



General Meeting

Agenda

**10.30am
24 September 2014**

**Gnomon Pavillion
Wharf Precinct
Crescent St, Ulverstone**

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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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* Denotes Attachment



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 10.00 Coffee on arrival
- 10.30 Meeting commences
- 12.00 Colin Pettit and Alan Green
Department of Education
Discussing the Year 11/12 program
- 12.30 pm Approximately, lunch will be provided
- 1.30 Les Scott
Managing Director
Australian Longline Pty Ltd
Discussing Supertrawlers



1. GOVERNANCE

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2014, as circulated, be confirmed.

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 23 July 2014, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1**.

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the information.

Background:

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

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Decision Sought

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

Background:

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

1.4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS*

Decision Sought

That Members note the report.

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 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*

Decision Sought

That Members note the reports for June and July 2014.

Background:

Monthly reports to Councils that briefly outline Association activities and outcomes for the previous months are at **Attachment to Item 1.5.**

1.6 COUNCIL ROUND-UPS

Decision Sought

That Members determine who will present briefings at future meetings.

Background:

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

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 MOTION - STATEWIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE INDEX. Council - Clarence City

Decision Sought

That the Association establish a statewide Local Government Performance Index detailing Tasmanian benchmarking and performance ranking for Councils.

Background

Structurally councils operate as monopoly service providers. Whilst people have a choice of switching provider by moving to a different council area, the transaction costs of doing so are high and this limits competitive tension for efficient operation and service delivery. In the current economic climate there is a responsibility for all councils to demonstrate value for ratepayer's money.

The benefits of benchmarking include:

- Improving transparency and accountability of councils to their communities.
- Identification of best practice and areas for improvement.
- Establishing performance trends over time.
- Focusing on the core functions designated to councils.
- Encouraging councils to share knowledge and learn from each other.
- Helping councils advance spending priorities by general interest not special interest.

A process for benchmarking performance of Tasmanian councils has previously been established. The Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania measured key performance indicators in the nine financial years from 1999-2000 till 2007-2008.

This determined useful metrics and over time the reports data collection refinement minimised the reporting burden on councils. There would not be large administrative or resource effort required to reintroduce this process and allow for ranking the performance of councils.

LGAT Comment

The Local Government Division has recently commenced work on expanding the current SOI project to incorporate other contemporary indicators and quantitative metrics that measure council performance across the full suite of Local Government roles and responsibilities under a new Performance Management Framework (PMF). While this project is in its infancy, it is envisaged that the new PMF will also identify mechanisms for obtaining the required performance data and statistics as well as a communications strategy that will describe the means by which council performance will be analysed and reported.

It is intended that the existing SOI indicators and statistics will be incorporated into a more comprehensive framework that assesses and reports upon council performance across their full array of roles, responsibilities and obligations to their community.

In addition to work already being undertaken by Tasmanian Councils, LGAT notes that a number of jurisdictions have undertaken considerable work in this space, which Tasmania could leverage off. For example, the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework developed by Local Government Victoria this year (<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment/projects-and-programs/performance-reporting/technical-working-groups>).

2.2 MOTION - DISPOSAL OF STATE GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY

Council - Devonport City

Decision Sought

That LGAT formally request the State Government to review and amend the Government's procedures for the disposal of State owned public land, including property acquired by default, by introducing prior sale conditions that:

- (a) Requires the Government to have effectively dealt with any environmental rehabilitation and/or the removal of hazardous materials prior to offering the property for sale;
- (b) As part of the sale process, require prospective purchasers to provide details of the proposed future use of the site and include as a condition of sale that the property is to be developed within a specified timeframe;

and

- (c) Make available to the public the results of any feasibility study accepted as part of a sale contract for re development and future use of the site or premises consistent with the relevant planning scheme and zoning.

Background

The intent of the motion is to ensure that the State Government does not in the future dispose of property owned by it without any conditions on the future use of the site.

A typical example is the sale by the Government of the former Mersey Maternity Hospital without any conditions imposed on the purchaser in relation to either the remediation of the site or the future development of it. The site is now falling into disrepair and the State Government has essentially 'wiped its hands' of any responsibility.

There are also numerous examples all over the State where the Government has disposed of property (particularly former school buildings) which are now falling in disrepair, are constantly being vandalised and are unsightly, detracting from neighbourhood amenity.

LGAT Comment

There have been no specific motions on this matter, but the push for amendments to the nuisance provisions to deal with derelict buildings was in part driven by circumstances like this.

2.3 MOTION - SUPER TRAWLERS

Council - Break O'Day and Northern Midlands

Decision Sought

That LGAT supports the position of all state parties in their election commitments to lobby the major federal political parties in opposing super trawlers operating in Australian waters, and support immediate federal legislation to permanently ban super trawlers in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) but not to affect current fishing operators.

Background

Break O'Day Council

We believe that the more spheres of Government that take up this issue placing pressure on the Federal Government to ban the super trawlers the better likelihood there is of success.

If a Super Trawler was to be allowed to fish in Australian waters and they were to fish off the East Coast of Tasmania the local and regional economy of St Helens would be irreversibly downsized. Losses in domestic and export fishery revenues and related employment will be significant. Alternative local/regional employment will not be available, and the majority of the profits from such an enterprise would all go overseas with no financial benefit to local commercial or recreational fisheries.

Northern Midlands Council

The Federal Government imposed a two-year ban after community opposition to Seafish Tasmania's plan to use the factory ship, Abel Tasman to fish waters around south-eastern Australia.

The Federal Court is considering an appeal by Seafish Tasmania against the ban which is due to expire in November.

Seafish Tasmania has a quota to fish in Commonwealth waters and no trawlers over 20 metres long can operate in Tasmanian waters.

But the alliance wants all parties in the March 15 state poll to commit to keeping super trawlers out of Tasmanian waters.

Environment Tasmania's Rebecca Hubbard says Tasmanian politicians have the ability to keep the super trawler out of the state's waters.

"They can put in place a regulation or amend legislation that specifically bans super trawlers and a specific type of fishing," she said.

"And what we're asking them to do is to ban large freezer factory vessels, these huge super-trawlers that have been used to decimate the world's fisheries."

Game Fishing Tasmania's Nobby Clarke says super trawlers risk depleting local fish stocks. "I will never ever support industrial, freezer-style fishing in Australian waters."

"We have resisted it for this long from pressure from the Europeans trying to bring these vessels into our water and I do not believe it's the way of the future."

The Alliance claims more than 7,300 people have signed a petition supporting a permanent ban.

Lyons candidate Martyn Evans said "I'll be going back to the table and talking about the importance of our fishery, not only as for families, for recreational but for our economy, for our tourism and our tourism sector right up and down the eastern seaboard."

"It's important for not only my kids, but our kids' kids into the future to have a sustainable fishery."

LGAT Comment

No further comment required.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

Tasmanian fisheries rules prohibit the use of trawlers in State waters as this type of fishing has been determined to be inappropriate. There is no trawling anywhere in State waters and the Government supports the current regulatory arrangements.

The Government supports sustainable commercial fisheries and fishing operations and will consider any new fishing proposals in this context.

2.4 MOTION - AUDIT PANELS*

Council - Meander Valley

Decision Sought

That the LGAT write to the Minister for Local Government requesting the removal of the mandatory requirement for councils to have an audit panel, unless there is an express reasoning by the Auditor General and supported by the Minister for Local Government in relation to an indentified and ongoing issue with a Council.

Background

Some of the larger councils in the State have operated audit panels or committees for some time, because they choose to do so.

During the annual audit process of councils by the Auditor General over the past four years, he has made recommendations to those councils without audit panels or committees, to establish audit panels. A small number of councils have established audit panels based on these recommendations.

Earlier this year the Local Government Act 1993 was amended to include a requirement for councils to have an audit panel, and following this the Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2074 was issued

It is proposed that a motion be taken to the next General Meeting of LGAT on 24 September 2014 asking for LGAT to write to the Minister for Local Government requesting the removal of the mandatory requirement for councils to have audit panels, unless there is an express reasoning by the Auditor General and supported by the Minister for Local Government in relation to an identified and ongoing issue with a council.

In this instance the Minister could direct that council to establish an audit panel.

It is acknowledged that internal audits are a significantly important process for councils, and that currently most councils have a system in place to oversee this function.

Some examples of the activities and processes currently used by councils include:-

- Annual audit process by the Auditor General's office which review the financial systems and procedures;
- Assessment of risk management system and process by insurance company LMI;
- Local Government Board reviews approved by the Minister;
- Internal auditing process which operate for work health and safety, risk management, legislation compliance and policy reviews;
- Requirements for Strategic Plan reviews, Annual Plan Asset Management Plan and Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan;
- Quarterly reporting to Council on budget financials and Annual Plan achievements.

The motion does not support not having audit panels, but says have them if there is a problem to be addressed.

LGAT Comment

In early 2007, Access Economics recommended the establishment of Audit Committees by Tasmanian Councils in the "*A Review of the Financial Sustainability of Local Government in Tasmania*" report commissioned by the LGAT.

In September 2007 LGAT convened a Steering Committee, with the task of ensuring all 26 recommendations were subjected to further analysis in terms of their applicability and plausibility in the Tasmanian context, as well as giving consideration to the most appropriate means by which to implement them across Tasmanian councils.

Subsequently a number of specialist working groups were formed, including one dedicated to the area of audit committees. The working group agreed that as an initial action, a discussion paper would be developed which addressed:

- a) The implications and requirements for establishing an audit committee; and
- b) Suitable mechanisms and guidance for councils to consider when establishing such committees.

There was not widespread agreement on the need for Audit Committees following consultation with Councils, but the best practice principles were outlined in that discussion paper for councils choosing to go down that path. The main arguments against Audit Committees centred around a perceived lack of value for money/effort.

Around that time, the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council determined that a series of nationally consistent Frameworks around financial sustainability would be developed which included a requirement to have a mechanism in place to provide high level oversight of the delivery of council's asset management strategy and plan.

LGAT, in providing feedback on the proposed mandatory introduction of Audit Panels by the State Government, clearly outlined the concerns of councils and secured some adjustments. LGAT has also, with member councils, provided input into the Guide produced by the LGD and advocated for the LGD to provide training for Audit Panel Chairs, following a survey of council's readiness. There was significant consultation about the proposed introduction of Audit Panels.

LGAT notes that some councils are working to establish regional sharing arrangements to lessen the burden of implementation. Councils have until 30 June 2015 to comply with the Orders.

The document "*Local Government Audit Panels - A Practice Guide*" is provided for your information at **Attachment to Item 2.4**.

3. ITEMS FOR NOTING

3.1 LGAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Contact Officer - Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the update on the Local Government Professional Development Program.

Background

LGAT identified a potential opportunity to improve the provision of professional development services tailored to Local Government by developing an annual professional development program for its members.

The professional development calendar was launched in June 2014. Since then, 13 professional development programs have been delivered to over 210 participants.

Programs have included:

- Workplace behaviours;
- Fire Hazard Abatement;
- Work Health and Safety for Managers and Supervisors;
- Critical Conversations in Local Government;
- Building Innovative Teams in Local Government; and
- Public Lighting for Local Government.

The professional development programs have been delivered regionally and a few councils have opted for in-house training where available.

LGAT is in the process of finalising its Local Government 101 program for newly elected members to be delivered in late November. The programs content will include:

- The Local Government Act and associated legislation including:
 - the roles and responsibilities of Councils and Councillors/Alderman;
 - Relationships with the Mayor/General Manager; and
 - The role of the Director of Local Government in dealing with complaints and investigations into common offenses under the Act.
- Meeting procedures;
- Key strategic planning activity including financial and asset management; and
- The role of elected members as a planning authority vs the role as a representative of the community.

We anticipate offering an intensive session for new Mayors following the November General Meeting leading into the Mayor's workshop the next day.

The Association will also deliver its traditional elected member professional development weekend in February. Other offerings for elected members that will feature in the first half of next year include financial and asset management and land use planning.

The Association is also updating the resources for new elected members: *Being a Councillor* and *The Mayoral Handbook*.

In addition to the elected member training, planning is currently underway for:

- An Arts and Community Development Forum (25 September);
- Regional LGAT Policy Roadshows (early October); and
- A workshop for 'future General Managers' (early November).

Councils are encouraged to use the LGAT brokering service to assist councils in sourcing professional development programs and accessing critical numbers to make professional development programs cost effective whilst also meeting council's specific learning and development needs.

The professional development programs may be particularly beneficial in relation to induction of new councillors. The professional development calendar is regularly being updated and council staff are encouraged to view offerings on the LGAT extranet.

The success of the program will be based on council uptake of the programs and use of LGAT as a broker. It is envisioned that the training program will expand overtime and become more targeted to council needs as councils engage with the offerings and use LGAT as a broker.

Budget Implications

LGAT policy officer time to develop and negotiate the schedule with providers.

3.2 POLICY UPDATE* **Contact Officer - Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report.

Emergency Management

Significant activity continues to occur in the Emergency Management Policy area. Two key pieces of work include:

Vulnerable Persons Framework

- The State Emergency Service is leading the development of a vulnerable persons framework for Emergency Management. LGAT sits on a reference group for this project and a draft framework is almost complete. Once the draft is completed it will be circulated to key stakeholders including councils for comment.

Pandemic Preparedness Plan

- The Department of Health and Human Services is the lead agency for the Pandemic Preparedness Plan.
- The aim of the project is to increase the capacity and capability of the Primary and Community Health Sectors (including THOs) to effectively participate in a coordinated response to a major public health emergency, particularly an emergency such as a pandemic.
- The project is a follow on from the flu clinic review and aims to formalise state and regional arrangements for planning for, and responding to health emergencies.

- Considerable background work has been undertaken and the focus of the next phase of the project is to write the Tasmanian Health Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza and translate the key principles into partnerships, policies and protocols.
- Phase two of the project will include consultation with Local Government through regional workgroups to be established by the Tasmanian Health Organisations (or their replacement agencies).

Roads/National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

The Association met with Minister Rene Hidding in early August to discuss the issues being faced by councils and industry in relation to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and to consider ways to address the challenges collectively.

Minister Hidding was pleased to hear that workshops and meetings have been held both regionally and at a state wide level in to assist councils through this process.

The Minister was advised that councils across the State are currently working with the Department of State Growth to identify roads appropriate for adding to a network of 'pre-consented' routes, in order to speed up the access application process for operators where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

However, the Association highlighted a significant issue that councils face around the assessment and maintenance of bridge infrastructure, which can prove the pinch point on an otherwise acceptable heavy vehicle route.

Further, the formal role of 'road manager' bestowed upon Local Government under the Heavy Vehicle National Law requires councils to consider the legal liability associated with their decision making in each case where consent is issued to an operator to access the local road network.

All of these factors combine to pose a complex issue rather than something that is simple to resolve.

On behalf of councils, the Association will continue its discussions with State Government, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and industry to develop appropriate approaches and to highlight the task required of Local Government.

Urban Drainage Act - Stormwater Management Working Group

Following on from the introduction of the Urban Drainage Act in 2013, LGAT has developed a state-wide working group comprised of stormwater practitioners from each of the three regions, along with a LGAT representative and a representative from State Government.

The Working Group is tasked with developing a Stormwater System Management Template along with appropriate support tools and guidance documents, to ensure that all councils in Tasmania have Stormwater Management Plans in place for their urban drainage areas by the year 2019, as is required by the legislation.

The group met for the first time in early August and will meet every two months to discuss the development of the resources, workflow and process. It is anticipated that a toolkit will be developed in around six months time.

Review of Tasmanian Standard Drawings and Subdivision Guidelines

In 2013 the three regional Council groups, with the assistance of the Tasmanian Division of the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia (IPWEA), developed a suite of Standard Engineering Drawings along with the Tasmanian Subdivision Guidelines for use by Local Government in Tasmania.

The initial adoption of the Standard Drawings and the Subdivision Guidelines by councils was impressive; all 29 councils across the state adopted the Standard Drawings and 20 councils adopted the Subdivision Guidelines.

A review of these documents is currently being conducted by two respective working groups comprised of representation from the each of the three regions, along with representation from LGAT and IPWEA.

The review process has commenced with a call for feedback from all adopting councils, and once collated the working group will commence updating the documents. It is hoped that we can achieve unanimous adoption of both as an outcome of this process.

Climate Change Adaptation - Training Resources released

The State Government's Tasmanian Climate Change Office has released a training resource collection that will assist Local Government with corporate and coastal climate change adaptation planning.

Working collaboratively with Local Government, the Tasmanian Government has undertaken a number of adaptation projects in recent years to improve our collective understanding of the risks that climate change poses to infrastructure and assets, and importantly, what adaptation actions could be implemented to reduce those risks.

The most significant of those projects have been the Regional Councils Climate Adaptation Project and the Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project; from the methodology established by these two projects, new training resources have been developed specifically for councils.

The collection is made up of eight modules that take Local Government staff through the step-by-step process of adaptation planning. Four modules are dedicated to corporate planning and the remaining four focuses on the coastal adaptation planning process. Each module deals with a different step of the process, from getting started, risk assessment, developing adaptation options/plan and finally reviewing those options/plan.

The modules are also accompanied by a suite of tools including templates, guides and reading materials that provide Local Government staff with all the resources they need to undertake their adaptation planning.

The resources, as well as information of the two projects, are available on the Tasmanian Climate Change Office website: www.climatechange.tas.gov.au.

Workplace Behaviours Toolkit

LGAT has provided the draft documents (via the extranet), developed by Page Seager, to councils for review and comment and undertaken two regional forums to outline how the tools can and should be used. It is intended to broaden the consultation to include unions to address any perceptions that the toolkit is a mechanism to undermine work conditions as outlined in the Enterprise Agreements.

The toolkit will require intensive work by councils to implement and it is strongly suggested that councils collaborate wherever possible. LGAT has set up an online discussion forum for HR staff to engage with ideas on how to implement and suggestions on how to improve the tools and what other supports might be beneficial on a sectoral basis.

Award Modernisation

The legacy Municipal Managers Award remains unresolved at the time of writing. While there is sectoral and union support for a transition to no Award coverage for General Managers (as is the case for the councils previously covered by an Enterprise Award and in other jurisdictions), the Fair Work Commission are yet to make a decision following a hearing in mid August.

The Association will continue to work to resolve issues of transition from State Reference Awards to Modern Industry Awards.

Consultancy for Public Lighting Tender process

Member feedback in regards to the payment model for the tendering of Local Government's unmetered public lighting retail energy supply indicated a preference for a once off consultancy.

Following a request for quotation process, the consultancy has been awarded to Goanna Energy Consulting, a Tasmanian based company which the Association has successfully worked with in the past. Legal Advice will be provided through Simmons Wolfhagen Solicitors.

LGAT has initiated a process to obtain letters of authority from all Members, to enable the consultant to access council's energy usage data from TasNetworks and Aurora Energy, in order to progress the tender process. Thank you to members that have responded so promptly.

For any queries on this project, please contact Kate Hiscock kate.hiscock@lgat.tas.gov.au or phone 6233 5965 (Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Submissions Made Since Last Meeting

- Legislative Council Government Administration Committee Inquiry into the use of natural botanical medicinal cannabis flower and extracted cannabinoids for medical purposes. At **attachment to Item 3.2** is a copy of the submission for Member's information.
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Emergency Management Funding
- State Bushfire Policy

Budget Implications

Does not apply

3.3 BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS

Contact Officer - Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report.

Background

Following correspondence from King Island Council, LGAT has spent some time trying to ascertain progress in relation to implementation of the Bushfire Prone Areas legislation. As part of that we have been advised that while the Office of Security and Emergency Management will continue to provide occasional support, that progression of the matters outlined in the table below now sits with the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS).

LGAT was concerned by continually slipping timeframes and a lack of communication with councils and has written to the Chief Officer TFS on the matter.

At the last meeting of the Bushfire Regulations Implementation Committee the following milestones were agreed:

Date	Task	Responsibility
14 July	To provide the TFS with the mapping package including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTP site • Unique Identify for all polygons • Shape file • Able to queried by LGA 	DPIPWE
	TFS to provide to councils and practitioners with the mapping package, that includes the DPIPWE delivery along with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy and procedures for editing the maps • a draft schedule of visits to councils. 	TFS
14 July to 15 August	Councils to complete an initial review using the policy and procedures	Councils
15 August	TPC to release the draft bushfire code for comment	TPC
15 August to 17 October	TFS to undertake a review of the proposed amendments and reach agreement with councils on the final bushfire prone area map.	TFS/ Councils

On the 29 July LGAT was advised that:

- The mapping has been completed (some time ago) by DPIPWE. This was confirmed by TFS who advised that Bushfire-Prone Area boundaries have been drafted by EMGIS at DPIPWE and are sitting on The LIST.
- Further advice was provided that then the boundaries would need to be groundtruthed and amended in order for local adoption followed by formal recognition through a process with the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- LGAT was advised that the rules for reviewing, amending and adopting the boundaries have been drafted but not been finalised with that work due on 25th July. At that point it was indicated that there would be a trial involving Hobart, Tasman and Circular Head Councils. Correspondence at that time indicated trials were to commence the first week of August.
- On contacting Tasman and Circular Head Councils it became clear that as at 31 July, there had been no formal communication with them about the proposed trials. Circular Head noted that they had expressed informal and general interest at a Building Permit Authority Forum and indicated that much of the information about the mapping and other implementation matters is being received second or third hand.
- LGAT has indicated to TFS that some direct communication with councils including a forum where they could view/comment on the maps and have a briefing about the issues and the drivers for the trial and future timeframes is considered essential moving forward. LGAT has also indicated a willingness to support such a forum through disseminating information and capturing registrations.
- LGAT has also asked whether there is willingness to allow other councils to be involved in the trial, where there is strong interest.

We believe it is imperative that there is no further slippage of timeframes if councils are to have matters in hand before the next bushfire season and have sought a commitment to continued close scrutiny and appropriate resourcing within the TFS.

At the time of writing this report LGAT was awaiting a reply from the TFS.

Budget Implications

Does not apply

3.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Contact Officer - Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report

Background

Legislation

At the time of writing, the *Local Government Amendment (Mayoral Candidate Eligibility) Bill 2014* was before Parliament.

At the July General Meeting, the Minister indicated his leaning towards this amendment, subject to the outcome of debate by LGAT Members on the following motion: *Request the Local Government Association of Tasmania to ask the State Government to amend the Local Government Act, to rescind the qualifications required for being a candidate for Mayor and Deputy Mayor in a Tasmanian Council.*

The motion was carried (25/22) and the Minister has progressed accordingly with a view to letting the electors decide if candidates are suitably qualified.

It is uncertain as to what impact this amendment will have on Mayoral turnover if progressed through both houses. Incumbency is still a significant factor in re-election. However, in anticipation that there may be some Mayors elected who have little Local Government experience, LGAT intends to run an intensive induction following the November General Meeting, leading into the broader Mayor's Workshop the following day.

Election Timeframes

Notice of Election	Saturday 13 September
Rolls Close	6pm Thursday 18 September
Nominations Close	12 noon Monday 29 September
Announcement of Nominations	12 noon Tuesday 30 September
Polling Period	Tuesday 14 October to 10am Tuesday 28 October.

Election Tools

Historically LGAT has concentrated on tools and guides for potential candidates, such as the *Becoming a Councillor Guide* (see <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=334>).

Currently we are looking at what support we can provide to Member councils in terms of engaging with communities and encouraging voter turn out. As a minimum we hope to provide (before this meeting) a web banner, some template text for websites and some key messages.

Budget Implications

Minor cost to produce the banner but it is within budget.

Policy Implications

There is a Motion carried in July 2014 in support of removing eligibility requirements.

3.5 2014 & 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Contact Officer - Stephanie Watson

Decision Sought

1. **That the Meeting note the report; and**
2. **That all Member Councils consider submitting a nomination for the 2015 Meritorious Service Award.**

Background

The 102nd Local Government Conference, held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 23-25 July, was enjoyed by the 200 delegates in attendance, with 27% rating it as 'excellent' and 60% rating it as 'good'.

The opportunity to network, the dinner and award presentations were highlights for many, as were speakers Tony Morris, Craig James and John Stanley. Sponsors and trade exhibitors reported that a high level of enjoyment and value was derived from their involvement with the conference, with 50% rating the exhibition as 'excellent' and 50% rating it as 'good'.

The dinner was held in the Boardwalk Gallery, with 56% of survey respondents rating the event as 'excellent' and 44% rating it as 'good'.

The 2014 Local Government Awards for Excellence were presented during Conference on 25 July by MAV President, Clr Bill McArthur. This year, 15 nominations were received from 11 councils throughout the State and, for the first time, \$1,000 prize money was presented to each winner.

The winners were:

Dorset Council – Active Youth Program (Delivering Excellence – Smaller Councils (population under 10,000) Award)

Central Coast Council – Penguin Mountain Bike Park (Delivering Excellence – Larger Councils (population over 10,000) Award)

At the Conference Dinner, several awards were presented:

LGAT Long Service Award

Awarded to Gerald Monson, Kentish and Latrobe Councils

Councillor Exemplary Service Award

Awarded to Mayor Mike Gaffney, Latrobe Council

Life Membership of the Local Government Association of Tasmania

Awarded to Mayor Barry Easter, West Tamar Council

No nominations were received this year for the Meritorious Service Award, recognising exceptional service to Tasmanian Local Government by an elected member. Councils are encouraged to consider possible nominees for the 2015 Meritorious Service Award.

A great deal of media publicity was gained for the conference with the support of Nylander Consulting.

Funds were raised this year for Ronald McDonald House Hobart to support seriously ill children and their families. A total of \$2,000 was raised through the raffle, Coffee Corner and a donation from LGAT.

The 103rd Local Government Conference will be held from 22-25 July at the Inveresk site, Launceston. The Conference Dinner will take place at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston.

Budget Impact

Despite a 10% drop in the number of delegates in attendance, when compared to last year's figures, the 2014 conference continued to attract a pleasing level of sponsorship support and is expected to deliver a satisfactory return to LGAT for event administration.

3.6 PLANNING REFORM UPDATE

Contact Officer - Allan Garcia

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the progress in relation to this matter and the pending distribution of a Consultation Paper for comment.

Background

The Planning Task Force has had a number of meetings and is working through the critical issues associated with the implementation of a single planning scheme and the various matters relating to the Government's election commitments on planning.

A discussion paper has been prepared and will be circulated to all councils for comment. It has also been provided to a broad range of other stakeholders for input. A period of five weeks will be provided for Local Government for feedback and it is proposed to provide a sectoral response on the issues through the Association to the Taskforce.

The Consultation Paper does not address every issue relating to the reform process and is confined to amending the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act to give effect to a more efficient process of declaring and finalising the interim planning schemes as well as providing a more streamlined process for amending schemes.

The Amendment Bill will also address the following matters:

- The introduction of shorter timeframes for permitted use and development;
- The introduction of a \$600 appeal fee for certain third party discretionary permits;
- Allowing interim planning directives to replace or revoke existing planning directives;
- Allowing councils to extend a permit for an additional two years (to a maximum of six years);
- Extending the reconstruction of accidentally destroyed buildings and works to include conforming uses; and
- Providing clearer provisions for where minor amendments to permits can occur.

This represents the first phase in the reform process and seeks to provide certainty and surety for all parties through the interim planning scheme process.

Work on the single planning scheme process is in train but it is essential that the current process is sufficiently robust to allow the next phase to progress. The Consultation Paper will provide an overview of the broad reform agenda and timetable.

A workshop is being organised by the Association on 23 September 2014 to work through and discuss the issues contained in the Consultation Paper.

Budget Implications

Does not apply

Current Policy

Does not apply

3.7 ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT

Contact Officer - Allan Garcia

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note progress on the project and that a verbal update will be provided on the day of the meeting.

Background

At the July Meeting details were provided in relation to the Role of Local Government Project, the goal of which is to establish a clear understanding of the role and capabilities of Local Government, identify strengths and capability gaps and develop actions to build a sector that is sustainable, efficient, effective and responsive to community needs.

The Premier's Local Government Council have endorsed the Final Report which can be found at http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/role_of_local_government as well as the Terms of Reference for the four working groups

The working groups are tasked with developing a range of short-term to long-term strategies and actions designed to remove impediments and build Local Government capability. While the main focus of the working group is to develop a three year strategic action plan, they will also commence implementation of initiatives which can be delivered within a shorter timeframe.

The championing of the project by departmental deputy secretaries and directors, council general managers and LGAT senior executives through the PLGC working groups is indicative of the support for the project from both spheres of government.

At the time of writing this report, most groups had met only one or two times. However, the working groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis until March 2015.

The four working groups report to the Working Group Chairs' Committee, which is comprised of the chairs from each of the working groups. The Chairs' Committee is responsible for monitoring progress and approving the strategic action plan prior to submission to the PLGC.

The main focus of the working groups before the end of the year is the development of a draft framework for Action on which broad consultation will be undertaken during January and February.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 **INDUSTRIAL HEMP INDUSTRY AND MEDICINAL CANNABIS IN TASMANIA*** **Council - Meander Valley**

Meander Valley Council, at their meeting on 12 August 2014, resolved to support the Industrial Hemp Industry in Tasmania and encourage further research on the growing of medicinal cannabis in Tasmania. The full decision on this matter is at **Attachment to Item 4.1**.

The LGAT has provided a submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry on this matter and a copy is at **Attachment to Item 3.2**, Policy Update.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE
