that: "a blanket 'as of right' status cannot be provided for the variety of situations that may arise."

They further noted that while the impending development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies will consider the policy underpinning a range of planning mechanisms (including the agricultural and rural zone provisions) they will still need to be consistent with the State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land.

The PPUs full response can be provided on request.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

That Members note a lack of input into the location of telecommunications towers and other similar infrastructure emitting radiation/microwave links and request that LGAT investigate options to allow councils to have more input prior to the submission of the Development Application.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

Telecommunications companies have some powers to enter land and install and maintain some types of telecommunications facilities. However, in using these powers, carriers have to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act 1997, the Telecommunications Code of Practice and also the Mobile Base Station Deployment Code of Conduct.

In late 2018 both the Code of Practice and Code of Conduct underwent reviews. LGAT actively participated these reviews by providing input with the other State Associations to ALGA, who sat on both working groups. ALGA was successful in incorporating a number of changes to the Codes.

While the Codes cannot change the regulatory and legislative regime at a local, State or Federal level, they do supplement the existing requirements already imposed on Carriers by requiring them to consult with the local government and the community and to adopt a precautionary approach in planning, installing and operating telecommunications infrastructure.

The 2018 Telecommunications Code of Practice can be found [here](#) and the 2018 Mobile Base Station Deployment Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

Roads and Infrastructure

That LGAT and member Councils continue to lobby the Minister for Infrastructure for improved roadside vegetation management on State Government controlled roads.

Passed: April 2017

Notes:

LGAT has met with the Department of State Growth twice in the past on issues relating to, and including, this motion. Most recently, LGAT raised this issue during its successful advocacy around the Roads and Jetties Act 1935, which achieved legislative changes allowing councils to enter agreements with the State on coordination and delineation of road management responsibilities, and which relates to this motion. State Growth has advised that it invites councils to contact them directly to discuss any areas within a council's Local Government Area that require additional vegetation management treatment to ensure roads and signage are safe and visible. Councils are encouraged to open positive communication lines with the Department in the spirit of a collaborative approach to road management and raise any issues they may have.

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting.

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

Passed: July 2017

Notes:

In our recent budget and election documents LGAT has advocated for a greater State Government focus on locally based initiatives to addressing demand in areas such as public transport and active transport. This included a specific ask for \$1 million per year over four years for active transport.

That LGAT lobby the State Government for the establishment of a recurrent fund to support the provision of separated bicycle infrastructure for local and state roads.

Passed: December 2018

Notes:

See motion above.

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

Passed: July 2018

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 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. There will be additional opportunities to reinforce this position during further consultation as part of the review.

2. Seek justification for the excessive level of financial burden that has been imposed over the last five years.

Local Government Business and Finance

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) work with the Department of Treasury and Local Government Division to prepare a model Public Benefit Assessment for Councils to use where a public camping activity is a significant business activity.

The model Public Benefit Assessment will support Council requests to the Treasurer for a Ministerial Statement concerning the application of competitive neutrality principles for low cost and free camping.

Passed: December 2018

Notes:

In early 2019 the State Government released a Policy Statement on public camping. The National Competition Policy: Applying Competitive Neutrality Principles to public camping in Tasmania is available on the Treasury website <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/public-camping-competitive-neutrality-policy>

This Policy resulted from significant stakeholder interest and Attachment B of the Policy provides a “Public Benefit Assessment Guide”. This Guide provides a useful model for preparing Public Benefit Assessments.

To support implementation of the Guide LGAT has facilitated a process with Treasury for an initial group of 5 councils who are about to commence the preparation of Public Benefit tests. While councils will be required to identify their policy details independently, Treasury will work with the councils through the practical use of the Guide.

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting.

a) That Councils and the Local Government Association Tasmania work with the Local Government Division of Premier and Cabinet to review the various accounting methodologies being used by Councils with a view to developing standardised reporting; and

b) Address some of the complexities such as volume/length of reporting driven by disclosures required in the Local Government Act and International Accounting standards which are not necessarily relevant to Council operation and reporting.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has met with the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO) regarding this motion and there was an appetite to look at the issues raised. Subsequently LGAT has written to the TAO, seeking formal feedback on the areas where improvements / changes can be made.

Other Matters

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania be requested to lobby the **Passed: July 2018**

State Government to ensure that the State is taking sufficient measures and **Notes:**

allocating sufficient resources to provide affordable, low cost housing, The Tasmanian Government recently released the Affordable Housing Action Plan particularly in rural and outer suburban areas with transport and social services 2019 – 2023 (the Action Plan) to support the implementation of the Affordable Housing Strategy.

As part of the preparation of the Action Plan the Government engaged with a number stakeholder, including LGAT. The Action Plan contains a raft of specific actions across land release, land use planning and supply. A number of these measures will support the development of affordable and social housing in rural and outer suburban areas.

Most notable, the State Government has committed (Action 5.1) to providing grants to local governments and community organisations “to construct suitable housing in regional and rural areas where demand and affordability is demonstrated and value for money is shown. This could assist older people or people living with disability to stay in their community, or deliver new supply in areas where there is demand for affordable accommodation for key workers.”

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting.

That LGAT seek that the Federal and State Government provides a strategic **Passed: July 2018**

commitment of a 4 year resources funding program working with Local **Notes:** The 2019 / 20 State Budget contained \$2.9 million in additional funding Government and established industry training providers for the implementation for TasTAFE to address skills needs in growth industries. The extra funding will of targeted VOC Training initiatives to ensure the dispersal of employment and support TasTAFE to train more apprentices and students in sectors including apprenticeship opportunities from all emerging industry investment and construction, electro-technology, plumbing, welding and nursing. expansion opportunities across the state.

In addition, the State Budget extended the Payroll Tax Rebate to support employers to take on new apprentices and trainees in key growth industries between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2021. The funding provides grants of up to \$5,000 for each new apprentice or trainee taken on by a small business in an area of identified skills demand.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

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.

Passed: July 2018

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.

That LGAT lobby the State Government and Spirit of Tasmania to ensure the availability of sailings adequately meets demand of Tasmanian residents, tourists and other users and that affordable pricing is available to users

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has written to the CEO of TT Line Company (Spirit of Tasmania) to highlight the concerns of this motion and seeking a response as to what they are doing to address the issue.

That LGAT lobby the Bureau of Meteorology to retain its existing public weather forecasting operations in Tasmania in the interests of ensuring retention of specialist knowledge of unique Tasmanian microclimates, maintaining forecast quality and providing timely and regionally reflective forecasts for agriculture, emergency services, tourism and the like.

Passed: December 2018

Notes:

LGAT has written to BOM raising concerns and highlighting the importance of local weather forecasting operations in Tasmania. We are yet to receive a response from BOM.

Key LGAT Activity – March 2019

Issue in Focus

March saw the conclusion of the first phase of the State Government's consultation for the Review of the Local Government Act. The Local Government Division received three hundred and eighty-two submissions from interested stakeholders. This included 14 from individual councils and a submission from LGAT. A copy of each submission and a summary of the submission can be found on the following page:

http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/local_government_legislation_review/phase_one_submissions

The Project Team within the Local Government Division is now in the process of developing draft policy positions that will be workshopped with the Project Reference Group, prior to being released in a Directions Paper, in the middle of this year for consultation.

LGAT will continue to actively engage with the Project via our membership on the Steering Committee and also via the Elected Representatives and staff on the Project Reference Group.

Policy / Project Activity

- Advertisement of two new contracts - Business Management Services and ICT solutions and services
- ALGA Grant Funding Expression of Interest – Empowering Local Government to grow the Australian Arts and Creative Industries
- Analysis of Tasmanian Council Digital Readiness Survey results
- Charitable rating exemptions
- Community Health and Wellbeing Project stakeholder consultation on 2019 plan
- Competitive neutrality policy for public camping policy clarification for councils
- Completed and acquitted Liveability Grant – Walkability project, with material now available on the LGAT website
- Completion of the statewide community satisfaction survey
- Councillor advice on immunisation programs
- Development of RFQ for shared procurement for street lighting energy for councils
- EHO workforce development project scoping
- LGAT enterprise created on Vendor Panel
- Sector consultation and submission to the review of the Local Government Act
- Sector update on Section 9 of the Building Act issues
- Workshop with Red Cross, councils and Police to discuss registration process in evacuation centres and options moving forward

Media

- 6/3 Media query: Cat Management
- 8/3 WIN, Sth Cross Coverage of International Womens' Day Awards Luncheon
- 11/3 Letter to the Editor of The Advocate "Understanding Rates" (correcting Sean Ford article)
- 13/3 Media release: Council Cost Index
- 13/3 Media query: "Grey Nomad Times" – Free Camping

- 14/3 Media query: The Mercury – Council Coast index

Communication & Publications

- Better Councils Better Communities: City of Launceston – [Building a More Resilient Community](#) (Flood Markers Project)
- Community Health and Wellbeing Project – resources uploaded to LGAT webpage.
- Liveable Communities Grants Program – reports and resources uploaded to LGAT webpage
- [Pulse](#) March 2019

Training and Events

- Audit Panel Regional Workshops, 6th and 7th March
- Tasman Council Visit: Workshop on Council's Role as a Planning Authority, 27th March
- Planning for GM's workshop, Mayor's workshop and regional breakfasts
- Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women Awards (CEO was a judge) International Women's Day Shared Sector Awards Luncheon, 8 March Hobart
- Elected Members Professional Development Weekend, 23/24 March, Launceston
- LGAT General Meeting, 29 March, Devonport

Meetings

- Advisors to Minister Jaensch – Affordable Housing Action Plan and related planning matters
- Anita Dow MP new shadow Minister for Local Government and Planning
- Associations Policy Directors - Canberra
- Australian Local Government Association Board Meeting - Canberra
- Australian Taxation officer - Australian Business Register workshop
- CEO, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation
- Clarence City Council Officers – Access & Inclusion Toolkit
- Cradle Coast Authority catch up
- Department of State Growth - Heavy Vehicle Access Meeting
- Department of State Growth – Tourist Road Safety Strategy
- Department of State Growth, Hobart and Clarence City Councils – Ancillary dwelling project
- DPAC – State of the State/Regional Economic Growth
- Dr Rachel Bacon, Federal Deputy Secretary with responsibility for Regional Development and Local Government.
- Emma Riley – Regulatory Reform Project briefing
- General Meeting
- Great Southern Lights Project
- Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA) – Introduction to the Strategic Asset Management Plan template and NAMS.PLUS website functionality
- Jessica Robbins – Tasmania Way discussion
- LG Workforce Development Group – 2019 National Local Government Workforce Summit
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting

- LGTas Communications Forum
- Local Buy QLD (Procurement Business) – regular teleconferences on shared tendering and panel arrangements
- Local Government Cultural Forum Executive Meeting
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee
- Marine and Safety Tasmania – marine infrastructure funding and planning
- Menzies Institute – Active Transport Project update
- Minister Jaensch – transfer of public housing/impact on rates (teleconference)
- Minister for Planning’s Advisor – regular catch up
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – Heavy Vehicle Freight Access Strategy, Local Government Working Group Inception Meeting
- National Procurement Network
 - Tyres, Tubes and Batteries
 - General Hardware
 - Plant Machinery and Equipment
- Nomenclature Board Meeting
- Office of Security and Emergency Management (OSEM) - Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy
- Planning and Building Portal Steering Committee
- Public Health Services – Healthy Tasmania update
- Public Health Services – quarterly meeting and report on Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Quarterly National Procurement Network – Adelaide
- Road Safety Advisory Council
- Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT)
- Royal Flying Doctors Service – discussion on collaboration
- SES, OSEM and TFS – Workshop on ‘UnHARMED’ Natural Hazards Planning and Assessment Tool
- Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) – Coastal Hazards Tender Evaluation
- State Regional Emergency Management Committee debrief on summer fires
- STCA RCCI – Regional Climate Strategy and Action Plan Template Project
- Tasmanian Audit office - LGAT procurement
- Tasmanian Greens and Labour Party – LGAT Budget Submission
- Tasnetworks – Local Provision Schedule discussion
- UTAS – engagement on future direction in the South
- UTAS - LEAP Program
- UTAS, EPA and Department of Health – EHO workforce development project scoping
- Wendy Kennedy EO Men’s Sheds

Operational

- Completed draft Workplace Behaviours policies and template contracts for LGAT staff
- Recruitment of new Policy and Project Officers

Key LGAT Activity – April 2019

Issue in Focus

April saw the release of the latest edition of [LG Tas](#).

LG Tas is online publication to promote the Local Government sector with a focus on Member's achievements and activities. This was the first online only edition following consultation with Members. The decision to move to fully online was based on member feedback, seeking to reduce waste and also reducing costs associated with printing and postage.

The April edition was sent to over 1000 subscribers and has had an open rate of 41.9%, which is 17.5% above the national average for government publications. We were also pleased to see Members sharing LG Tas through their social media channels.

Policy / Project Activity

- Advertisement of one new LGAT Procurement contract - Corporate Clothing, Workwear & Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- AICD Lunch – Councils and Good Governance (Amalgamations) – panel with Michael Bailey TCCI
- Analysis of Tasmanian Council Digital Readiness Survey results
- Council advice on PD 4.1 amendments
- Develop EHO workforce plan scope of works
- Distribution ALGA Federal Election Materials
- Draft MOU for International Women's Day Award Event 2020
- Great Southern Lights Project continued work on draft sale agreement
- LGAT State-wide Waste Study Completion of Part A report
- Liaison with MAV and Local Buy regarding contracts and future opportunities
- Preparation of GMC Papers
- Quote for shared procurement for energy received, reviewed and advice provided to councils
- Review and assess applications under the "Prepared Communities Grants"
- Sector consultation on proposed amendments to the Historic Cultural Heritage Act
- Working Group – Charitable Rating Exemptions/ compilation of data, response to Minister Gutwein

Media

Communication & Publications

- April edition of [LG Tas](#)
- April edition of the [Pulse](#) newsletter
- Council Cost Index – The Mercury
- Free Camping – ABC and The Mercury
- The Mandarin – Telstra Award and working in partnership

Training and Events

- Annual Conference - Registrations now open for the event on the 3-5th July [here](#)
- Attendance at the GAMES (Great Association Meetings and Events Symposium) – Melbourne 29-30th April
- Engagement Champions Program – Final session held on April 1st in Hobart
- General Managers Workshop – 3rd and 4th April, Launceston
- International Women’s Day Awards reconciliation and debrief committee meeting – 17th April
- Local Government Awards for Excellence – Applications are now open [here](#)
- Local Government Procurement Training: Procurement and Contract Management Modules
- Results-Based Accountability and Performance Measurement Workshop – 10th April

Meetings

- Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities – Infrastructure Management System Replacement and Transformation Program
- CEO of LG Professionals Tas - Emerging Leaders Program
- Charitable Rates Working Group Teleconference
- City of Hobart - LGBTI training for council’s
- Consumer, Building and Occupational Services - Permit Authority Forums
- Council officers - Climate Change meetings
- Department of Health - Project Proposal meeting
- Department of State Growth – Community Road Safety Grants Assessment Panel
- Department of State Growth, Local Government Association of Queensland, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Director Housing Tasmania - Transfer of property/rates
- George Town Council – Presentation to workshop
- International Women’s Day event debrief and future planning
- LG Professionals Tasmania Board Meeting
- LGAT State-wide Waste Study - Project reference group meeting
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee
- Local Provision Schedule Steering Committee
- MAV Insurance Board – Teleconference
- National Disability Service - NDIS Mapping Project
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – Heavy Vehicle Freight Access Strategy Local Government Working Group
- PLGC Officials
- RDA Tasmania Meeting
- Regular Meeting Director of Local Government
- Richmond Fellowship - Joint Art of Story Telling workshop
- St Lukes - Sector wide health program
- State Emergency Services - Prepared Communities Grants assessment panel



- State Emergency Services - Training continuum project meeting
- State Emergency Services and Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience - Evaluation of the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience
- Tasmanian Asset Management Group
- Tasmanian Climate Change and Health Roundtable
- Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project Steering Committee
- Tasmanian Wellness Framework - Project meeting
- UTAS - Land use planning and renewable energy
- UTAS - Presentation on proposed Hobart campus move to the CBD
- UTAS, Department of Health, EPA - Environmental Health Officers (EHO) Workforce Plan scoping
- Web conference – LGAT SharePoint training
- West Tamar Council – Informal lunch

National Redress Scheme (Tasmania)

FACT SHEET

On 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish a National Redress Scheme for individuals who experienced institutional sexual abuse as children. The Scheme was created in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse which estimated that 60 000 people have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Australia.

The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government committed to joining the National Scheme. On 1 November 2018 the Tasmanian Government completed the formal requirements to join the Scheme including passing the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018* that enables Tasmanian non-government institutions to join the Scheme.

Overview

- The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse and includes three key components for individuals deemed eligible for redress:
 - a monetary payment (up to \$150,000);
 - a direct personal response (DPR) (such as a meeting with a senior institutional official and an apology); and
 - access to counselling consistent with National Service Principles (with the method of delivery to be determined by the relevant jurisdiction).
- The Scheme's objectives are to:
 - acknowledge that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions; and
 - hold responsible institutions accountable for child abuse;
- The Scheme operates on a 'responsible entity pays' basis.
- The National Scheme includes the role of Independent Decision Makers (IDMs) within its assessment process. IDMs assess applications, make decisions on the quantum of monetary and counselling payments, and determine the apportionment of responsibility in cases where responsibility lies with multiple institutions.

- The Tasmanian State Government officially joined the Scheme as a participating institution on the 1 November 2018. People who suffered sexual abuse in State Government Institutions can now access redress.

Participating of Tasmanian non-government institutions

- A number of other non-government Tasmanian institutions have also joined the Scheme and others have indicated their intention to join in the coming months.
- As of January 2019, the following institutions relevant to Tasmania are current participants in the National Redress Scheme:
 - Commonwealth government institutions
 - Tasmanian state government institutions
 - Anglican Church:
 - Anglicare Tasmania
 - Catholic Church:
 - Archdiocese of Hobart
 - Military Ordinariate of Australia
 - Marist Fathers Australian Province
 - Syro Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas
 - Global Interaction
 - The Salvation Army
 - Scouts Australia
 - YMCA
- The latest list of participating institutions can be found at <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/joined-scheme>

Who decides whether an institution will participate in the Scheme?

- Each non-government institution must decide to join the Scheme.
- The Australian Government requires non-government institutions choosing to participate in the Scheme to complete the administrative steps by 1 July 2020.

- If particular non-government institutions have not joined the Scheme, claimants cannot access redress for abuse relevant to that institution. In such circumstances, the claimant must:
 - wait until the institution joins the Scheme before their application can be assessed; or
 - in circumstances where more than one institution is responsible, the claimant may choose to progress their application in relation to those institutions that are participating in the Scheme.
- A claimant who has not been able to progress an application for abuse against a non-participating institution may pursue civil law options against that institution.

Position in other jurisdictions

- All state and territory governments have completed the legislative and administrative requirements to join the National Redress Scheme.
- Tasmanian residents who may have been affected by abuse in other states and territories can apply to the Scheme in relation to abuse occurring in participating institutions. A complete list of all participating state and territory government and non-government institutions can be found at: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/joined-scheme>.



Tasmania

**Memorandum of Understanding
on the participation of local councils
in the National Redress Scheme for
Institutional Child Sexual Abuse**

DRAFT

Recitals

1. The parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in recognition of the importance of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. This Agreement is an acknowledgment that sexual abuse suffered by children in institutional settings is wrong and should not have happened.
2. The Parties agree the objective of providing redress for survivors of child sexual abuse is to recognise and alleviate the impact of past institutional child sexual abuse and related abuse, and to respond to the recommendations contained in the *Redress and Civil Litigation Report* of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
3. This MoU represents the cooperation between Parties on the participation in the National Redress Scheme and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Parties under the National Redress Scheme.
4. This MoU is to be read in conjunction with the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth) and other related legislation.
5. The Minister for Justice or the Minister with portfolio responsibility for the National Redress Scheme and Mayors are authorised to agree to amendments to this MoU in accordance with Part 5 – Governance Arrangements.

PART I – Operative Provisions

Parties

6. This MoU is between:
 - a) the State of Tasmania (the “State”); and
 - b) the local councils, being:
 - Break O’Day
 - Brighton
 - Burnie
 - Central Coast
 - Central Highlands
 - Circular Head
 - Clarence
 - Derwent Valley
 - Devonport
 - Dorset
 - Flinders
 - George Town

Glamorgan – Spring Bay

Glenorchy

Hobart

Huon Valley

Kentish

Kingborough

King Island

Latrobe

Launceston

Meander Valley

Northern Midlands

Sorell

Southern Midlands

Tasman

Waratah Wynyard

West Coast

West Tamar

(Together, “the Parties”)

Term of this MoU

8. This MoU will commence for each Party as soon as it is signed by them. This may occur after the commencement date of the National Redress Scheme. This MoU will expire on 30 June 2028, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.
9. Commitments under this MoU which refer to participating government institutions, only apply to Parties that have participating government institutions declared.

Enforceability

10. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this MoU to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties’ commitment to this MoU.

Delegations

11. The Minister for Justice or the relevant Minister with portfolio responsibility for the National Redress Scheme is authorised to agree to amendments to this MoU and schedules to this MoU in accordance with Part 5 – Governance Arrangements.
12. Respective Mayors are authorised to agree to amendments to this MoU and schedules to this MoU in accordance with Part 5 – Governance Arrangements.

Definitions

13. In this MoU, unless the contrary appears:
- a) where a word or phrase has a defined meaning, any grammatical form of that word has a corresponding meaning,
 - b) a reference to legislation or a legislative provision includes a reference to any amendment, substitution or re-enactment of that legislation or provision, and
 - c) the singular includes the plural and vice versa.
14. Terms in this MoU will have the same meaning as in Scheme legislation.
15. In this MoU, unless the contrary appears:

Confidential Information means information that:

- i. The Parties know, or ought to know is confidential, or
- ii. The Parties agree in writing after the commencement of this MoU is confidential information for the purpose of this MoU.

For the avoidance of doubt, Confidential Information does not include Protected Information as defined in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2018. An example of Confidential Information would be a policy position shared by a Party on an issue that has arisen in the course of the Scheme.

The assessment framework policy guidelines for the monetary redress payment is Confidential Information.

Scheme legislation means:

- i. the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth) (the National Redress Scheme Act);
- ii. the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Rules 2018 (the Rules); and
- iii. the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018* (Tas).

PART 2 – Objectives

Role and purpose of this MoU

16. This MoU provides the foundation for governments to work together to implement the Scheme. This MoU will be signed by any local council that seeks to become a participating state institution for the purposes of the Scheme.
17. In addition, this MoU provides Parties with the framework for delivering the Scheme by setting out:
- a) roles and responsibilities of the State and participating local councils;
 - b) governance arrangements;
 - c) financial arrangements;

-
- d) implementation arrangements; and
 - e) Scheme operational arrangements.

Objects of the Redress Scheme

- 18. The National Redress Scheme Act set out the objects of the Scheme.
- 19. The main objects of the Scheme are to recognise and alleviate the impact of past institutional child sexual abuse and related abuse, and provide justice for the survivors of that abuse.

PART 3 – Roles and Responsibilities

Shared roles and responsibilities

- 20. The State and local councils which have had participating government institutions declared will:
 - a) work collaboratively to deliver redress from participating institutions to eligible survivors;
 - b) share information and data, subject to this MoU and privacy requirements, to promote a best practice and survivor-focused Scheme; and
 - c) identify and seek to resolve issues in a timely manner where Scheme arrangements are having unintended impacts.

Roles and responsibilities of the State

- 21. The State will:
 - a) introduce legislation to refer to the Commonwealth Parliament the text reference and the amendment reference, or adopt the relevant version of the National Redress Scheme Act once enacted and refer the amendment reference, in accordance with s 51 (xxxvii) of the Constitution;
 - b) administer the participation of the Parties to the Scheme through the State Department of Justice;
 - c) deliver direct personal responses to its survivors in accordance with the Direct Personal Response Framework;
 - d) deliver access to counselling and psychological care to survivors residing in Tasmania;
 - e) fulfil reporting obligations to the Scheme; and
 - f) fulfil agreed financial obligations in accordance with Part 6 – Financial Arrangements.

Roles and responsibilities of the local councils

- 22. The local councils will:
 - a) deliver direct personal responses to its survivors in accordance with the Direct Personal Response Framework;

-
- b) fulfil information sharing and reporting obligations required under the National Redress Scheme to the State; and
 - c) fulfil agreed financial obligations in accordance with Part 6 – Financial Arrangements.

PART 4 – IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Reporting

23. The State will provide local councils which have had claims made under the Scheme with an individual quarterly report on applications made under the Scheme that relate to their participating institutions, including information on:
- a) the number of completed applications,
 - b) the number of completed internal reviews of decisions,
 - c) the proportion of affirmed decisions,
 - d) the proportion of accepted offers,
 - e) the number of applicants that have been determined not entitled to redress under the criminal convictions policy, and
 - f) the number of applications to be processed.

Confidential Information

24. Subject to clause 25, a Party must not disclose Confidential Information to anyone, without the prior written consent of the Party that provided them with the information.
25. A Party can disclose Confidential Information to the extent that it:
- a) is disclosed to its internal management personnel, solely to enable effective management and/or auditing of the Scheme;
 - b) is shared within a Party, or with another agency, where this serves the State's or local council's legitimate interests;
 - c) is authorised or required by law to be disclosed, or
 - d) is in the public domain otherwise than due to a breach of this MoU.
26. Where a Party discloses Confidential Information to another person under clause 25 they must:
- a) notify the receiving person that the information is confidential; and
 - b) not provide the information unless the receiving person agrees to keep the information confidential.
27. A Party receiving Confidential Information will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Confidential Information of the other Party is protected at all times from any unauthorised use or access and to immediately notify the other Party if the receiving Party becomes aware of any unauthorised access to, or use or disclosure of Confidential Information.

Privacy

28. In exchanging information under this MoU, officials need to be aware of their obligations under privacy legislation.

PART 5 – GOVERNANCE

Variation of this MoU

29. This MoU, and schedules to this MoU, may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by all the Parties.

Review of this MoU

30. The Parties may review the operation and objectives of this MoU following the review of the Scheme outlined in the Scheme legislation, or as otherwise agreed by the Parties.

Withdrawal and Termination of this MoU

31. The Parties agree that withdrawal from this MoU will be a measure of last resort.
32. A Party that ceases to be a declared participating state institution under the Scheme legislation immediately ceases to be a Party to this MoU.
33. A Party to the MoU may indicate its intent to withdraw from this MoU at any time by notifying all other Parties in writing of its intention to do so. A Party that proposes to withdraw will give at least three months' notice of its intention to withdraw.
34. Following notification of a Party's intention to withdraw from this MoU under clause 33, the terms of withdrawal, including the date on which the Party will cease to be a Party, and arrangements necessary because of the withdrawal, will be negotiated in good faith and agreed between the State and the Party intending to withdraw from this MoU.
35. If a Party withdraws, this MoU will continue between all remaining Parties.

Counterparts

36. This MoU may be executed in any number of counterparts. All counterparts, taken together, constitute this MoU. A Party may execute this MoU by signing any counterpart.

Dispute Resolution

37. Any Party may give notice in writing to other Parties of a dispute under this MoU.
38. Officials of relevant Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
39. If a dispute is unable to be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the Minister for Justice or relevant Minister with responsibility for redress and Mayors.

Ministerial Declarations

40. Local councils will declare the participating local council institutions as participating State institutions.

-
41. Local councils are required to specify which local government institutions they agree to being declared under the Scheme, in accordance with the Scheme Legislation, and may do this by specifying a list of institutions by class.
 42. The State will arrange the Commonwealth Minister responsible for redress to declare the specified local government institutions as participating institutions where the relevant requirements are met. The Minister's declaration will be in the form of a notifiable instrument (which is not disallowable).

PART 6 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

43. The Scheme operates on a 'responsible entity pays' basis, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Parties will fund the cost of providing redress to each eligible survivor for whom one of their participating government institutions is responsible. This includes the monetary payment, access to Counselling and Psychological Care (CPC) and costs associated with delivering direct personal responses.
44. Participating local government institutions that are determined to be responsible for abuse will pay an administrative charge, set at 7.5 per cent of the total value of the institution's gross liability for redress payments made in relation to that abuse in each quarter.
45. Participating local government institutions, will also be required to pay a per-claim contribution towards legal support costs, delivered by the Scheme's legal support services. This amount will be \$1,000 for each claim for which the institution is the only liable participating institution, or a portion of the \$1,000 contribution proportionate to the institution's share of the redress payment where it is jointly responsible for providing redress with another institution or institutions. This amount does not include any GST, and no GST will be charged. These costs are directly attributable to supporting eligible applicants to access legal support.
46. Parties will be invoiced in arrears on a quarterly basis. The quarterly invoice will include the total amount owed and the total number of applicants who have been paid in the quarter broken down by CPC contribution, redress payment, legal support contribution and administrative charge along with details for payment. This approach ensures Parties will not have to make up front contributions to the Scheme based on estimated exposure to claims.
47. The Parties note that the per claim administrative charge will be reviewed by the Commonwealth Government in accordance with the requirements under the Scheme legislation to ensure it accurately reflects the costs being recovered.

PART 7 – THE SCHEME

48. The National Redress Scheme Act establishes the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. It provides the legislative basis for entitlement, participation, how to obtain redress, offers and acceptance of redress, provision of redress, funding, funder of last resort and other administrative matters.

Responsibility for redress

49. A participating institution will be responsible for redress if the abuse occurred in circumstances where the institution is, or should be treated as being, primarily or equally responsible for the abuse.

Release from civil liability

50. Survivors receiving redress under the Scheme will be required to release the responsible participating institution(s), their associates and the officials of these institutions (other than the abuser) from all civil liability in relation to all instances of child sexual abuse, and related non-sexual abuse within scope of the Scheme. This will be a condition of accepting any components of redress under the Scheme.
51. Where a participating institution has been released from civil liability either at common law or under another payment scheme in relation to the abuse they have been found liable for under the Scheme, then that release and any confidentiality provisions, cannot be relied upon for the limited purpose of determining the payment amount that a survivor may be entitled to under the Scheme.
52. Parties agree that their participating government institutions will waive their rights under prior releases to the extent necessary, and will not take action against survivors for failing to comply with the prior release simply on the basis that the survivor has applied for redress and notified the Scheme of information relevant to their application including a prior payment received. All other conditions under existing releases with survivors will remain.

Counselling and psychological care (CPC)

53. Parties agree that survivors found eligible under the Scheme, and who have signed the release from civil liability, will have the opportunity to access CPC to address the impact of their experience.
54. The State will provide access to CPC by delivering CPC services directly to survivors residing in Tasmania and receiving a tiered payment of \$1,250, \$2,500 or \$5,000 from responsible institutions for the provision of their services.

Direct personal response

55. Parties agree that survivors who are entitled to redress under the Scheme, and who have signed the release from civil liability, should have the opportunity to receive a direct personal response from the responsible participating institution(s), if they choose it.
56. Parties that have had participating institutions declared agree to adhere to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Direct Personal Response Framework 2018.

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by

The Honourable Elise Archer MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Break O'Day Council by

Mick Tucker

Lord Mayor of the Break O'Day Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Burnie City Council by

Steven Kons

Lord Mayor of the Burnie City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Central Highlands Council by

Loueen Triffitt

Lord Mayor of the Central Highlands Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Clarence City Council by

Doug Chipman

Lord Mayor of the Clarence City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Brighton Council by

Tony Foster

Lord Mayor of the Brighton Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Central Coast Council by

Jan Bonde

Lord Mayor of Central Coast Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Circular Head Council by

Daryl Quilliam

Lord Mayor of the Circular Head Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Derwent Valley Council by

Ben Shaw

Lord Mayor of the Derwent Valley Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Devonport City Council by

Annette Rockliff

Lord Mayor of the Devonport City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Flinders Council by

Annie Revie

Lord Mayor of the Flinders Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council by

Debby Wisby

Lord Mayor of the Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Hobart City Council by

Anna Reynolds

Lord Mayor of the Hobart City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Kentish Council by

Tim Wilson

Lord Mayor of the Kentish Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the King Island Council by

Julie Arnold

Lord Mayor of the King Island Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Dorset Council by

Greg Howard

Lord Mayor of the Dorset Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the George Town Council by

Bridget Archer

Lord Mayor of the George Town Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Glenorchy City Council by

Kristie Johnston

Lord Mayor of the Glenorchy City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Huon Valley Council by

Bec Enders

Lord Mayor of the Huon Valley Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Kingborough City Council by

Dean Winter

Lord Mayor of the Kingborough City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Latrobe Council by

Peter Freshney

Lord Mayor of the Latrobe Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Launceston City Council by

Albert van Zetten

Lord Mayor of the Launceston City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Midlands Council by

Mary Knowles

Lord Mayor of the Northern Midlands Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Southern Midlands Council by

Alex Green

Lord Mayor of the Southern Midlands Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Waratah Wynyard Council by

Robby Walsh

Lord Mayor of the Waratah Wynyard Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the West Tamar Council by

Christina Holmhadl

Lord Mayor of the West Tamar Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Meander Valley Council by

Wayne Johnston

Lord Mayor of the Meander Valley Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Sorell City Council by

Kerry Vincent

Lord Mayor of the Sorell Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Tasman Council by

Kelly Spaulding

Lord Mayor of the Tasman Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the West Coast Council by

Phil Vickers

Lord Mayor of the West Coast Council

Date

**Treasurer
Minister for Local Government
Minister for State Growth**

Level 9 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3 6165 7670
Email: treasurerooffice@dpac.tas.gov.au



14 MAR 2019

Ald Doug Chipman
President
Local Government Association of Tasmania
GPO Box 1521
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear President 

I am writing to seek information regarding Tasmanian councils' current policies for the assessment and application of charitable rates exemptions under section 87(1)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

As you are aware, the Act exempts land from general rates "...if land, or part of land, is owned and occupied exclusively for charitable purposes". While the Act does not define 'charitable purpose', in general I understand that facilities used exclusively for educational, health and other community purposes are considered charitable and are generally granted exemptions.

My recommendation to organisations that believe they own and occupy land exclusively for charitable purposes is that they should discuss their status with their council. The onus remains on individual organisations to apply to their local council for a general rates exemption where they believe they are entitled to receive it.

However, I have had some stakeholders raise with me concerns that individual councils are applying the exemption inconsistently and potentially in ways which they believe are not in accordance with the intent of the Act.

These concerns have emerged partly in response to the 2018 decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court regarding the rating treatment of Southern Cross Care's independent living units. Similarly, I understand councils are now concerned whether this decision may have broader implications, such as for student accommodation.

There is no suggestion at this time that the Full Court's decision in relation to Southern Cross Care's independent living units has broader implications for how exemptions apply to other organisations in other sectors. As you are aware, four councils sought leave to appeal this decision to the High Court, but the application was dismissed on 13 March 2019.

I have requested that the stakeholders in question provide me with specific examples and evidence of any inconsistency in rating treatment that they believe are occurring in terms of treatment by individual councils across the state.

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Specifically, I would like to understand how individual councils make decisions about whether an exemption is granted or denied, as well as how these decisions are practically applied. For example, I understand that councils grant some organisations exemptions for certain properties or parts of properties, and not others, depending on the nature of the specific services or activities that occur at those properties.

Any information that the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) could provide, in consultation with its member councils, will assist me in better gauging the scope and prevalence of this issue, so that I can consider how the Government might best respond, in consultation with the local government sector.

I would appreciate it if LGAT could please respond to this request by coordinating and providing the relevant information to the Director of Local Government by no later than **5 April 2019**.

If you have any questions in relation to this request, please contact the Local Government Division in the first instance on 6232 7022 or by email at lgd@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Peter Gutwein MP
Minister for Local Government

Copy to: Dr Katrena Stephenson
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Association of Tasmania

5 April 2019

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Minister

Charitable Rates Exemptions

In reply to your letter of 14 March and, further to my letter of 1 April, I am able to provide the following information.

The sector thanks you for advising organisations that they must apply to councils for general rates exemption. It is clear that there is limited understanding by charitable organisations that they must apply for an exemption of their general rates. Few charitable organisations appreciate that councils do not maintain a database of their existence and status. Indeed, our sector believes this is the root of most of the concerns around inconsistency.

The other key cause of inconsistency has been the lag between changes in law, through various court decisions and changes in policy at the Local Government level. For example, some councils had progressed policy changes which reflected the findings of the successful court case undertaken by Meander Valley and resolution at the LGAT General Meeting of February 2016 (see attachment) and others were still in the process of transitioning. The successful court challenge by Southern Cross Care has meant that those councils who had enacted such policies are now having to revise them to reflect the recent ruling. Some charities will have had changes to their eligibility for exemption as a consequence, but there is no way for councils to know if they should apply an exemption unless the charity applies to Council.

LGAT has sought advice from councils on the following matters:

1. Current council policy and process for the treatment of charitable exemptions.
2. Plans to revise policy/process in light of High Court outcome.
3. Impact of changes in policy on rates revenue.
4. Concerns about inconsistent application of policy.

1. Council Policies And Processes

All councils require organisations who think they are exempt for charitable reasons to apply in writing for the exemption on general rates. Proof of charitable status is required but that proof can sometimes vary. For example, some councils use the Australian Business Register, some rely on the common law definition (non profit and charter defines role in assisting community needs) and some seek the production of an Income Tax Exempt Charity Endorsement Taxation Certificate. None of these should be particularly difficult or onerous for a charitable organisation to comply with. Most councils review their rebates and remissions annually and may require proof of ongoing ownership/occupancy as part of that process.

Not all council rates (or remissions) policies specifically expand on the legislation, many rely on the legislation and the historical interpretation of “own and occupy”. Those councils who had moved to clarifying the situation for Independent Living Units following the Magistrates decision (which supported council interpretation) in 2015, expanded their policy and process advice along the following lines:

The Charitable Exemption will apply where both requirements are met, that is:

(i) the land is owned exclusively for charitable purposes; and

(ii) the land is occupied exclusively for charitable purposes.

3. Unless both requirements are met, the exemption will not apply. However, it is not essential that the same entity is the owner and the occupier, providing that both the owner and the occupier satisfy the requirement of owning/occupying the property for exclusively charitable purposes.

Some councils noted explicitly that if a charitable organisation carries out a commercial enterprise on a property *then it will not be occupied exclusively for a charitable purpose, even if the profits from those activities are used to fund the other activities of the charitable organization.*

Most commonly, councils only provide the exemption on general rates as required under legislation. A few councils provide some service rate relief for particular types of charitable organisations that support strategically desired community outcomes and these are detailed in their rates policy.

2. Proposed Policy Changes

Those councils who have been charging rates on the commercial activities of charities (as above) are in the process of amending their rates policies. For example, Hobart’s policy is likely to include the following:

The following are examples which may satisfy the “occupied” requirement:

(i) a presbytery (residence for parish priest);

- (ii) a convent (resident for nuns); and
- (iii) a residence on school grounds used by the vice principal of the school, where the residence was used to a substantial extent for school purposes; and.
- (iv) an independent living unit which is part of a retirement village operated by a charitable organisation.

A significant number of councils noted that they did not have any properties directly impacted by the recent Supreme/High Court decisions, namely charitably owned independent living units, and on that basis had no real impact or need to change their rating policy.

3. Financial Impact

Despite the statement in the preceding paragraph, for those councils who do have retirement villages owned by charitable institutions or similar, the financial impact is significant. There are some specific examples in the table below:

Council	Impact	Comments
Brighton	Potential total loss if a range of current rate paying properties are deemed exempt is \$1.1million out of a general rate of approximately \$7.5million.	Includes St Anne's Living (not to be confused with St Anne's nursing home which is already exempt); Centacare Evolve Housing; committed title transfers from Housing Tasmania to Centacare.
Circular Head	Approx. \$20,000 per annum.	
Clarence City	Directly, \$110,000 per annum plus opportunity foregone of \$60,000 related to known future growth of such properties.	Additionally, potential future applications based Excludes refund required to be paid for last three years.
Devonport City	Approximately \$100, 000 per annum plus refund.	
Dorset	Approximately \$35,000 per annum.	
Glenorchy City	Potential loss of \$250,000 per annum.	Whilst this is not a definitive figure it is based on applications that have previously been received and rejected and reviewing known property owners with multiple properties.

City of Hobart	\$324,699 per annum based on 2018-19 general rates.	Additionally, have to make repayments of \$920,000.
Kingborough	Estimated \$295,000 per annum just in relation to Independent Living Units. Excludes challenges related to childcare, private schools and others which may emerge.	Additionally, have to repay \$46,000.
Launceston City	\$756,000 per annum related to Independent Living Units only.	
Meander Valley	\$39,000 for 2019-20.	
Northern Midlands	\$46,000 per annum approximately.	This in addition to rates revenue lost through airport challenge

Further analysis will be necessary to quantify the possible cost impact related to other charitable entities if the 'charitable purpose' definition is more broadly applied to their other 'commercial' activities currently being charged rates. We anticipate that there will be property owners in addition to independent living units that will consider their property exempt under this section. Some councils have already received applications from other types of providers, for example low cost housing providers. It also opens issues related to properties owned by religious organisations. For example, most councils charge rates on a church owned house rented to external tenants.

There is also uncertainty as to whether under the new interpretation of "charitable purposes", councils can successfully apply to the State Fire Service requesting that under S78(4) of the Fire Services Act 1979 the Independent Living Units are now an exempt tenant occupying the land for a 'charitable purpose' and hence should not be charged the fire levy. We would seek the State Government's support in ensuring this question could be dealt with on a whole of sector rather than council by council basis.

4. Inconsistent Application

The only councils that have received complaints of inconsistent application of exemptions are those who have been challenged by Southern Cross Care. One council reported they had complaints about not providing a remission on service charges to charitable organisations but as you are aware, this is not required under the Act.

Going Forward

When this matter was discussed at the General Managers' Workshop this week, it was clear that while at this stage impact is largely limited to councils with charitably owned Independent Living Units, there is a strongly held concern over the risk of a significant and broader impact from the recent court decisions and the emergence of significant inequity in rating. This was also a feature of discussion at the General Meeting, leading to the following resolution:

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.

Our first working group meeting will take place on the 9th April.

The sector strongly believes that the intent of the legislation was that, for an exemption to apply, the land in question is to be both **owned and occupied** exclusively for charitable purposes. It should not be enough that the landowner is a charitable institution if the purpose for the occupancy is not charitable. This is particularly the case when the land owner has the ability to pass on that cost to the non-charitable occupant, as was done by Southern Cross Care between court decisions.

Taking the case of Independent Living Units, they are by their very definition, accommodation units designed for independent, active retirees who do not require special assistance with day-to-day living. What distinguishes them from aged-care facilities is that independent living units are used as normal and private residences, just like anyone else's home.

Importantly, councils had not been applying this change of policy to aged-care facilities, short-term welfare housing, administrative offices and other facilities associated with these providers' operations, these have always remained exempt from paying general rates.

This issue is a question of equity. Is it acceptable or equitable that residents of these residential village units do not pay rates and therefore do not contribute to the services and facilities of their respective cities communities while low income families, pensioner home owners and private residential villages do pay?

How is it fair and equitable that someone paying \$600,000 - \$700,000 to buy into a modern Southern Cross Care Independent Living Unit doesn't pay rates but a pensioner who paid \$130,000 to buy a humble former Housing Tasmania property and has lived in low socio-economic areas for years does? Or that someone living at Vaucluse Retirement Village does?

There are more than 8,500 pensioners across both Clarence and Hobart alone, together with low-income earners and self-funded retirees, who currently pay rates as their contribution to the cost of providing facilities and services to their community. With every form of rates exemption, there is a corresponding shift of the rates burden to other ratepayers.

The need for councils to ensure that general rate exemptions are appropriately applied is good governance. It is important for councils to implement up-to-date and equitable policies that consider the entire community and ensure ratepayers are being treated fairly and equally.

Given the recent court outcomes, amendment to the Tasmanian legislation appears to be the only practical path to achieve a balanced outcome.

Yours sincerely



Dr Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc Alex Tay, Director of Local Government
Rick Dunn, Senior Advisor
Kym Goodes, CEO, TasCoss

Tasmanian statewide waste management arrangement

Functions

1. **Vision statement** for waste management / circular economy in Tasmania, linked to a **credible commitment** to take action.
2. **Statewide infrastructure & service planning** and scheduling.
3. **Development of strategies for priority items**, including:
 - ▶ organics from municipal and commercial sources
 - ▶ end of life tyres
 - ▶ single use plastics and non-recyclable packaging
 - ▶ others identified as a priority for Tasmania.
4. **Statewide data collection, analytics and reporting:**
 - ▶ tracking and investigating illegal dumping incidents
 - ▶ volume of waste generated and services demanded at statewide & regional scales
 - ▶ projection of capacity needs for infrastructure and services
 - ▶ to inform preferred interventions to problem materials.
5. **Governance and collaboration models** to engender trust & commitment:
 - ▶ to support surveillance & remediation of dumping sites
 - ▶ to build certainty for new services & assets to come online.
6. **Local government engagement and procurement support** to lock in demand for new services and facilitate efficient use of assets.
7. **Coordinated education, engagement and marketing:**
 - ▶ to ostracise illegal dumping and encourage reporting
 - ▶ to foster acceptance and uptake of new recovery services
 - ▶ to stimulate demand for recovered resources
 - ▶ to support best practice in local and regional services
 - ▶ to guide consumer & purchasing behaviours and decisions.
8. **Statewide enforcement and prosecution** of stockpiling in breach of licence conditions, and illegal dumping.
9. **Market development measures including sustainable procurement:**
 - ▶ to stimulate markets for resources recovered locally
 - ▶ to foster the replacement of non-recyclable and single use items with reusable / recyclable / recycled content items.
10. **Coordinated advocacy and policy input** at the national level, where national solutions are deemed to be more effective.
11. **Product stewardship of priority items** including product re-design and takeback arrangements (e.g. CDL) - *pending examination of net benefit.*
12. **Infrastructure funding** to stimulate investment in recovery assets
 - ▶ *Pending private investment gap analysis & case for public funding.*
13. **Market and/or statutory instruments** (e.g. levies, bans from landfill) to address gate fee differentials
 - ▶ *Pending an analysis of gap between gate fees for new services and willingness to pay above existing landfill rates.*

Problems to address

1. Poor cohesion in the demand for organics recovery services
 2. Insecure market for investing in recovery infrastructure
 3. Risks and harms incurred by tyre stockpiles and illegal dumping
 4. Resource-inefficient use of single use plastics and packaging
- ... plus others to be agreed with waste management partners

Benefits

Enhance Tasmania's image

- Positive culture towards waste management and 'faith in the system'
- Climate change tackled through local solutions
- Tasmania seen as valuing its natural assets
- Narrative to attract visitors, residents, investors
- Tasmania as a leader in tackling problem wastes
- Government delivering on expectations to help people lead lower impact lifestyles & businesses

Protect health & the environment

- Effective prevention & inhibition of littering, dumping and stockpiling
- Cleaner & safer environment due to less illegal dumping & litter
- Low reliance on landfills - lower landfill impacts including gas emissions, leachate, odour and amenity impacts
- Greater self assurance in how to recycle
- Soil quality improved using locally recovered material
- Efficient resource use embedded in consumer decisions

Foster economic development

- Natural assets retain value and are untarnished
- Brands that rely on a clean image of Tasmania retain market credibility
- Resources are recovered and used, in line with the scale of opportunity
- Efficient private & public investment in recovery infrastructure and jobs
- Efficient service prices that reflect demand over time
- Strong local markets for recovered resources
- Lower costs & risks borne by the recovery chain



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21ST CENTURY COUNCILS – STRUCTURAL REFORM DISCUSSION PAPER

21 May 2019

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Executive Summary

Local Government in Tasmania is under increasing pressure to undergo structural reform in order to address existing and upcoming challenges (e.g., demographic change, technological advancements, financial sustainability).

The benefits of local government reform can be grouped into one of three categories:

1. Economies of scale – maximising the use of resources and/or services at the least cost;
2. Economies of scope – creating a wider range/higher quality of services/resources; and
3. Strategic capacity – having the skills and resources needed to act as high capacity organisations that manage complex and sometimes unexpected change.

Municipal structural reform programs have traditionally focused on amalgamation as the main instrument of reform. Shared services are an alternative method that occurs when two or more councils collaborate to provide a service in order to meet community or council needs.

There is a long history of structural reform, feasibility studies and post reform analysis in Australia and to a lesser extent Tasmania. Evidence suggests that the following factors are critical to the success of council structural reform arrangements:

- Reform that is **motivated** by a desire to share expertise and resources, not by crisis;
- Reform where all stakeholders understand the **rationale** behind the need for change;
- Reform **timeframes** that allow change to be gradually introduced and accepted;
- Reform that retains the political autonomy and **independent character** of councils;
- Reform that involves the **selective** rather than wholesale consolidation of functions;
- Reform where there is adequate engagement and/or **consultation** with the community;
- Reform driven by local **leadership** and engagement – a bottom-up approach; and
- Reform that is **carefully planned** and tailored to accommodate differing needs.

The significant body of work undertaken in this field of study can be distilled into three key messages:

1. Cost savings are unlikely to materialise and should not be the primary goal of reform.
The goal should be to create a more robust and capable system of Local Government.

2. Problems caused by a lack of sufficient funding and/or defects in the funding process are unlikely to be solved as a result of structural reform. These problems raise questions about the equity of Local Government funding, not structure.
3. The challenges councils face are many and varied, as are their individual circumstances. This militates against 'one size fits all' approaches to structural reform.

Introduction

Local Government in Tasmania is under continuous pressure to reform in order to provide contemporary best practice as well as to address existing and upcoming challenges. Over time councils have transitioned from a minimalist 'services to property' model to a maximalist model providing a broader range of 'services to people' (TCCI, 2012). The complexity of Local Government has therefore increased in the absence of change, structural or otherwise. Other noteworthy challenges and opportunities facing councils include:

Technological advancements

There has been a shift in Tasmania away from what might be considered traditional industries, towards tourism, service and knowledge-based industries. Improvements in technology have contributed to this change, most notably within industry and the broader community. While not a traditional area of responsibility for Local Government, these changes in the local context are likely to be creating expectations amongst the community and business about the role of the sector. Councils will need to find ways to exploit the benefits that come with digital technologies in their program delivery/policy making processes.

Demographic change

Tasmania currently has the oldest and slowest growing population in Australia. Population trends show that Tasmania's average growth rate from 2011 to now has been 0.3%. Recently produced population forecasts by the Department of Treasury have shown that this trend will continue with an average growth rate of 0.2% over the projection period, with particular issues for rural and regional councils who are expected to experience population decline. During this period, it is forecast that there will continue to be a decrease in the underage and working age populations, an increase in those aged 65 years and over, and a very large increase in those aged 85 years and over. This has implications in terms of the financial and operational sustainability of Tasmanian councils.

Regional development

There is an increasing focus on place-based initiatives that promote economic development. The challenge is how councils best position themselves to make the most of the range of opportunities as they present. Structural change that promotes strategic capacity at the local level and best use of targeted shared services should be considered.

Financial sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability of Local Government in Tasmania remains an ongoing concern despite significant investment and improvement in councils' long-term financial planning and asset management planning. While we have seen sector improvement, and recent reporting by

the Auditor General suggests, at least in the short to medium-term, that most councils are in good financial shape, the demands for councils to do more while holding rates increases to a minimum will continue to cause tension. The fiscal challenges faced by Local Government is not unique to Tasmania. Local Government raises 3.6% of Australia's total taxation revenue but have responsibility for managing 33% of public non-financial assets. At a whole of sector level, councils raise more than 80 percent of their own revenue. However, individual councils have widely differing abilities to raise revenue, based on location, population size, rate base and the ability to levy user charges. This is at the core of the national campaign to restore the quantum of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue.

A Brief History of Local Government Reform

Several investigations into Local Government reform have occurred in Tasmania over the last century, this has included the *Royal Commission on Local Government Report* (1939), the *Municipal Commission of Tasmania Report on matters relating to Local Government* (1974), and the *Board of Inquiry into Local Government* (1979).

The most recent significant structural reform, undertaken in 1993, involved changes to council operations, restructuring of Local Government boundaries, and a reduction from 47 to 29 councils. Additional amalgamations were proposed in 1997 on the grounds that further restructuring would result in widespread financial benefits and efficiencies. The proposed amalgamations were strongly resisted by local councils and communities who felt that there was a lack of effective engagement and planning and did not proceed. Few arrangements, except for recent State Government instituted water and sewerage reform, have gained traction following the 1997 proposal (see, generally, Haward & Zwart, 2000; TCCI, 2012).

A mass of work considering Local Government reform has been developed in response to the success or otherwise of existing reform arrangements. This paper attempts to summarise both the academic and grey literature around Local Government reform in order to provoke council interest and informed reform decisions. The bibliography, although not exhaustive, provides a list of sources that can be used to further guide council decision making. This information will give councils the opportunity to learn from past mistakes and to build upon successful arrangements already in place.

Why Reform?

The suite of benefits associated with Local Government reform are many and varied. They include greater financial strength and stability, the equitable distribution of goods, costs, and risks, increased capacity to offer a wider range and higher quality of services, efficiency gains, reduced administrative costs, and the greater use of all available resources (Aulich et al., 2011; Ryan & Hunting, 2016). These benefits have been broadly grouped into one of three categories: economies of scale, economies of scope, and strategic capacity.

Economies of Scale

The purpose of Local Government reform has traditionally centered on the benefits of economies of scale (Aulich, Sansom, & McKinlay, 2014). Synonymous with efficiency, economies of scale are achieved through maximising the use of resources and/or services at the least cost (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). Thus, economies of scale are represented in terms of cost savings (\$).

The degree to which services are characterised by economies of scale varies; whereas capital-intensive services (e.g. sewage disposal and water supply) tend to generate significant economies of scale, labour intensive and customer-oriented services (e.g. health and customer service officers) do not (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). This information has important implications in that it allows councils to appropriately target reform arrangements so as to achieve economies of scale.

Economies of Scope

Local Government reform, through consolidation and joint activity, has enabled councils to produce a wider range and higher quality of services and resources (Aulich et al., 2014). The latter occurrence, known as achieving economies of scope, has received limited attention in the literature and reform processes to date.

Potential sources of scope economies include (see, generally, Dollery & Fleming, 2005):

- Diminishing returns to inputs – where related activities handled by separate departments are devolved onto a single individual or division (e.g. GIS mapping support for engineering and planning departments).
- Jointness in inputs – where a single input can be used in the production of multiple outputs (e.g. underutilised machinery employed on a fee for service basis).

- Jointness in outputs – interconnected outputs are produced from a set of similar inputs (e.g. where staff who are employed to gather waste also transfer recyclables).
- Interactions between service provision or goods production – interaction processes that generate independent informational and/or physical outputs (e.g. community development staff informed of issues by operators of a council youth drop in centre or flood easements to remove excess water and enhance amenity).

The benefits associated with economies of scope will be strongest in councils with low levels of resources and with limited capacity to provide a breadth of services (e.g. small councils; Access Economics, 2011).

Strategic Capacity

The purpose of Local Government reform has slowly shifted from the benefits of economies of scale towards strategic capacity which can be seen as building on economies of scope (LGNSW, 2015). Strategic capacity is less about being financially robust and is more about councils having the skills and resources needed to act as high capacity organisations. Importantly, strategic capacity allows councils to respond to the diverse needs of different communities, as well as to manage complex and sometimes unexpected change (Aulich et al., 2014). Strategic capacity is therefore the most important outcome for councils to consider in examining modes of consolidation and Local Government reform.

How could the sector Reform?

Amalgamation

Municipal reform programs have traditionally focused on amalgamation – the most drastic form of structural change – as the main instrument of reform (Dollery & Fleming, 2005).

Amalgamation involves the combination of one or more councils into a new entity.

Amalgamations can be forced (by State Government) or be voluntary, wholesale or selective.

The latter is a more contemporary idea which suggests identifying and amalgamating only those council functions that can be performed in common or collectively (e.g. ‘back office’ functions; Dollery, Keogh, & Crase, 2007).

Shared Services

Shared services occur when two or more councils join together to provide a service in order to meet community needs (Ryan & Hunting, 2016). This method of Local Government reform is favoured by councils as it is a cost-effective means to share expertise and resources without the

need for structural reform (TCCI, 2012). Shared services can be provided via a range of mechanisms, some of which are included below (see, generally, Cradle Coast Authority, 2017; de Souza & Dollery, 2011):

- A common service provider model which distinguishes between independent (e.g. services delivered between councils on a fee-for-service basis) and sub-regional (e.g. services delivered to a subset of councils who cost share) shared service arrangements.
- A centre of excellence model where councils with specialised expertise in a given function (e.g. human resources) work together to develop and promote best practice and standardisation across councils in that function.
- A tripartite model which distinguishes between horizontal shared services (e.g. where arrangements are wholly operated and owned by participating local councils), vertical shared services (e.g. where state local government associations offer services to member councils), and intergovernmental contracting (e.g. where local councils carry out various functions on behalf of public agencies).

Although some services suit shared arrangements better than others (e.g. procurement, IT, waste management, human resources; LGAT, 2015), success will depend upon the degree to which these fit or are tailored to local circumstances – one size does not fit all!

Tasmanian Local Government Reform

The following section provides a brief summary of some of the more recent reform feasibility studies and analyses conducted in Tasmania.

The Brighton Common Service Model (de Souza & Dollery, 2011)

The Common Service Model was developed in 2007 by the Brighton Council. This model, unlike most existing shared services platforms in Australian Local Government, provides services already produced and used by the Brighton Council on a fee-for-service basis.

Several preconditions must be met before the Common Service Provision Model can operate successfully (e.g. existing friendly relations between councils, the availability and use of common platforms/systems, transparency in discussions between councils, services that are provided on commercial terms acceptable to both parties and small-scale beginnings).

The Brighton Model has delivered direct benefits to three main stakeholders: The Brighton Council, its employees, and client councils. These benefits range from being able to provide

high level professional services to local communities, improved succession planning, reduced administration costs, shared learnings, guaranteed service standards, and the like. Financially, there have been benefits for both the provider (additional income) and client (cost savings) councils. The revenue raised from this work, for example, represents around 20% of Brighton Council's rate revenue and is expected to grow over time.

The Brighton Model is therefore an interesting contribution to the field of shared services provision and is one that has ultimately allowed the local authorities involved to function more efficiently.

Resource Sharing Arrangements between Kentish and Latrobe Councils (Ryan & Hunting, 2016)

Various forms of resource sharing have been undertaken by the Kentish and Latrobe Councils in order to improve levels of service whilst maintaining local representation. The resource-sharing arrangement is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding which articulates all the terms and conditions for the two councils to abide by. Since the inception of the resource-sharing arrangements in 2010, the number of resources shared has steadily grown. Starting with the resources shared being those which require more substantial investment, ranging from senior management roles, specialist roles or in securing plant, equipment and systems, this arrangement has grown to involve almost full integration across both councils' operational areas.

In 2016, the councils conducted a review of their resource sharing arrangements. This review identified a range of success factors (e.g. shared strategic planning, transparency and trust, complementary IT and communication systems, incremental rather than transformational change, a common rationale, and shared general manager) which have supported their shared services. The review provided a series of recommendations in the following areas:

- Strategic planning and leadership (e.g. engage the senior leadership and councillors);
- Communications (e.g. develop an internal and external communications strategy);
- Staffing and workforce (e.g. shared performance management and workload system);
- New and expanded opportunities (e.g. work towards a centre of excellence model);
- Governance (e.g. develop a process for dealing with any conflict of interest);
- Succession planning (e.g. identify the desired attributes/skills needed for leadership);
- Change and project management (e.g. staff who understand the need for change); and
- Evaluation and reporting (e.g. develop an evaluation framework and share findings).

It is hoped that these findings will allow the two councils to grow, enhance, and refine their resource sharing arrangements, whilst informing the decisions of other Tasmanian councils.

Northern Tasmanian Councils: Shared Services Study (KPMG, 2017)

The northern Tasmanian councils have recently come together to explore options for shared services. This was done within the context of improving their capacity and performance, and involved examination of four core alternatives:

1. Optimising current arrangements by extending the current range of shared services;
2. Joint contracting for core services and outsourcing where feasible;
3. Contract service model (a single council delivers services on a fee for service basis); and
4. Incorporated venture (a separate shared services entity to centralise/deliver services).

Amalgamations were not an attractive option and were immediately ruled out by the councils.

Financial modelling revealed a combination of Options 1 and 2 to be favourable, with savings estimated at around \$3-4 million per annum across the region. This would represent savings of around 15% of the current operating expenditure on corporate, engineering, and waste management services. The latter, according to the Steering Committee, are key common service areas and should therefore be the focus of shared service opportunities in the north.

The study concluded that a more sustainable pathway for the region to adopt would be to expand resource sharing at regional (i.e., joint contracting and outsourcing) and sub-regional levels, whilst also transitioning to a single information management platform. An appropriate first step would be for the northern councils to establish a governance model which can be used to identify and plan for opportunities as they arise.

It is understood the Northern Tasmanian councils are progressing with a project on expansion of shared services.

Greater Hobart: Local Government Reform (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017)

The four Greater Hobart councils agreed to explore the merits of Local Government reform across the following four options:

- Option 1 - Business as usual,
- Option 2 - Merger of all four councils,
- Option 3 - Strategic alliance between all four councils,
- Option 4 - Merger of Hobart, Clarence, and Glenorchy, and
- Option 5 - Merger of Hobart and Glenorchy.

For all reform options, it was assumed that a Hobart Capital City Act would be introduced in order to take an integrated approach to planning that recognises the relationship between the city and State Government.

The modelling undertaken in the feasibility analysis consists of 2 forms of analysis:

- Modelling of financial costs and saving accruing to the participating Councils; and
- Modelling of wider social, economic and environmental costs and benefits accruing to the Greater Hobart community.

The financial modelling indicates that all options, with the exception of the Glenorchy, Hobart merger, come at a net cost.

The SGS study goes further and seeks to attribute a “financial or economic measure” to potential strategic benefits. The wider benefit modelled ranged from \$133.6 M (Option 5) up to \$392.9 M (Option 2). However, this modelling needs to be treated with caution as they are based on broader economic benefits not direct financial savings.

Whilst the SGS report highlights that there are much greater economic benefits to be achieved by a four Council merger, many of these benefits could be realised by a strategic alliance of the four Councils. By way of example, the report notes that better planning and decision making across Greater Hobart can deliver:

- A more sustainable metropolitan area through the progression of a more compact, multi-nodal spatial form of urban development and a more efficient transportation system;
- A more productive economic base, given the agglomeration economies that result from the above-mentioned benefits;
- A more effective tourism strategy; and
- Better co-ordination and sequencing of social infrastructure and social services delivery.

At the time of writing the councils involved had not progressed any of the proposed options.

South East Councils Feasibility Study (KPMG, 2016)

Though the viability of south east rural and remote councils has been aided by existing resource sharing initiatives, there is potential for further efficiencies to be realised. Four councils in the south east region of Tasmania therefore came together to consider the following amalgamation and shared services options:

1. Optimisation through the extension of current resource sharing arrangements;
2. Merger of Clarence, Sorell, Tasman, and Glamorgan Spring Bay councils;
3. Merger of Clarence, Sorell, and Tasman councils;
4. Merger of Sorell, Tasman, and Glamorgan Spring Bay councils; and
5. Merger of Sorell and Tasman councils.

Financial modelling revealed savings ranging from \$0.9 million per annum (Option 1) to \$7.6 million per annum (Option 2) in the first year, whilst savings ranging from \$9 million (Option 1) to \$49 million (Option 2) were predicted over ten years. This suggests that councils would be financially better off through amalgamation than through existing arrangements, and that the four-way merger would deliver the strongest financial gains.

It was recommended within the report that a Local Transition Committee be established should council amalgamations proceed. These committees would lessen any real or perceived loss in access to local representation during the transition process – an issue that is of particular concern to rural and remote council residents.

Further options for the Sorell and Tasman councils were recently examined by the Local Government Board (2018) who recommended that the councils be voluntarily amalgamated (as in Option 5). This option was believed to offer a level of sustainability and resilience that existing and extended shared services arrangements would be unable to provide. Sorell Council resolved to progress with the merger. A 2019 elector poll revealed that the majority (68.6%) of Tasman electors did not support the amalgamation, despite forecast savings of up to \$250,000 per annum and so Tasman Council has resolved not to progress with the merger.

Cradle Coast Authority: Shared Services Project (2017)

Local councils in the Cradle Coast have been collaborating and sharing in various forms for over two decades, yet no whole of Cradle Coast shared service model or strategy exists. A report was recently undertaken to determine whether the broader application of shared service arrangements could lead to further benefits being realised. The below arrangements were investigated:

- Independent shared services (services delivered to councils on a fee for service basis);
- Sub-regional sharing (services delivered to a subset of councils who cost share); and

- Centre of excellence (centre provides specialist support/resources to other councils).

The results indicated that significant gains would be possible through an overall increase in sharing arrangements across the Cradle Coast. Total projected savings amount to \$9+ million and accrue in the following priority areas: Procurement (\$2.5+ million), IT (\$1+ million), finance (\$1.5+ million), human resources (\$0.5+ million), and waste management (\$3.5 + million).

Two recommendations were made. Namely, to establish a shared services model and to expand sub-regional sharing arrangements for high potential and/or prioritised services. A phased approach to implementation was suggested in order to address council objectives and to maintain focus on longer term possibilities.

While limited progress has been made across the Cradle Coast region as a whole, the councils of Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard, and Burnie City have agreed to explore the development of a shared services entity to deliver back end business process and IT services. The three councils are currently developing governance arrangements, a shared services catalogue and cost model, and are undertaking a resource sharing trial to determine if establishing the shared services entity will produce desired outcomes.

Tamar Valley Council Feasibility Study (KPMG, 2018)

Although the George Town and West Tamar Councils are currently meeting service level statutory requirements and community expectations, scope for further savings and efficiencies exist. Both councils have therefore undertaken a feasibility study into merging to form a Tamar Valley Council.

The results of the financial modelling indicated savings of around \$1.3 million per annum over a ten-year period. Additional benefits were thought to include improved strategic capacity and organisational robustness (e.g. through advancing the culture and skill of employees, building stronger relationships with stakeholders and other regional partners, and enhanced credibility).

The study concluded a merger to be in best interests of the region and identified that an initial period of community consultation would be necessary in order to gauge the views of those involved. An implementation schedule, should the councils and their communities favour a merger, would likely involve an 18-24-month period of transition before council operations could commence.

Both councils considered the report recommendations, with West Tamar Council resolving to commence community consultation. George Town Council determined that it would not undertake consultation and further work has now ceased.

Criticisms within the Academic Literature

Local councils throughout Australia have almost always resisted proposals for reform, particularly amalgamation. Feasibility studies, such as the five Tasmanian studies described, delineate the merits and viability of various reform options. The results of these studies arouse criticism within the academic literature and are met with skepticism due to the observed outcomes (or lack thereof) of council reform programs to date (Dollery et al., 2007).

Australian municipal reform programs have traditionally shown a heavy reliance on amalgamation as the main instrument of reform (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). This unwavering focus on structural reform has been criticised on the grounds that shared service arrangements may yield equally if not greater council and community benefits (Aulich et al., 2014). The enduring belief that 'bigger is better' and that council amalgamations are key may therefore be unwarranted.

Related, is the idea that local government reform is not an 'either-or' (amalgamation *or* shared services) situation. The reform options listed in the Tasmanian feasibility studies describe amalgamation and shared service arrangements as independent. What is not often considered, is that these options could be used in conjunction (e.g. amalgamated councils pursuing greater consolidation and advantages through shared services as well; Aulich et al., 2014).

Many reports concerning local government reform focus on how increased scale (i.e., cost savings) can be achieved. This focus on purely economic benefits and/or arguments is detrimental when at the exclusion of other issues, such as achieving economies of scope and strategic capacity (Aulich et al., 2014). The latter outcomes are important to consider in that benefits associated with them tend to increase, compared to cost savings which are not always seen (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017).

Perhaps the greatest criticism of past council reform arrangements is that much of what has been promised, at least in terms of economies of scale, has not been achieved (Dollery et al., 2007). It is not uncommon, where savings have been asserted, for calculations to ignore implementation and related costs (e.g. costs of change and dislocation), thus nullifying alleged outcomes (Aulich et al., 2014). Such matters are further complicated by the fact that savings themselves are difficult to measure. For example, savings may be utilised to improve the quality and range of council provided services and may not represent improved profitability (i.e., economies of scale) as a result (Aulich et al., 2011).

These criticisms are not intended to cast doubt on Local Government reform processes as a whole. Instead, they are intended to facilitate critical thinking around the implementation and goals of Local Government reform, including how these factors may vary from one council to the next. Research suggests that the many benefits of reform are in fact achievable, but that their realisation depends on a series of factors (described below).

Success and Risk Factors

Past reform arrangements highlight a number of factors that were critical and/or detrimental to their success. It is important that these factors be noted given that all councils will undergo reform in some way and at some time in the future. These factors essentially represent the do's and don'ts of local government reform.

Motivation

Shared services arrangements are often driven by crisis (i.e., a means of avoiding amalgamation), not strategy (Ryan & Hunting, 2016). Research shows that arrangements of this type are unlikely to result in lasting partnerships where genuine council and community benefits are felt (Aulich et al., 2014). Success is more likely when arrangements are motivated by a desire to share expertise and resources in order to strengthen the viability of involved municipalities (Ryan & Hunting, 2016).

Rationale

All stakeholders must understand the rationale behind reform (e.g. motivations for considering reform, merits of available options, desired outcomes) if amalgamation and/or shared services arrangements are to be successful (Ryan & Hunting, 2016). Effective communication strategies have been shown to involve the publication of guidelines and newsletters, early direct contact with those involved/affected, clear and consistent messages, various feedback mechanisms, and the like (Access Economics, 2011).

Timeframes

Councils and communities are unable to achieve the best possible outcomes from reform when timeframes are too short (Aulich et al., 2014). Councils, within a short amount of time, have a limited ability to consult with the community, to respond appropriately to policy changes, and to plan and sell the need for reform, for example (Haward & Zwart, 2000). Therefore, reform

processes should be introduced gradually in order to minimise disruption and increase acceptance (Ryan & Hunting, 2016).

Leadership

A bottom-up approach whereby reform arrangements are influenced and supported by Local Government is essential (Haward & Zwart, 2000). This suggests that state government, instead of initiating and driving local government reform from the top-down, should provide political sponsorship and support to councils. The mutual commitment and leadership involved in this more bilateral process establishes a sound basis for ongoing operations and managing change (Aulich et al., 2014).

Representation and Identity

Many councils and communities possess a highly developed sense of place and identity which they fear will be weakened through reform arrangements (Dollery et al., 2007). These arrangements should therefore retain the independent character and political autonomy of councils as much as possible. This can be achieved via several methods (e.g., community boards, forums, ward committees) and would assist in securing the community's support (Aulich et al., 2014). The latter in and of itself is critical for the success of Local Government reform (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017).

Reform Arrangements

Wholesale consolidation, whether through amalgamation, shared services arrangements, or a combination of the two, is unlikely to be necessary given that the benefits of reform are specific to particular technologies and/or services (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). The selective consolidation of functions that councils could perform in common or collectively (e.g. 'back office' functions) is therefore of greater benefit in terms of efficiency, however would also mean that primary political and policy functions (i.e., democracy) remain largely unchanged (Dollery et al., 2007).

Consultation

Findings consistently indicate a reduction in the benefits of Local Government reform following inadequate engagement and/or consultation with the community (Aulich et al., 2014). This may be due to increased uncertainty and anxiety, or to a lack of trust and transparency that must be remedied if future reform arrangements are to succeed.

Planning

Reform arrangements must be well organised and planned so as to take into account the nature of Local Government service delivery, contemporary best practice, local conditions, and the like (TCCI, 2012). Careful planning in these areas enables councils to tailor reform arrangements and to accommodate differing needs. Poorly planned arrangements, on the other hand, have typically failed to deliver anticipated and otherwise achievable outcomes (LGAT, 2015).

Several other factors that are predictive of success include compatible record keeping and IT systems, effective governance arrangements, ongoing and objective evaluation, equity in resource allocation, and a 'one-in, all-in' approach (KPMG, 2017; Ryan & Hunting, 2016).

Conclusions

Several conclusions from this paper can be drawn. The first relates to the widely held belief that the primary goal of Local Government reform is to cut costs (Aulich et al., 2014). The literature and studies to date suggest that cost savings are unlikely to materialise, and that a greater focus on economies of scope and strategic capacity is therefore warranted in order to create a more robust and capable system of local government (Aulich et al., 2014).

A second albeit related conclusion is that a lack of sufficient funding and/or defects in the funding process are key to several of the problems within contemporary Local Government (Dollery et al., 2007). Such problems are unlikely to be solved as a result of structural reform as they emanate from chronic under investment and/or insufficient cash flow, not structure (Dollery et al., 2007). While reform is likely to be necessary, so too are questions about the equitability of Local Government funding.

The final and perhaps most important conclusion in relation to Local Government reform is that one size does not fit all (Aulich et al., 2011). For example, councils operate within increasingly diverse social, economic, and environmental contexts. The challenges they face are many and varied, as are their individual circumstances. Appropriate reform and structural solutions will therefore differ considerably both within and between municipal regions (Aulich et al., 2014).

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Local Government &
Local Government Association of Tasmania

Corporate Health Plan

April, 2019



Introducing St.LukesHealth

St.LukesHealth was established in Tasmania in 1952 and has since been offering quality private health cover to Australians in all states and territories. St.LukesHealth has built a strong reputation on its expertise, ability to supply high quality health cover and the exceptional customer service it delivers to its members. St.LukesHealth has a loyal membership base across Australia and especially Tasmania. Regardless of where you live, doing business with St.LukesHealth is easy.

St.LukesHealth is a not-for-profit organisation employing more than 100 dedicated staff. As a not-for-profit fund we do not pay shareholders and therefore all premiums stay within the fund for the benefit of our members. A key strength of St.LukesHealth is the knowledge and depth of experience of its Directors and Leadership Team, with many being associated with the organisation over a long period of successful operations.

Our promise to our members

Helping our members stay healthy, get well, live better and deliver peace of mind.

St.LukesHealth in the community

St.LukesHealth has taken a proactive and genuine role in social responsibility within the local community through sponsorships with a number of local sporting teams and organisations.

The benefits of private health cover

Private health cover provides peace of mind, knowing that you and your family are covered for hospital treatment in public and private hospitals as well as offering general treatment (extras) benefits for those services not usually covered by Medicare.

Importantly this means:

- No need to join a public hospital waiting list;
- You have a choice over when you are admitted for elective procedures in a private hospital;
- You have the option to choose your own doctor or specialist;
- More affordable access to private hospitals;
- You can have cover for general treatment services that Medicare doesn't usually cover, such as dental, optical, physiotherapy, chiropractic and natural therapies;
- High income earners can avoid the additional Medicare Levy Surcharge on most Hospital products; and
- You have the option to reduce your Hospital and Extras premiums under the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance depending on your level of income.

Health and wellbeing

St.LukesHealth and Healthy Business Performance Group have formed a partnership with the vision of creating positive difference to the customers we serve. We want to improve the quality of life of your employees and can assist by providing packages for intergrated workforce health and wellbeing by:

- Tailoring programs to suit your workforce needs, including one-on-one employee engagement.
- Increasing productivity while decreasing absenteeism;
- Providing workforce injury risk management.

Corporate Plan

Corporate Health Plan Features

- An **8% discount*** on the brochure rates offered in the Corporate Brochure;
- Easy premium payment by direct debit,
- **Current elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who **join or switch from another health fund** will receive the **first month's premium free** and the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on extras if they join within two months of the commencement of the Corporate Health Plan;
- **Current elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who upgrade **their existing St.LukesHealth cover** will receive the **first month's premium free** on the product added to their existing cover. If an existing member adds extras to their current hospital product they will receive the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on the extras, providing they upgrade within two months of the commencement of the Corporate Health Plan;
- **New elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who **join or switch from another health fund** will receive the **first month's premium free** and the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on extras if they **join within four weeks** of commencing employment with Local Government & Local Government Association Tasmania;
- **New elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who upgrade **their existing St.LukesHealth cover** will receive the **first month's premium free** on the product added to their existing cover. If an existing member adds extras to their current hospital product they will receive the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on the extras, providing they **upgrade within four weeks** of commencing employment with Local Government & Local Government Association Tasmania;
- **No waiting periods for equivalent cover** for **elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** employees **switching from another health fund** where they have already served their waiting periods;
- **Existing members of St.LukesHealth** will be eligible to receive the discount, provided they hold a product that is included in the Corporate Health Plan.

**The discount cannot be combined with any other discount available under any other arrangements between St.LukesHealth and other alliance partners.*

⁺The general two month waiting period and the 12 month pre-existing waiting period on hospital cover still applies. Each person is different, and your needs may require particular consideration. There may also be particular offers available to the general public which better suit your needs or situation.

Key Product Features

- **Gap Free Preventative Dental*** for the **whole family at your choice of dentist**;
- St.LukesHealth values the relationship it has with its members and that's why we have introduced Member Rewards on selected covers. Member Rewards will reward each person who has held top extras cover with St.LukesHealth for five years or more with a 5% increase in their dental benefits and annual dental limits;
- Dependent children are covered until they turn 23 and student dependents are covered until 25 years of age;
- Non-student child dependants can remain on their parents policy until their 25th birthday providing they are not married or living in a defacto relationship, for an additional premium across a range of covers;
- Pay half the excess on same-day hospital admissions for adults on most hospital covers, about 70% of procedures are same-day hospital stays;
- No excess on hospital admissions for children covered on the policy, for all levels of hospital cover offered in the Corporate Health Plan;
- St.LukesHealth is contracted with every private hospital in Tasmania and has a comprehensive list of contracted private hospitals in all other states and territories in Australia. If you are treated in a contracted hospital, your accommodation, theatre, and intensive care costs will be fully covered less any excess you have chosen on your policy.
- St.LukesHealth offers private postnatal services to Northern Tasmanian members on selected products. A 12 month waiting period applies to new members and members transferring from another fund. Members who reside in Southern or North West Tasmania are not eligible for this service, as postnatal services are provided by the private hospitals in these regions, unless they deliver at the Launceston General Hospital.

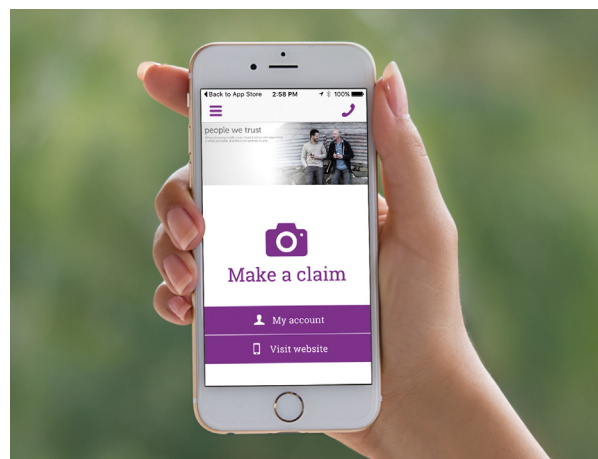
**For some preventative dental items on selected products. Annual limits, fund rules and waiting periods apply. Under Gap Free Preventative Dental we pay 100% of your dentists regular fee up to a maximum benefit for each eligible service. Please refer to Page 6.*

Services

- St.LukesHealth takes pride in providing a high level of customer service to our members. Independent and national polling by Roy Morgan Research across 33 private health insurance funds, has ranked St.LukesHealth number 1 Australia wide for Customer Satisfaction in 2016, 2017 and 2018;
- Being local means that we are able to offer great customer service and onsite support to all employees;
- St.LukesHealth does not have preferred provider arrangements, this means that members can choose which provider they use;
- Third Party partnerships with Cycology and Geards Cycles in Launceston, where members receive 10% discount on purchases (excluding: items already on sale, interest free purchases, Thule products and Garmin products) and half price Essential or Premium bike servicing. Other third party partnerships are currently being developed;
- Our website provides information about our company, products, providers, services and more;
- Our mobile app allows members to easily perform a variety of tasks including, submitting a claim, securely accessing their information and more;
- Online Member Services enables members to access details of their membership, claims history, change their contact or cover details and much more;
- St.LukesHealth has Business Development Consultants who will visit employees on site. The Business Development Team is fully trained to guide customers on making the right decision on their private health cover needs, provide cover comparisons if they are with another health fund and make joining St.LukesHealth an easy process;
- Access to St.LukesHealth is made easy for employees, with a network of six customer care centres and four service centres throughout the State. Our customer care staff are fully trained to provide assistance in selecting a cover that meets our member's needs including providing cover comparisons for employees currently insured with another fund.
- St.LukesHealth does not have a call centre, so when your employees call 1300 651 988, they will talk directly to our customer care staff.

St.LukesHealth will liaise with you to develop a plan for ongoing employee engagement that best suits the specific needs of Local Government & Local Government Association Tasmania;

- Marketing and promotional material;
- Informative brochures and forms;
- On site visits, either one on one or in groups;
- Information sessions.



Helping Tasmanians achieve their goals

At St.LukesHealth we are passionate about helping Tasmanians achieve their goals across many fields including medical research, health and wellbeing, mental health and sporting achievements.

St.LukesHealth works with and supports a number of young Tasmanians, including;

- Mitch McPherson, the “St.LukesHealth Healthier Communities” award winner 2016 and the “Premier’s Tasmanian Young Achiever Award” winner 2016. Mitch was the stand out winner due to his work in mental illness and youth suicide in Tasmania. His aim is to reduce the suicide rate in Tasmania and the stigma surrounding mental illness. This is accomplished by speaking with young people in particular to develop their confidence, practical skills and knowledge to ensure people seek help when they need it.
- Dr Jessica Manuela, winner of the “St.LukesHealth Health and Wellbeing Award” 2017 and the “Premier’s Young Achiever of the Year Award” 2017. At the age of 26, Dr Manuela opened her own clinic, Dental South. Now she has two clinics, employs 12 people and cares for more than 4000 patients. Dr Manuela’s passion for preventative dental care extends beyond her practice by providing oral health education in schools. As a result she was inspired to develop a cartoon infomercial to try and ensure Tasmanians have greater access to basic oral health information.



Looking after your Health and Wellbeing

We know how busy life is and how difficult it can be to dedicate the time you need to look after your health and wellbeing. We also know how important health cover is when you are unwell and need access to the best health care available. At St.LukesHealth we go one step further by providing a range of preventative health and wellbeing programs. You can now get so much more from your health cover, even when you're not sick.

Salveo Healthcare Services

Salveo means "to be in good health" or "to be well" in Latin.

Salveo Healthcare Services' vision is to improve personal engagement in its clients healthcare through improving health literacy and health outcomes while keeping clients out of hospital where possible and appropriate. To do this, clients are provided with their own personal health record, while those living with a complex condition are provided with hands-on home-based support.

The program is completely holistic in that it looks at the person and not the condition. Nurses assess a client based around 18 assessments from cognitive function and behavioural change through to medication management, falls risk and transitional care. Nurses can provide assistance in facilitating entry into one of Tasmania's 1700 National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service providers, while also engaging with the client for better health outcomes.

Gap Free Preventative Dental

Another way in which we support your health and well-being is by encouraging regular dental check-ups to help keep your teeth and gums healthy. That's why we offer cover options with Gap Free Preventative Dental for both adults and children at your choice of dentist[^].

Under Gap Free Preventative Dental we pay 100% of your dentist's regular fee* up to a maximum benefit for each eligible service. This means that for most dentists you will have no gap or out of pocket to pay for an examination, x-ray, scale and clean or fissure sealing. This will help you keep your teeth and gums healthy and hopefully prevent the need for more extensive treatment later on.

[^]Includes examination, x-ray, scale and clean and fissure sealing. Benefits of 100 per cent of the dentist's regular fee apply on selected products up to a maximum benefit per service. If your dentist charges above the maximum benefit, or in excess of the regular fee* he or she charges all patients, a gap or out-of-pocket may apply. Benefit applies to both adults and children who have served their two month waiting period. Other preventative services such as topical fluoride application and provision of mouthguard not included. Annual limits apply.*

**Regular fee refers to the average fee your dentist charges to all patients of his or her practice for each eligible service.*

Contact Information

Head Office

Launceston

17 The Quadrant Mall, Launceston 7250

Phone 1300 651 988 **Website** www.stlukes.com.au **Email** general@stlukes.com.au

Business Development Consultants

St.LukesHealth has Business Development Consultants across Tasmania who will visit your employees either at work or at home at a time convenient to them.

North & Devonport	Brandine Campbell	Mobile 0417 563 546	Email bcampbell@stlukes.com.au
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Burnie & West Coast	Penny Saward	Mobile 0418 134 486	Email psaward@stlukes.com.au
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South	Alicia Frankcombe	Mobile 0417 561 948	Email afrankcombe@stlukes.com.au
	Erika Boonstra	Mobile 0439 392 453	Email eboonstra@stlukes.com.au

Customer Care Centres

Hobart	94 Liverpool Street, Hobart 7000	Ph 1300 651 988
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Kingston	Shop 28a Channel Court, Kingston 7050	Ph 1300 651 988
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Burnie	27 Cattley Street, Burnie 7320	Ph 1300 651 988
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Devonport	26 Rooke Street, Devonport 7310	Ph 1300 651 988
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Smithton	24 Smith Street, Smithton 7330	Ph 1300 651 988
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COUNCIL DIGITAL READINESS SURVEY

21 May 2019

Contact: Dion Lester

Email: dion.lester@lgat.tas.gov.au

Phone: 03 6146 3740

www.lgat.tas.gov.au

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Introduction and Method

Access to information and communication technologies, like access to transport, water, and electricity, is essential to living, working and participating in today's society.

Local Government is beginning to engage with digital opportunities in Tasmania in order to service communities in a smarter and more efficient manner. Specific examples include the scoping of a Shared Services entity in the north west, Hobart's development of a Smart City Strategy, as well as the significant work associated with the Launceston City Deal.

LGAT seeks to support and promote the work already occurring across the sector and has established a Digital Advisory Group. This group brings together leaders from Tasmanian and Queensland Local Government whom will each help to guide the introduction of a specialist digital transformation program. The program is expected to support the development of 'smart councils' which will in turn support the development of 'smart communities'.

Ultimately, the aim of this and upcoming work is to create councils that are easy to deal with, are informed by communities, are fit for the digital age and for leading the digital transition. To achieve these goals, we first need a clear picture of where councils are at currently, including what the critical barriers are to their transition. This information is being gathered via online and face-to-face surveys and in-depth respondent discussions.

This report covers the first component of this investigation, being an online survey, completed by 52 council respondents from 27 of Tasmania's 29 councils. Further sociodemographic information is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. *Respondent Sociodemographic Information.*

Variable	N (%)	
Respondent Role		
General Manager	14 (26.9)	Senior
Deputy General Manager	2 (3.8)	Management
Chief Financial Officer	1 (1.9)	39 (75%)
Director of a Department	7 (13.5)	
Senior Management or Executive	15 (28.8)	
Human Resources Professional	2 (3.8)	Officers
Financial Professional	0 (0.0)	13 (25%)
Communications Professional	2 (3.8)	
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Officer	6 (11.5)	

Administration or Customer Service Professional	3 (5.8)
Council Region	
North	13 (25.0)
North West	18 (35.0)
South	21 (40)
Council Rurality ¹	
Rural	30 (58)
Urban	22 (42)

Results

The survey results should be interpreted with caution due to the limited sample size ($N = 52$).

Proficiency Gaps in the Sector

Digital proficiency was rated relatively strongly, with 96% of respondents describing themselves as a competent user, amateur expert, and/or trained professional.

A large proportion of respondents (65.5%) feel that their council is on par with the community in adopting new technologies. Three councils were identified as being a local leader, whilst five other councils were identified as laggards.

Operational Efficiency

The percentage of councils using desktop (48.4%) versus cloud-based platforms (44.8%) is roughly equivalent, however rural councils are significantly more likely to be using network-based softwares (57.9%) and are significantly less likely to be using/transitioning to cloud-based platforms (36.8%) than are urban councils (30.0% and 60.0% respectively).

The digital systems and policies of most councils (72.4%) support working from home. When staff are unable to work from home, this is due purely to the insufficient mobility of council's digital systems, not policies, with no variation between rural and urban councils.

¹ Council rurality was determined using the [Australian Classification of Local Governments](#).

Rural councils maintain a significantly larger number of paper or part paper-based filing systems (57.9%) than urban councils (20.0%). Most urban councils (70.0%) and roughly a third of rural councils report using systems that are electronic or paperless.

The percentage of councils accepting hardcopy planning applications only (13.8%) is significantly less than the percentage of councils who accept electronic (41.4%) or a combination of electronic and hardcopy applications (34.5%). All four councils accepting hardcopy applications only were rural.

Almost one in four councils, particularly rural councils, do not use electronic document signing or verification. Where electronic document signing and verification is used, it is used for limited circumstances (62.1%). Usage wherever possible is less common (6.9%).

Around one in four councils utilise passive data collection. Of these councils, 20.4% utilise passive data collection devices and systems within their council offices and operations, whilst only 6.8% utilise these devices and systems across the broader municipality.

Most councils (70.0%) do not electronically monitor council fleet vehicles. Councils who do are almost twice as likely to monitor vehicle location and speed (19.0%) than to monitor vehicle location alone (11%).

Novel Uses and Opportunities

One third of council respondents reported currently using, or exploring the use of, new and emerging technologies. Drones (21.2%), traffic lights (13.5%), and traffic monitoring (5.8%) are among the most common new and emerging technologies being explored.

Almost 50% of councils, particularly urban councils, have a digital strategy or plan dealing with digital innovation, transformation, and/or disruption. Of these councils, 37.9% have digital strategies that are still in draft form or that are not far progressed. Only two (urban) councils have strategies that are complete or nearly complete.

The ten councils that do not have a digital strategy or plan (currently or in the making) are entirely rural. All but one of the councils with (or working on) a digital strategy have a budget for implementing the strategy.

Community Engagement

Facebook (90.4%), Twitter (28.8%), and Instagram (25.0%) are the most common social media platforms used by councils. Our results indicate that almost 50% of councils, particularly urban councils, use a specifically-qualified social media professional.

Most councils (65.4%) do not provide training for community members on digital platforms, technologies, or opportunities. While training for staff is more common (73.1%), respondent comments suggest that it is infrequent or as required.

Only 24% of councils provide convenient access (i.e. can search online for property planning permits) to planning decisions.

Security

Around 50% of councils have been the subject of a cyber-attack (e.g. firewall attack, email viruses, and ransomware) – only 10% of the cyber-attacks reported were successful.

One in five councils, particularly rural councils, feel that they are highly vulnerable or are not very confident of withstanding a cyber-attack. This trend (whereby urban councils are consistently more confident) continues despite many councils feeling only reasonably (37.9%) to very confident (31.0%) in the robustness of their systems and training. Comments indicate that confidence does, however, increase upon transitioning to cloud-based systems.

Conclusions

There have been rapid advances in digital technologies over the last decade. Some councils may leverage these advances in order to service their communities in a smarter and more efficient manner, whilst other councils may fall behind. In most cases this is related to councils' resources.

The purpose of this survey was threefold – to determine where councils are at now, what projects are underway/planned, as well as what the critical barriers to digital transition are.

The results revealed that councils are relatively digitally proficient, and that they are generally on par with the community in adopting new technologies. For rural councils, a number of barriers appear to exist, with this group of councils lagging behind their urban counterparts in a variety of areas (e.g., management platforms, filing systems, digital strategies).

A road map for how LGAT can support digital transformation within councils will be developed over the next few months in consultation with the Digital Advisory Group and council staff. The final road map need only be a simplified outline of the major steps to facilitating councils' digital transformation in order to pave the way to smarter councils and communities.

Mentoring – Peer Advisors Program



Is this your first time on council?

There is a lot to learn. While LGAT will be delivering training and resources, and your fellow councillors and council staff will be on hand to guide and advise you, sometimes it can be useful to have an independent and expert advisor on hand.

This is why LGAT has established a Regional Peer Advisor program.

Program Information

Each region has a dedicated Mayor or former Mayor to provide confidential advice to new Mayors and councillors on the political and relationship aspects of the role. (LGAT and the Local Government Division of State Government will continue to provide technical advice on the Act and related legislation).

When - This program will run from November 2018 to May 2019 (at latest).

The three Advisors are:

- North West Councils – Christina Holmdahl; (e: cholmdahl@bigpond.com & p: 0417 804 210)
- Northern Councils – Craig Perkins; (e: craig.perkins@rdatasmania.org.au & p: 0409 395 195)
- Southern Councils – Roseanne Heyward; (c: [0448 503 333](tel:0448503333) & p: 0448 503 333)

Our Advisors are highly experienced when it comes to Local Government as well as having undertaken training in mentoring.

Advisors will be making contact with councils in their allocated region from November but they will also take individual calls or emails from that time.

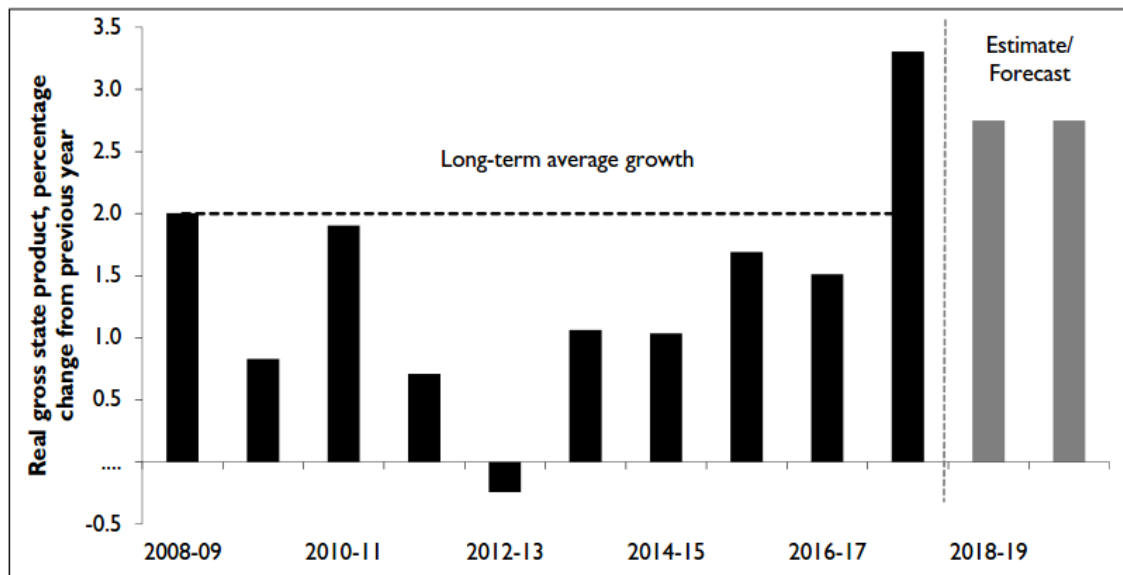
For more information, or if you need some other form of support or advice, please contact LGAT on p: 6233 5966 or e: reception@lgat.tas.gov.au

State Budget Fact Sheet

General overview and economic outlook

According to the 2019-20 Budget Papers, the Tasmanian economy continued to grow in 2018-19 at 2.75%, which is above the projected 2.25% and long-term trend of 2%. This compares with an Australian Treasury national forecast of 2.75% GDP growth in 2019-20 and IMF projection of 3.6% global growth. The relatively stronger Tasmanian economy has resulted in favourable labour market conditions and thus positive net interstate migration into Tasmania from other states.

Chart 2.1: Gross State Product, Tasmania



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, ABS Cat No 5220.0; Treasury forecasts.

Although the budget papers report that Tasmanian business conditions and confidence remain strong with a strong pipeline of major projects planned in the State, unemployment has increased to 6.5% in March 2019.

The budget papers claim modest Net Operating Balance surpluses over the Budget and Forward Estimate periods¹, but is projected to return to a 'manageable' Net Debt position over the forward estimates period².

Key Facts

For the 2019-20 financial year:

- Total revenue: \$6.4 billion
- Total expenses: \$6.35 billion
- GST revenue: \$2.48 billion
- Total Infrastructure spending: \$723.3 million (a record \$2.8 billion forecast including the Forward Estimates period)
- Total Health spending: \$152.9 million
- Total Education spending: \$51 million

Key Expenditure Initiatives/Highlights

Infrastructure Investment

Over the 2019-20 Budget and Forward Estimates period to 2023, the Government will invest a record \$2.8 billion in community infrastructure projects.

Major infrastructure projects for the budgeted year include:

- Roads and bridges (\$323.5 million).
- Hospitals and health (\$152.9 million).
- Human services and housing (\$80.6 million).
- Schools, education, and skills (\$60.8 million).
- Law and order (\$34.5 million).
- Tourism, recreation, and culture (\$48.6 million).
- ICT to support service delivery (\$15.3 million).
- Other infrastructure (\$7.1 million).

¹ Budget and Forward Estimates Period includes the Budget period 2019-20 financial year, plus the Forward Estimates period of 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 financial years.

² The Net Operating Balance and results are also impacted by introduction of new Australian Accounting Standards that apply from 1 July 2019.

Infrastructure Projects of Interest to Local Government

The following infrastructure projects of the 2019-20 financial year will be of interest to councils:

- Roads Program Expenditure: \$323.5 million, major projects including:
 - Infrastructure Maintenance (\$72.1 million)
 - Midland Highway (\$52.7 million)
 - State Road Upgrades – Southern Region (\$25.2 million)
 - Urban Congestion Fund (\$24.2 million)
 - Roads Package to Support Tasmania’s Business Economy (\$20.7 million)
 - Road Safety and Traffic Management (\$19.3 million)
 - Roads of Strategic Importance (\$15.2 million)
 - Hobart Airport Interchange (\$9.5 million)
 - New Bridgewater Bridge (\$8 million)
 - State Road Upgrades – Northern Region (\$7.2 million)

- Human Services/Housing Expenditure: \$80.6 million, major projects including:
 - Affordable Housing Strategy Stage II (\$40.5 million)
 - Housing Program (\$35.4 million)
 - Ashley Youth Detention Centre Redevelopment (\$3.6 million)

- Hospitals and Health Expenditure: \$152.9 million, major projects including:
 - Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment Projects (\$86.5 million);
 - Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment (\$11.5 million);
 - Mersey Community Hospital Capital Upgrades (\$10 million);
 - Statewide - Rural Hospital and Ambulance Station Upgrade Fund (\$8.1 million); and
 - 27 New Mental Health Beds in Southern Tasmania (\$6.5 million)

- Law and Order Expenditure: \$34.5 million, major projects including:
 - New Southern Remand Centre (\$17 million);
 - New Norfolk Police Station (\$3.5 million);
 - Sorell Emergency Services Hub (\$3.5 million); and
 - Longford Police Station (\$2.7 million).

- Tourism, Recreation, and Culture Expenditure: \$48.6 million, major projects including:
 - Cradle Mountain Visitor Experience (\$13.2 million);
 - Cradle Mountain Experience (\$10.2 million);
 - Community Recovery Fund - Parks Infrastructure (\$8.3 million);
 - Improved Statewide Visitor Infrastructure (\$5 million);
 - Three Capes Track - Stage 3 (\$3.2 million); and

- Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens New Visitor Centre (\$2.6 million).

Over the 2019-20 Budget and Forward Estimate period, the Government will provide \$792 million to government businesses and TasWater to support major long-term infrastructure projects (e.g. Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system improvements, Macquarie Point and the Freycinet Peninsula wastewater system).

Other items of Interest to Local Government

Planning - additional funding of \$500 000 per annum has been provided to assist with the achievement of Government planning reforms and planning priorities.

Other expenditure for the budgeted year:

- \$1.6 million to support the ongoing recovery of communities impacted by the bushfires in January and February 2019.
- \$650,000 to deliver the Flood Mapping Project
- \$450,000 to finalise the Local Government Legislation Review
- \$1.2 million for the Southern Tasmania – Community Recovery Fund.

Links:

- 2019-20 Tasmanian Budget Documents:
<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/2019-20-tasmanian-budget/2019-20-tasmanian-budget-word-documents>
- Factsheet on Taxation Measures relevant to Housing:
<https://www.sro.tas.gov.au/>

Policy Update – Cat Management

The Minister for Primary Industries, Jeremy Rockliff launched the four- year Tasmanian Cat Management Plan (TCMP) in June 2017. Based on feedback from councils, throughout the development of the TCMP, LGAT has maintained that while Local Government supports the initiative to develop a state-wide approach to cat management, the effective management and control of cats is beyond the capacity of most councils in Tasmania. To this end, LGAT continues to work with the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to ensure that Local Government can participate appropriately in the delivery of the TCMP.

DPIPWE have confirmed that the amendments to the Act will improve regulating the management of cats and include compulsory desexing and microchipping but that penalties for ‘cats at large’ will not be considered. There will also be amendments to improve general effectiveness of the legislation. The current Act allows councils to create by-laws to restrict ‘cats at large’. The process being undertaken by Kingborough Council to develop by-laws for cat management on Bruny Island will provide a useful case study for Tasmanian councils wanting to create cat restricted areas to protect areas with high conservation value. Latrobe Council already has a by-law in place for cat management. Feedback from councils suggest there is no interest in further regulation with a preferred focus on engagement.

LGAT has been actively supporting the implementation of the TCMP through the Cat Management Advisory Committee. The committee oversees a consistent approach by the dedicated Coordinators to:

- Raise general community awareness;
- Develop knowledge and skills about cat management; and
- Assist in resolving issues such as the location and adequacy of cat management facilities.

The State Government have funded Cat Management Coordinators in each region to work with councils and communities. As part of this project, regional working groups have been established in which local government is a participant.

A number of Councils, eg. Break O’Day, Sorell and Kingborough have established prohibited areas under the Cat Management Act, for land they manage. These focus on sensitive areas where native fauna may be being impacted, council land (St Mary’s/Fingal) where cats may be a public nuisance (waste station, recreational areas etc.).