



GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

**via
Webinar**

Wednesday 22 July 2020

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

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

13 WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) Subject to Rule 13(f), each Member shall be entitled to send a Voting Representative to any Meeting of the Association, such Voting Representative exercising the number of votes determined according to Rule 16(a).
- (b) In addition to the requirements set out in Rule 13(f), after each ordinary Council Election, the Chief Executive Officer shall request each Member to advise the name of its Voting Representative and the proxy for the Voting Representative for Meetings of the Association until the next ordinary Council Elections.
- (c) Subject to Rule 13(f), Members may change their Voting Representative or proxy at any time by advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the Voting Representative prior to that representative taking his or her position at a Meeting of the Association.
- (d) A list of Voting Representatives will be made available at the commencement of any Meeting of the Association.
- (e) Members may send other elected members or Council officers as observers to any Meeting of the Association.
- (f) Each Member must provide the Association with written notice of the details of the Voting Representative who was by a resolution of the Member lawfully appointed as the Voting Representative of the Member at a Meeting of the Association.

14. PROXIES AT MEETINGS

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

15. QUORUM AT MEETINGS

- (a) At any Meeting of the Association, a majority of the Member Councils shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) If a quorum is not present within one hour after the time appointed for the commencement of a Meeting of the Association, the meeting is to be adjourned to a time and date specified by the Chair.

16. VOTING AT MEETINGS

- (a) Voting at any Meeting of the Association shall be upon the basis of each Voting Representative being provided with, immediately prior to the meeting, an electronic voting button or placard which is to be used for the purpose of voting at the meeting. The placard will be coloured according voting entitlement and the voting buttons will be coded according to voting entitlement:

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

- (b) Electronic voting buttons will be the first choice for voting on all decisions, with placards only to be used if the technology fails.
- (c) Voting buttons allow councils to vote for or against a motion or formally abstain from voting. An abstain is not to be taken as a negative vote.
- (d) The Chair of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the electronic vote or the raising of a coloured placard as the recording of the vote for the Member and as evidence of the number of votes being cast.
- (e) Except as provided in sub-rule (f), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes for a motion. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
- (f)
 - (i) When a vote is being taken to amend a Policy of the Association, the resolution must be carried by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the meeting.
 - (ii) When a vote is being taken for the Association to sign a protocol, memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement, the resolution must be carried by a majority of votes capable of being cast by Members and by a majority of Members, whether present at the meeting or not.
 - (iii) When a vote is being taken to amend these Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the meeting or not.
- (g) A Voting Representative or his or her proxy in the name of the Member is entitled to vote on any matter considered at a Meeting of the Association.

Schedule

10.00

Annual General Meeting

General Meeting.

Commences immediately following
The conclusion of the Annual
General Meeting

Life Member Awards Presentation
At conclusion of General Meeting

Index

1	GOVERNANCE	5
1.1	MINUTES *	5
1.2	CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS	5
1.3	PRESIDENT’S REPORT	6
1.4	CEO’S REPORT	7
1.5	BUSINESS ARISING *	9
1.6	FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *	9
1.7	COUNCIL ROUND UPS	9
2	ITEMS FOR DECISION	10
2.1	HEAD WORKS *	10
2.2	FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12
3	ITEMS FOR NOTING	13
3.1	REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION *	13
3.2	WASTE MANAGEMENT	14
3.3	PLANNING – ‘RED TAPE REDUCTION’	16
3.4	COVID-19.....	17
3.5	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECOVERY AFTER COVID 19 *	19
3.6	STORMWATER AND URBAN DRAINAGE	21
3.7	DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION	23
3.8	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	24
3.9	ENERGY	26
3.10	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER WORKFORCE STRATEGY PROJECT	28
3.11	NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENDA.....	29
3.12	LGAT PROCUREMENT.....	31
3.13	HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT.....	34
3.14	COMMUNICATION, EVENTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	35
4	OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSE	39
4.1	LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF LGAT	39

*** DENOTES ATTACHMENT**

1 GOVERNANCE

1.1 Minutes *

Decision Sought

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

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

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

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

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda & Order of Business

Decision Sought

That the agenda and order of business be confirmed.

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

1.3 President's Report

Decision Sought

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

Meetings & Events

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

Media and Communications

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

1.4 CEO's Report

Decision Sought

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

Policy, Projects and Presentations

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

Media & Communications

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

Meetings, Training and Events.

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

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

Operations

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

1.5 Business Arising *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following information on business arising.

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

1.6 Follow Up Of Motions *

Contact Officer - Dion Lester

Decision Sought

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

Follow up on outstanding motions

A matrix indicating progress to date on motions passed at General Meetings, which remained outstanding at the last General Meeting, is at **Attachment to Item 1.6**.

1.7 Council Round Ups

Decision Sought

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

Background comment:

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

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

2 ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Head Works * Motion – Brighton Council

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

LGAT Comment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

LGAT Comment

No substantially similar motions have been received before by LGAT.

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

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

3 ITEMS FOR NOTING

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

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

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

A number of reforms were amended or clarified.

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

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

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

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

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

Budget Impact

Within budget.

Current Policy

Strategic Priority 6

Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

3.2 Waste Management

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the update on Waste Management.

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Budget Implication

Currently being undertaken within existing resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Building Local Government's Reputation

Fostering Collaboration

Promoting Financial Sustainability

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

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

In summary, the Bill included the following changes:

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

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

Budget Implication

Currently being undertaken within existing resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Building Local Government's Reputation

Fostering Collaboration

3.4 COVID-19

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Budget Implication

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

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

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

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Budget Implication

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Building Local Government's Reputation

Fostering Collaboration

Promoting Financial Sustainability

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.6 Stormwater and Urban Drainage Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on stormwater and urban drainage.

Background comment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating change

Fostering collaboration

Promoting financial sustainability

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.7 Development Standards Documentation **Contact Officer – Michael Edrich**

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on development standards documentation.

New and Updated Documents – Tasmanian Municipal Standards

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

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

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

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

Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines Review Project

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

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

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

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

Budget Impact

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

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Fostering collaboration

Promoting financial sustainability

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

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

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on emergency management activities.

Background

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

Federal Government Policies

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tasmanian Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines

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

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

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

State Government Policies and Projects

Tasmanian Emergency Management Training

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

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

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

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

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.9 Energy

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on energy policy and projects.

Background

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

Great Southern Lights Project

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

Other Street Lighting Activities

Faulty LED Lights Process

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

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

Street Lighting in New Subdivisions

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

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

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

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

Service Level Agreement for Streetlighting

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

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

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

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

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic plan

Facilitating change

Promoting financial sustainability

3.10 Environmental Health Officer Workforce Strategy Project

Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

Budget Implication

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

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

3.11 National Local Government Agenda Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on national advocacy.

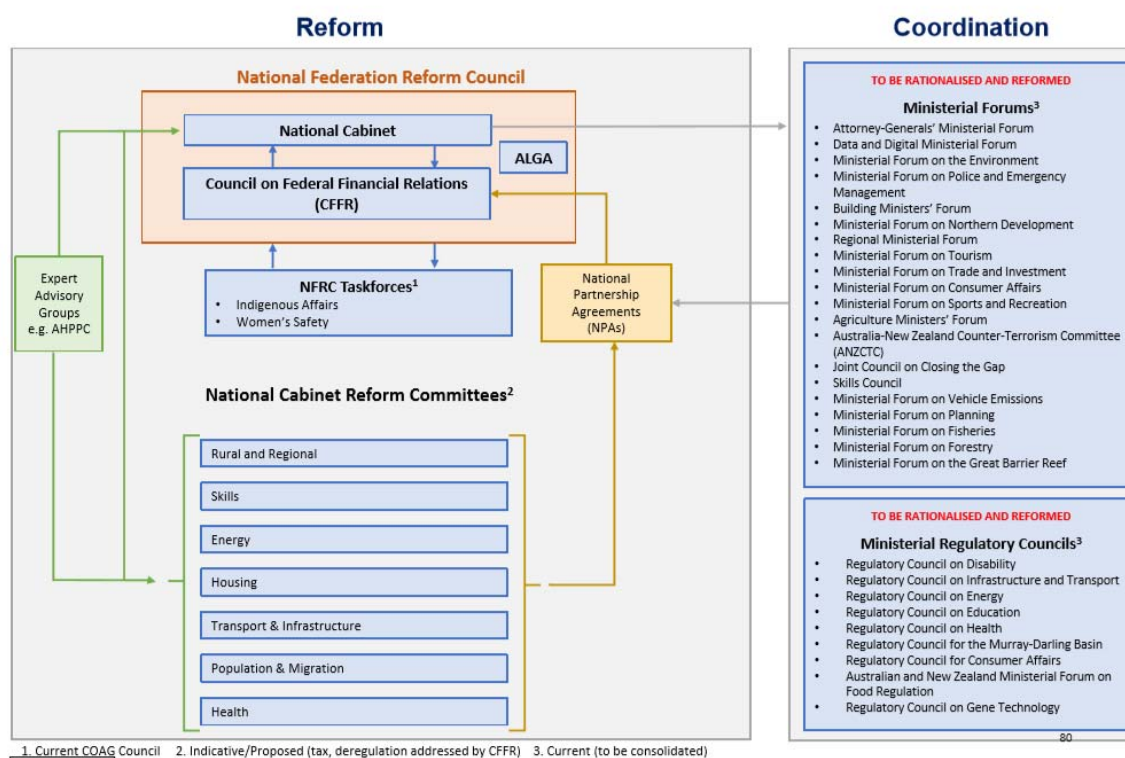
Background

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Budget Implication

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

3.12 LGAT Procurement

Contact Officer – Deborah Leisser

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

LGAT Panel Arrangement Activity For 2019/20

Panel arrangements in place are -

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

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

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

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

Spend And Savings Through LGAT Panel Arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

Subscriptions

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

Council and Supplier Engagement

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

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

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

Budget Implications

LGAT Procurement operates within existing staffing arrangements.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

3.13 Health and Wellbeing Project **Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard**

Decision Sought

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

Background

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

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

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

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

Budget Implication

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

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

2019-20 Priority

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

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

Decision Sought

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

Communications

Pulse

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

LGAT Monthly Activity Report

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

LGTas

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

Social Media

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

Overview of Activities

Proactive communication activities since the last General Meeting include:

- [LGAT COVID-19 Webpage](#)

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

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

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

- **Premier briefing updates**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Variable Message Board Coordination**

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

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

Media

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

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

Events and Professional Development

Key Events And Training Activities Since Last Meeting

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

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

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

LGAT Annual Conference

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

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

Life Member Awards

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

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

June Webinar

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

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

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

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

Future Events

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

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

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

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan

Building Local Government's reputation

Fostering collaboration

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4 OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSE

4.1 Life Membership of LGAT

Decision Sought

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

The GMC have confirmed LGAT Life Membership to two nominees.

The Awards will be announced at the General Meeting.