



Local Government Association Tasmania

General Meeting

Agenda

17 March 2023

10.15am

**Coffee on arrival
from 10.00am**

**Tramsheds Function Centre
Launceston**

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**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 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) 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.

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* Denotes Attachment



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 10.00 | Coffee on arrival |
| 10.15 | Meeting Commences |
| 12.15 | Meeting concludes/Lunch |



1. GOVERNANCE

Acknowledgement of Country

The President will acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land.

Welcome and Apologies

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022, as circulated, be confirmed.

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 8 December 2022, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That Members note the information.

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 following 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 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the President's activity from 18 November 2022 until 27 February 2023.

Meetings and events

December General Meeting and GMC meeting
LGAT Annual Conference
Mayor's Workshop December
Premier's Local Government Council meeting
ALGA Board Meetings

Media and correspondence

LGAT News – December and February

HCC operating model

- Media query (The Mercury)

Local government review

- Media release

Bus shelter funding

- TV interview (7 News)

Public transport

- Radio interview (ABC Hobart)

Housing density

- Radio interview (ABC Hobart)

Fire services levy

- Article (ABC)

Emergency management funding

- Media query (ABC News)

Road safety funding

- Media event
- TV interview (WIN TV, 7 News)

Visa processing delays

- Media release
- Article (Derwent Valley Gazette)

1.6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT *

Contact officer: Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the CEO's activity from 18 November 2022 until 27 February 2023.

Advocacy

In the period since my last report our advocacy focus has continued to be on making sure the Future of Local Government Review maintains appropriate engagement with our sector, including most recently managing the RSVPs for the Board's direct engagement with council elected representatives and staff. In addition, the General Management Committee (GMC) determined that LGAT would provide a submission in response to the Options Paper. Given the mixed views across our sector on the structural reform and planning authority role reform

options in particular, our submission was limited to three important, but uncontentious, areas:

1. Drawing attention to the recent report commissioned by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) demonstrating that local government is an efficient provider of government services, when compared to other spheres of government, and is key to building productivity in the wider economy. This is despite some significant financial challenges, generally outside of our sectors control.
2. The important (and often absent) role of state leadership and support in achieving the state's performance goals for the community and across state regulation. If the review can result in a shift to supportive state leadership, it will drive sector performance and consistency while facilitating local ownership.
3. The existing benefits and future opportunities of LGAT Procurement in delivering a more streamlined, simple, and standardised approach to procurement across local government.

A full copy of our submission can be viewed on the [LGAT Website](#).

Activity remains high in three of our key advocacy priorities, being waste and resource recovery, planning and housing.

We recently provided comment on the *Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy*. Our submission noted that while our sector welcomed the release of the draft strategy, it was important to move from planning to tangible on-ground actions as soon as possible, particularly given the State Government released a draft Waste Action Plan in 2019 that has seen little progress beyond the important statewide waste levy and container refund scheme.

To read the full submission please go [here](#).

A critical, but to date missing, component of our state's planning system has been planning policies. So, it was very welcome when the State Government finally released the Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) late last year. This comes after sustained advocacy from LGAT. While councils overwhelmingly welcomed the progress on the strategic elements of Tasmania's planning system, there was significant concern about the limited meaningful two-way engagement with the sector over the preceding 12 months of policy development. LGAT followed up our submission with direct engagement with the State Planning Office, and I am pleased to report that they acted swiftly in responding to our and the sector's consultation concerns and immediately scheduled further detailed workshops with council planning experts. This responsiveness is great to see and very welcomed.

Our full submission to the TPPs can be found [here](#).

The State Government continues with a suite of activities aimed at improving Tasmania's housing crisis. Amongst these we have been participating in the development of the Housing Strategy and the Minister's Housing Reference Group. To date, the work of the reference group has focused on understanding current supply constraints, with a variety of briefings on supply and demand matters, including LGAT presenting on the opportunities associated with Tasmanian introducing an infrastructure charging regime. Tasmania's statutory planning system has featured heavily in the discussions, with separate working groups established to *"discuss potential planning reforms to support the delivery of social and affordable housing"*. LGAT's presence on the Reference Group has significantly aided the diverse range of stakeholders in better understanding our planning system and council's role within it.

The communiqués from the September, December and February meetings are included at **Attachment to Item 1.6**

Sector Services

Since our last General Meeting in late 2022, LGAT hosted the councillor induction session in Launceston, and participated in a suite of individual council visits to support local inductions. We have begun planning our 2023 events, with the first significant event this year to cover planning and growth. Please refer to the events update in this agenda to find out more.

LGAT Procurement's support for the sector continues to grow, with work on the key initiatives in our business plan all underway. The procurement update in this agenda provides further details.

Governance and operations

On the staff front, LGAT has been pleased to welcome a number of new staff over the past few months. They are:

- Bec Stevenson – Senior Policy Advisor
- Belinda Blackburn – Communications Manager
- Melinda Pearce – Executive Assistant
- Will Coats – LGAT Procurement Business Development Manager

Media

Road safety

- Media query (The Examiner)
- Newspaper article (The Examiner)

Two-term limit for Mayors

- Media query (The Examiner)
- Newspaper article (The Examiner)

Mandatory disclosure for house purchases

- Media query (The Mercury, ABC, WIN TV, 7 News)
- Articles (ABC, The Mercury)
- TV interview (WIN TV, 7 News, ABC)

1.7 COUNCIL ROUND UPS

Decision Sought

That Members note there will not be a council round up this meeting.

Background

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 WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY REVIEW *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members discuss and confirm the proposed high level implementation plan for the workplace health and safety review of elected representatives and communicate the key components to their councils.

Background

At the December 2022 General Meeting members resolved:

That Members receive and note the Work Health and Safety Review – Elected Representatives and that the General Management Committee will review the recommendations and prepare an implementation plan for consideration at the General Meeting in March 2023.

The workplace health and safety review of elected representatives (the Review) produced the following suite of deliverables:

- An Executive Summary of the review, including all recommendations.
- The full report.
- Stand-alone reports on council, elected representatives and council staff responsibilities under the various legislative instruments (e.g., WH&S, Code of Conduct, Anti-Discrimination Act etc.).
- A statewide assessment of the health and safety hazards to elected representatives and appropriate risk mitigation actions (pursuant to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*) that can be taken by individual councils, depending on local circumstances.

Each of these documents are available on the LGAT Member Portal under “Elected reps governance”.

The final report included 69 recommendations in total. While many, such as the suite of separate training options, can be grouped together, there are still a substantial number of recommendations. Each recommendation has been reviewed in the **Attachment to Item 2.1**. This assessment categorises each recommendation against the action required (advocacy, LGAT project or council action) and a suggested priority (low, medium, high or on hold). Commentary and a suggested way forward are also provided.

This assessment provides a high-level approach for Member consideration. Once a formal position of the sector is confirmed then a more detailed project plan will be developed to guide implementation.

Importantly, there are a number of existing processes underway that can support the implementation of many of the recommendations and as such they are summarised below according to these opportunities.

Code of Conduct Review

On the 10 November 2022, the Government introduced the *Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022* (the Bill) into Parliament. The Bill progressed some of the key reforms committed to by the Government in its response to prior public consultation about potential targeted legislative changes to the Code of Conduct Framework.

The main changes proposed in the Bill are a standard and more comprehensive code of conduct for councillors, a mandatory local dispute resolution policy and process in councils¹, an improved process for the initial assessment of complaints, and the disclosure and management of interests by Panel members.

¹ LGAT will prepare a template and also establish a panel of mediators for councils to use.

Three further reforms to be progressed as part of the next stage of the Code of Conduct reforms are:

- A review of the model Code of Conduct.
- Assessment of the feasibility of transferring the Code to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TasCAT).
- Consideration of options that could better address instances of very serious councillor misconduct that may not fall within the parameters of the current Code of Conduct Framework.

Relevant recommendations from the Review are mapped against each of these reforms below:

Code of Conduct Reform	Recommendation	Summary	Priority
Code of Conduct Bill	1.15a & 1.15b	Introduction of additional council level behavioural policies and processes.	On hold
	1.16a	Initial assessment to be undertaken by expert in behaviour and local government appointed by the GM.	On hold
	1.16b & 1.16c	Initial assessment of complaints	High
	1.16d	Separate process for minor and serious breaches.	On hold
	1.19d	GM training for referrals to respectful conduct advisor.	On hold
Review of the model Code	1.16i & 1.16j	Include additional matters in Code.	Low
Feasibility review of transferring the Code to TasCAT	1.16e	Without fault restrictions on ERs accused of serious misconduct.	Medium
	1.16k	Permitted disclosures.	Low
	1.16l	Awarding of costs.	Low
	1.16o	Statutory protection for witnesses.	Low
Review of sanctions for serious misconduct	1.15c	Improvements to Performance Improvement Directions.	High
	1.15d	Sanctions for serious misconduct.	High
	1.16f	Sanctions for serious misconduct.	High
	1.16g & 1.16h	Sanctions related to training orders.	Medium / High
	1.16m	Prescribed period.	Medium
	1.16n	Automatic removal.	Low

Learning and Development Framework

The Office of Local Government and LGAT are working together to develop a Local Government Learning and Development Framework that aims to increase the knowledge and skills of councillors. Currently the Framework consists of three online learning packages. However, work has commenced in scoping the development of further training and development options to support councillors in their role.

It is proposed that recommendations 1.18a - 1.18s, 1.20 are referred to the recently established governance group to consider as part of the next stages of the Framework.

Future of Local Government Review

The recommendations that are proposed to be put on hold pending completion of the Future of Local Government Review and implementation of the Learning and Development Framework are the following, more controversial ones, related to additional training and education, including mandatory requirements:

- 1.21b - Ongoing requirement for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- 1.21c - CPD to have a mandatory requirement for appropriate behavioural standards.

Review of the Local Government Act

While this has been put on hold pending the completion of the Future of Local Government Review, once re-commenced it offers an opportunity for implementation of some of the lower priority recommendations.

Recommendation	Summary	Priority
1.15e	Introduce provisions for disruption of public meetings.	Low
1.17m	Introduce standardised process for meetings.	Low
1.19a	Clarifying the role of GM as a PCBU.	High

Other actions

The remainder of the recommendations relate to either LGAT Projects or specific council actions, which are outlined in the tables below.

Recommendation	LGAT Projects	Priority
1.15f	Amendment of Integrity Commission Act.	Medium
1.17a, 1.17b, 1.17c	Behaviour monitoring process.	Medium
1.17d, 1.17e, 1.17f, 1.17g	Local dispute resolution process.	Medium - High
1.17h, 1.17j, 1.17k, 1.17l, 1.17n	Community education program.	Medium

Recommendation	LGAT Projects	Priority
1.17i	Standard policy for unreasonable community conduct.	High
1.17q	Extend Workplace Behaviour Policies to ERs.	High
1.19b, 1.19c, 1.19d	LGAT training for GMs.	High
1.21c	Introduce coaching / mentor panel.	High
1.17o	Develop and introduce a diversity campaign.	On hold

Recommendation	Council Actions	Priority
1.17p	Extend EAP to ERs.	High
1.17r	Team building.	Medium
1.17s	Internal monitoring of behavioural standards.	Medium
1.17t	Full disclosure of correspondence by ERs.	Low

Recommendation 1.21a

The requirement for qualification similar to a Company Director's Course as a mandatory pre-condition for seeking election, will not be progressed given concerns from the sector on mandatory pre-election qualifications. It is further noted that the Future of Local Government Review Options Paper suggests the development of *"an improved councillor training framework which will require participation in candidate preelection sessions and, if elected, ongoing councillor professional development."*

It is further noted that there has been, and continues to be, significant work by the Office of Local Government and LGAT on the development of the Learning Framework.

Budget Impact

The original review was undertaken with State Government funding.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
- Sector Services

2023 Annual Priority

- Local government reform
- Workplace health and safety for elected representatives

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There are no Items for Discussion

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 POPULATION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on Tasmania’s population growth, Treasury’s updated population projections and the implications for local government planning, infrastructure, and services.

Background

The signs of intense growth pressures in Tasmania over the last several years have been growing. We are seeing housing shortages, traffic congestion, accommodation pressures and cost of living rises. LGAT has noted these and councils’ experiences of growth pressures and responded in a number of ways², including advocating for:

- Updates to the Regional Land Use Strategies and Tasmania’s strategic planning framework.
- Tasmania to get ready for growth (opinion editorial, The Mercury, 15 December 2021).
- Development of an infrastructure charging framework.
- State budget commitments over several years to support the proper management of the growth task.

Tasmania’s growth is a significant challenge and councils are not properly supported to deal with the multiple impacts and implications this creates. Population increase can bring many economic benefits but, poorly managed can create growth pressures and strain on infrastructure, services, and resourcing.

In 2015, the Tasmanian Government released its Population Growth Strategy, it self-described the 2050 target as “bold and ambitious”. Instead, the actual growth rate has been double the bold and ambitious target rate. In the five years from 2016 to 2021, Tasmania has grown by the size of two Devonport-sized cities and is expected to add another three over the next decade.

² See: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/lgat-advocacy/reports-and-submissions>

In 2019, the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) published population projections for Tasmania out to the year 2067, and for local government areas out to 2042. These projections were modelled and projected forward from 2017. Low, medium, and high series projections were produced, with Tasmania projected to reach its population target of 650,000 by 2050 only under the 2019 highest projections (high series). However, the results of the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing showed higher growth than even the highest (2019) projections anticipated.

Consequently, Treasury has recently adjusted its projections using the 2021 census data. The new 2022 projections³ now see Tasmania reaching its 650,000-population goal a full decade earlier, by 2040, under the high series, as shown in Figure 1 below.

Finally, in January this year, the Australian Government Centre for Population released its own 2022 Population Statement⁴ with projections for Tasmania predicting that we will reach our 2050 target of 650,000 in 2032 to 2033, in less than a decade, some 17 to 18 years faster than Treasury's projections.

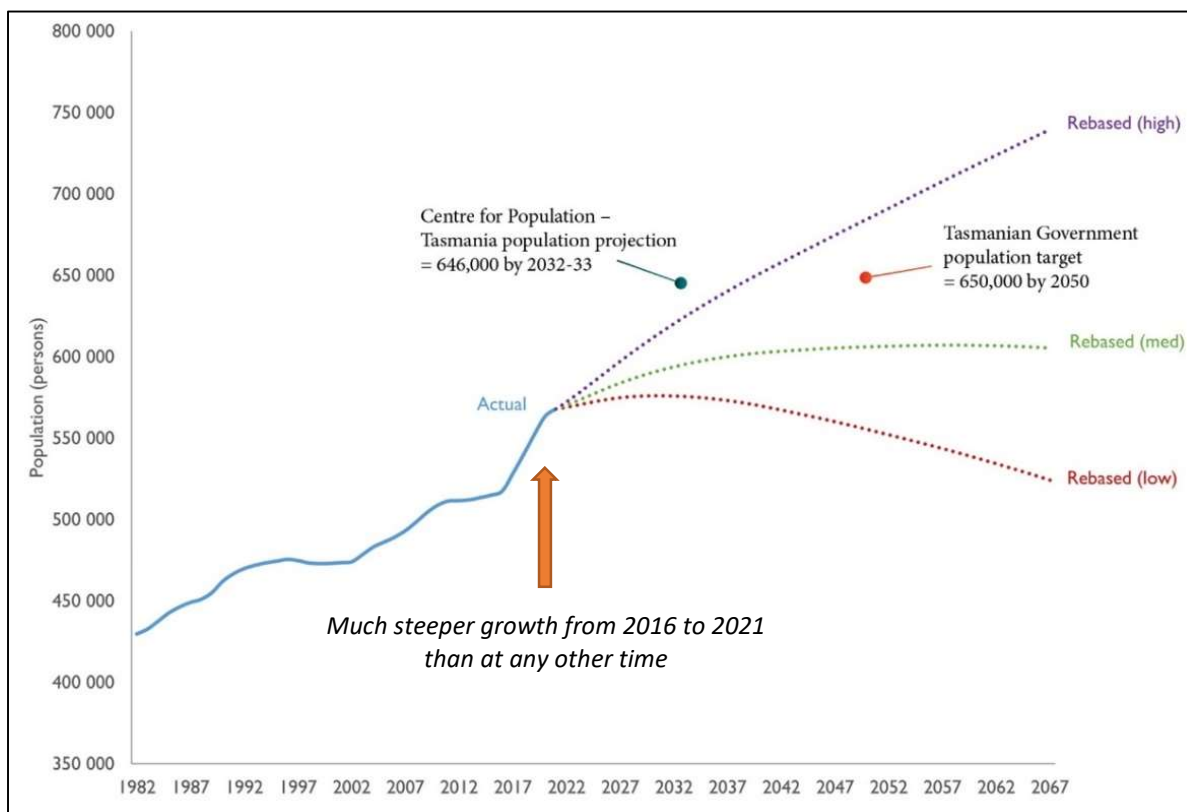


Figure 1: Total Tasmanian population, and rebased projections, as at 30 June 2022

³ Further information on the Treasury website:

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-data/2019-population-projections-for-tasmania-and-its-local-government-areas>

⁴ Centre for Population: <https://population.gov.au/publications/statements/2022-population-statement>

This remarkable level of growth has serious implications for councils and their communities, in particular land use and infrastructure planning. The high growth puts a strain on our infrastructure and forces upgrades much earlier than was planned for. It also puts additional financial and service delivery strain on councils.

We have advocated to the Tasmanian Government that it needs to initiate and lead discussions with councils on the significance of Tasmania's recent growth. There has been some recognition, but limited action.

The Tasmanian Government has initiated Refreshing Tasmania's Population Strategy⁵ and is inviting submissions. This is a good start. It is also progressing the phase two planning reforms, particularly the Tasmanian Planning Policies and Regional Land Use Strategies, which will be a significant step in supporting councils with the growth management task.

Councils must have all the tools needed to deal with this unprecedented population increase. We have seen no material progress on the recommendations of the government's excellent Toward Infill Housing Development Report⁶. We are still waiting on progress of the Medium Density Residential Development Standards Project⁷ that would help deliver clarity and certainty in delivering a greater diversity of housing products to the market. The Tasmanian Government has not yet fully understood the importance of a complete infrastructure contributions framework supports infrastructure planning and activates development⁸.

We will continue to press the Tasmanian Government to demonstrate leadership in supporting councils to cater for the intense level of growth that they are experiencing.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2023 Annual Priority

- Local government reform
- Planning

⁵ See: https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/policies_and_strategies/populationstrategy/refreshingstrategy

⁶ Report available here:

https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/216172/Toward_Infill_Housing_Development.pdf

⁷ See: <https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/updates/creating-consistent-standards-for-apartments-medium-density-residential-development-standards-project>

⁸ Refer to LGAT's Infrastructure Contributions Discussion Paper:

https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/1139691/LGAT-Infrastructure-Contributions-Discussion-Paper-11-April-2022.pdf

4.2 PLANNING REFORM UPDATE

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the update on the progress of planning reforms.

Background

The Tasmanian Government’s planning reforms continue to progress. There are four major areas of work:

1. Preparation of the Tasmanian Planning Policies.
2. Review of the Regional Planning Framework.
3. Review of the Regional Land Use Strategies (RLUSs).
4. Review of the State Planning Provisions.

Since the December 2023 general meeting update, LGAT and councils have made submissions to the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies. In LGAT’s submission⁹, we:

- Acknowledged the State Planning Office (SPO) incorporating much of our previous feedback, particularly on climate change and growth management.
- Highlighted the overwhelming support for government efforts to fill the strategic gap in Tasmania’s planning system with the TPPs.
- Raised issues to do with document accessibility, implementation, and over prescription, among other issues.
- Raised serious concerns of the sector around insufficient consultation with the primary implementors of Tasmania’s planning system, being councils.

The SPO has acted swiftly in responding to our, and the sector’s, concerns around consultation and immediately scheduled further detailed workshops with council planning experts. This responsiveness is good to see and very welcome.

The SPO has also released a Regional Planning Framework Discussion Paper and draft Structure Plan Guidelines for consultation. These are important components for the development and implementation of the RLUSs. The SPO delivered an online information session, with details available at the Planning in Tasmania website¹⁰.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

⁹ See: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/1266447/LGAT-Submission-Draft-Tasmanian-Planning-Policies-2022.pdf

¹⁰ See: <https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/planning-reforms-and-reviews/regional-planning-framework>

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2023 Annual Priority

- Planning

4.3 ROAD MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION REVIEW

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the initiation of the Department of State Growth’s Road Management Legislation Review (RMLR).

Background

The Tasmanian Government has initiated a review of Tasmania’s road management legislation¹¹. The review is primarily looking at:

- *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*
- *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*
- *Highways Act 1951*.

The review is not looking more broadly at road user legislation, such as registration, licencing, road safety and public transport.

The Review is led by the Department of State Growth (DSG) with the intention to:

- Modernise the framework to make it easier to manage.
- Clarify responsibility for road management functions.
- Cut red tape for road management.
- Provide for the future of Tasmania’s roads, including for alternative and emerging transport modes.

Councils have been calling for a review of road management legislation for some time, to rationalise and consolidate the road management legislation. Modernisation of the suite of road management legislation is sorely needed given its age, some parts nearly 90 years old.

¹¹ Review:

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/projectsplanning/plans_strategies_and_policies/road_management_legislation_review

We are encouraged by the consultation approach of DSG, with three regional workshops with local government road managers. DSG is using the results of this consultation to develop a discussion paper outlining the issues, to be released in early May 2023.

DSG has acknowledged the Future of Local Government Review and other road and infrastructure related reviews and consultations underway with competing workload and inter-related issues. It is responding by timing engagement work in less intense periods of the year. This consideration is highly appreciated.

Councils are urged to support their road management staff in engaging with this review to improve the system of road management in Tasmania.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
- Governance and operations

2023 Annual Priority

- Local government reform

4.4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Contact Officer – Bec Stevenson

That Members note the update on emergency management.

Background

LGAT continues to engage with the State Government on emergency management issues of importance for local government, including several reviews underway.

Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements Review

In June 2022, the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) Review Project commenced. The *Emergency Management Act 2006* requires that the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) review the TEMA and State Special Emergency Management Plans at least once every two years. The TEMA is the guiding document outlining the emergency management arrangements in Tasmania.

We have made two submissions on behalf of the sector; [Issue 2](#) and [Issue 3](#), and have met with the project manager undertaking the review to discuss the LGAT submissions. The finalisation of the TEMA is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

Fire Services Act Review

After six years of comprehensive reviews and public consultation the Tasmanian Government [announced](#) on the 24 January 2023 that it would:

- Merge the Tasmania Fire Service and the State Emergency Services to become the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service (TFES).
- The State Fire Commission will become the State Fire and Emergency Services Committee, allowing the membership to grow and include representatives from SES and other key stakeholders.

These changes will be effected through new legislation - the *Fire and Emergency Services Act*, that will replace the *Fire Services Act 1979*. A reform project team is being established to implement recommendations endorsed by government and work with key stakeholders to inform the development of a Draft Bill. Local government has been confirmed as a key stakeholder in the project and appropriate engagement has been assured as the reform progresses.

State Special Emergency Management Plan – State Recovery Plan

The first issue of the State Recovery Plan (the Plan) was produced in 2012 and was substantially redrafted in 2018, following a review of Tasmania’s structural recovery arrangements. The Plan was due to be reviewed in 2020, in accordance with the statutory review timeframes in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. However, this was deferred until 2023 due to the prioritisation of work and resources to support the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The review is expected to commence in early 2023 and will be led by Resilience and Recovery Tasmania within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Comprehensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including councils and LGAT, will be completed by mid-2023.

A draft Plan will be provided to the State Recovery Committee for approval by September 2023, with view to submitting it to SEMC for endorsement in December 2023.

Disaster Ready Fund

The Australian Government [announced](#) on the 10 January 2023 the establishment of the [Disaster Ready Fund](#) (DRF). Up to \$200 million is available next financial year for state and territory governments, in partnership with local government and businesses, for projects that will support communities to reduce risks and better prepare for future floods, cyclones, bushfires, storm surges and other disasters.

Recovery and Resilience Tasmania is the lead agency for Tasmania. A number of councils nominated projects for consideration and LGAT represented the sector on the application evaluation panel, that has now finalised its recommended projects to the Australian Government. The short timeframes that hampered local government participation are being raised by the Australian Local Government Association with the Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Senator the Hon. Murray Watt.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2023 Annual Priority

- Emergency management

4.5 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That Members note the following update on procurement support to councils.

Background

The LGAT Procurement business plan for sustainable and progressive growth articulates a clear path to an improved procurement service for local government.

Implementation of year one initiatives are progressing well as outlined below.

LGAT Procurement Reference Group

The first meeting of the LGAT Procurement Reference Group was held in November. Members of the Reference Group include three representatives from councils from each region. The agenda included testing our initial scoping of procurement professional development options to ensure they support the current and future needs of Tasmanian councils.

The next meeting will look at our project plan for establishing a set of construction-based panel contracts, specific to Tasmania when the current arrangement expires in June 2024. This relates to the opportunity identified by the Local Government Board for better consolidation/coordination of council civil works contracting.

LGAT Procurement Training

LGAT Procurement is working to put in place a procurement training program focused on local government and the essential skills and knowledge that council officers require.

A pilot program will be delivered towards the end of March/early April, testing course content and delivery methods, and will be reviewed to determine next steps.

Business Development Manager

Our new Business Development Manager, Will Coats (william.coats@lgat.tas.gov.au) joined the LGAT Procurement team in January. Will's role is to raise awareness and provide support to councils in the use of the services available through LGAT Procurement, so will be in touch in the coming weeks.

Panel Criteria

We have established criteria to assist us in determining which of our current contracts make sense for us to retire versus continue offering councils. The criteria will also inform the contracts we develop in collaboration with councils moving forward.

Council use of LGAT Procurement Services – Financial Year to date

Council use of LGAT Procurement Services continues to grow. In addition to the continued growth in the use of fleet, mobile garbage bins, ICT and plant panels, councils are now taking advantage of the new open spaces, parks, sport and recreation panel arrangement, supporting a streamlined procurement process for investment in playgrounds and recreation precincts. It is also pleasing to see that councils are now utilising the Road, Water, Sewerage and Civil Works arrangement for infrastructure projects.

Budget Implications

As part of LGAT Procurement's future operations, two additional staff will be required to support the delivery of the new initiatives. The business model for delivering an expanded service is estimated to become self-sustaining within three years of implementation.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector Services

2023 Annual Priority

- LGAT Procurement

4.6 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

That Members note the update on Health and Wellbeing project.

Background

The five-year Local Government Community Health and Wellbeing Project, funded by the Public Health Service (PHS), concluded in December 2022. The project has enabled LGAT to support councils' valuable work to improve community health and wellbeing. For the last two years the emphasis has been on promoting the significant and essential work that councils already do and advocating for appropriate acknowledgment and funding. This has been recognised in the *Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan 2022-26* (Healthy Tasmania)

Lift Local

The new Lift Local program is a continuation of the collaboration between LGAT and PHS. Developing a network across all councils that will facilitate tailored professional learning support for councils for three years from 2023 is a core purpose of the program.

This new model is based on feedback from councils, in particular the view that the Department of Health's grant funding model had to change. The Healthy Tasmania grant funding includes the Lift Local program with \$20,000 available to each council this year. This is not competitive, with the purpose of the funding to be decided by each council's view of what health and wellbeing priority is most relevant to their community.

Twenty-eight councils have provided initial project ideas, and these will be further developed in March workshops. Plans required for the funding will be designed by individual councils around their own community priorities and resources. Building local community engagement and support in developing council officers shared skills will be important approaches in building place-based sustainable improvement.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources, supported by funding from PHS.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
-

2023 Annual Priority

- Health and wellbeing

4.7 CLOSING THE GAP

Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

That Members note the update on Closing the Gap.

Background

The December 2022 General Meeting update¹² provides a useful background to this matter. The local government opportunities to engage in Australian and Tasmanian Government Aboriginal policies and programs are increasing. These include, with relevant weblinks:

- Closing the Gap - [Communities Tasmania - Closing the Gap.](#)
- The Pathway to Treaty and Truth Telling – [Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty 251121.pdf \(communities.tas.gov.au\).](#)
- Indigenous Voice Co-design Process - [Home | Indigenous Voice \(niaa.gov.au\).](#)

Tasmanian Local Government Aboriginal Audit

General Managers were provided with the Tasmanian Local Government Aboriginal Audit Report 2022 in January by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Mathew Healey, the Executive Director, from the Office of Local Government (OLG), noted in his email that councils will be contacted in the coming months about a sector-wide discussion on progressing the Audit Report in conjunction with the LGAT. He suggested that the Audit Report be shared within councils and that consideration be given to how the information can be used to inform existing and future partnerships and identify, inform and establish priority work aligned to the Implementation Plan.

LGAT will continue to collaborate with OLG and work with councils on deciding the most appropriate and effective ways to address the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2023 Annual Priority

- Health and wellbeing

¹² Available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/1251912/8-Dec-22-General-Meeting-Agenda-and-Attachments.pdf

4.8 POLICY UPDATE

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Decision Sought

That Members note the update the update on a range of policy matters.

Tasmania Regional Drought Resilience Project

Work on the Tasmanian Regional Drought Resilience Project, which commenced in 2021, has recently recommenced. The Australian Government is working with the state and territory governments to support regions to develop regional drought resilience plans to prepare for, and manage future, drought risks. The plans will focus on innovative ways to build regional drought resilience across the agricultural sector and supporting industries, through a triple bottom line, collaborative and evidence-based approach.

The project is being managed by DPAC with funding provided from the Federal Government of \$1.6 million and a Tasmanian Government co-contribution of 50 per cent (cash and in-kind support).

A Steering Committee for the Rural Drought Resilience Planning Project has been formed and is constituted by representatives from state and local government, regional development, not for profit, environment and community sectors. LGAT will represent the sector on the Steering Committee.

Child and Youth Safe Organisations Bill Framework

LGAT and several council representatives met with the Office of Local Government (OLG) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) in December 2022 to discuss the implications for local government of the draft Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework.

LGAT and council representatives have expressed concerns about the potential impact of requirements in the draft Framework. LGAT has shared these concerns directly with the DoJ and with the OLG. The OLG is supportive of local government's perspective and understands the sector's capacity. We understand that the DoJ is working to provide further information to explain how the draft Framework, including the standards and reportable conduct scheme, will impact upon councils. LGAT will continue to work with the OLG to make sure they answer questions that the councils might have.

The draft Bill is available at [Tasmanian Parliament website](#).

Asbestos

Asbestos continues to impact the health of too many Australians, with an astounding 4,000 people dying each year from past exposure to asbestos. Many public buildings, homes and

other infrastructure contain aging asbestos-containing materials (ACM). These pose an increasing risk as the material binding them degrades.

To support its management and, wherever possible, eradication, the Australian Government agency, the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) is reviewing its [National Strategic Plan](#). To support the national plan, and safety of Tasmanians, a new Asbestos Coordination Group has been formed to bring together key State Government agencies and LGAT on behalf of local government. Councils are important in asbestos management, having functions across environmental health, building, waste management and illegal dumping, recovery from emergencies and managing facilities with ACM.

ASEA has also produced a Guide and quick reference to help councils address illegal and inappropriate disposal of asbestos. This can be downloaded [here](#). Our expectation is that EPA's new illegal dumping resources will target asbestos given the risk it poses to the community.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2023 Annual Priority

- Waste and resource recovery
- Climate change
- Emergency management
- Health and wellbeing

4.9 REGIONAL TOWNS CCTV PROJECT

Contact Officer – Wade Berry

Decision Sought

That Members note the update on the Regional Towns CCTV project.

Background

As noted in the December General Meeting Agenda¹, LGAT has commenced a \$4 million program, funded by the Tasmanian Government to deploy closed circuit security cameras (CCTV) into regional towns.

Invitations to participate have been sent to all 29 Councils via General Managers. Thirteen councils to date have expressed an interest in being part of the project. We have directly engaged all interested councils, including reviewing existing CCTV and server infrastructure, meetings and briefings with key infrastructure and IT staff.

Tasmania Police have now fully committed to supporting the project. We are meeting with District Commanders and Inspectors to discuss the key requirements of this project. Tasmania Police will assist with project guidance at a statewide level, as well as provide local input into the identification of key CCTV sites.

Preliminary design of systems is underway, with the review of requirements for a consistent statewide CCTV hardware and software delivery. The design emphasises existing assets, where councils have invested in suitable infrastructure. The Request for Quotation has recently closed for appropriate skilled contractors on LGAT Procurement's Panel agreements for Specialist Support and Proof of Concept - Review, Design and Construct contracts.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken with external grant funds.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector services

2023 Annual Priority

- Sector development

4.10 EVENTS OVERVIEW

Contact Officer - Carly Hay

Decision Sought

That Members note the report of recent and future events.

Background

LGAT has provided a range of professional development event offerings within the quarter. The following provides a summary of recent and upcoming events.

Annual Conference

The 2022 LGAT Annual Conference was held on 8-9 December 2022 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. The two-day event provided attendees with opportunities for networking and professional development.

In comparison to the 2021 conference, the 2022 event was slightly reduced in terms of sponsors, which was done to ensure delegates and sponsors got the most out of the event with time to speak to all trade.

This year LGAT also included a social activity which saw attendees try a local whisky tasting before the Annual Conference dinner, this received great feedback and similar offerings will be considered in 2023.

The two-day event had 113 attendees excluding speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors. The majority of attendees were elected representatives. 125 attendees celebrated at the LGAT annual conference dinner. The popular Coffee Corner made \$1,096 and LGAT increased this to \$1,400 for the 2022 charity, St Vincent De Paul's Tasmanian Homelessness Appeal.

Feedback – Delegates

We invited feedback from delegates following the conference.

Feedback from delegates indicated that:

- Overall, the average rating for the 2022 annual conference 3.63 out of 5.00, with 57 percent rating the event either very good or excellent.
- Delegates rated the coordination and management from LGAT 4.38 out of 5.00, with 81 percent rating this either very good or excellent.
- Delegates favorite parts of the conference were: networking with colleagues from across the state, the annual conference dinner, the breakout workshops and keynote speakers, Thomas Mayo, ALGA President Linda Scott, and Tony Jones.
- Other topics of interest for the future include meeting procedure or code of conduct workshops, information on dealing with social media, understanding more around how councils can work together and how to handle challenges. A number of these topics will be picked up through elected member professional development sessions held through 2023.
- Delegates noted that for the 2023 annual conference LGAT can improve on: timing of the event including starting day one earlier and finishing day two at lunchtime, including somewhere where new councilors can ask questions of re-elected councilors, more practical sessions and potentially having facilitated discussions with councils together.

Mayors Workshop

A condensed Mayor's Workshop was held on 7 December, the day before the Annual Conference and General Meeting, at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

The session was a brief three hours, which included a presentation and question and answer session with David Morris, followed by a roundtable discussion and a casual networking dinner.

There will be an upcoming Mayor's Workshop on 16 March at the Hotel Verge which will feature media training with Timmins Ray, an update from Mat Healy, Director of Local Government, and the mayoral roundtable.

Induction Day

The induction day was held on 26 November 2023 at the Tramsheds in Launceston. The event saw 84 attendees, including 58 newly elected representatives, come together to hear from a variety of speakers including:

- Dion Lester on roles and functions of councillors and when acting as a planning authority.
- Paul Jackson from the City of Hobart with tips and traps in council meetings.
- Michael Stretton from the City of Launceston providing a Chief Executive Officer's perspective on being an effective councillor.
- Mat Healy, Director of Local Government provided an update on the Future of Local Government Review and the role of the Office of Local Government.

This event was a great way for new councillors to become familiar with their role through professional development as well as providing an opportunity to network.

Elected Representatives Learning and Development

The governance group for the Local Government Learning and Development Framework, recently met to progress the framework to support elected representatives in gaining and maintaining the skills and knowledge to do their job well. Following an expression of interest process run by LGAT last year, the group comprises six members:

- Mathew Healey, Director of Local Government (Chair)
- Mayor Paula Wriedt, Kingborough Council
- Mayor Mary Duniam, Waratah-Wynyard Council
- Ben Morris, Policy Director, LGAT
- John Brown, General Manager, Break O'Day Council
- Paul Jackson, Manager Legal and Governance, City of Hobart.

LGAT will be running our first learning event for 2023 on councillors’ role as Planning Authority. This will also include an afternoon session on managing growth. We will be running two sessions to allow elected representatives from around the state to attend:

- Hobart – 5 April 2023, 10am to 4pm.
- Devonport – 28 April 2023, 10am to 4pm.

The topics for day include:

- Understanding how the components of the Tasmanian Planning System work together.
- Understanding how the role of a councillor and as a planning authority are different.
- How to participate in a planning authority meeting and comply with relevant legislation, including pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and meeting procedures.
- Insights into Tasmania’s population and demographic changes and trends, and what this means for councils, communities, and the state more broadly.
- Managing and understanding the changing identity and demographics of neighbourhoods, engaging communities and realise the benefits of growth.
- What infrastructure contributions are, how they work and how they can help councils to support and fund infrastructure as communities change.

To register for one of the sessions please visit our [events page](#).

We are developing our slate of 2023 learning and development sessions that will cover the topics such as:

- Meeting procedures and effective council culture.
- Strategy and monitoring performance.
- Financial and risk management.
- Ethics, building positive relationships, community consultation.

We will provide councils with further details. Individual elected representatives and officers can also subscribe to our Events and Training newsletter [here](#).

2023 Events

Event	Date	Venue
Mayor’s Workshop	16 March	Hotel Verge, Launceston
General Meeting/GMC	17 March	Tramsheds, Launceston
Elected Representative professional development: Council as Planning Authority – statutory and strategic roles	5 April	Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

Event	Date	Venue
Elected Representative professional development: Council as Planning Authority – statutory and strategic roles	28 April	Paranaple, Devonport
General Managers Workshop	30, 31 May	TBD, Regional
AGM/General Meeting	30 June	TBD, Hobart
Elected Representatives Forum	1 July	TBD, Hobart
General Managers Workshop	29, 30 August	TBD, Hobart
Mayor’s Workshop	4 October	TBD, Devonport
2023 Annual Conference	1, 2 November	Paranaple, Devonport

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector services

2023 Annual Priority

- Sector development

4.11 ANNUAL PLAN *

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Decision Sought

That Members note the report against the Annual Plan.

Background

An **Attachment to Item 4.15** is a copy of the LGAT Annual Plan and progress to date.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE



Local Government Association Tasmania

General Meeting

Minutes

8 December 2022

Grand Chancellor Hotel
Hobart

326 Macquarie Street,
GPO Box 1521, Hobart, Tas 7000
Phone: (03) 6146 3740
Email: admin@lgat.tas.gov.au
Home Page: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au>

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

13. WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) 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 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) 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.

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* Denotes Attachment



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 10.30** **Coffee on arrival**
- 11.00** **Meeting Commences**
The Hon Nic Street MP
Minister for Local Government
- 1.00** **Meeting concludes/Lunch**



1. GOVERNANCE

Acknowledgement of Country

The President will acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land.

The President welcomed members and declared the meeting at 11.25am.

Welcome and Apologies

Mayor Leigh Gray	Brighton Council
Mr Simon Overland	Burnie City Council
Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds	City of Hobart
Ms Kelly Grigsby	City of Hobart
Mayor Danny Gibson	City of Launceston
Mr Michael Stretton	City of Launceston
Mr Matthew Atkins	Devonport City Council
Mayor Greg Kieser	George Town Council
Mr Gerald Monson	Latrobe Council/Kentish Council
Ms Kate Mauric	King Island Council
Mayor Wayne Johnston	Meander Valley Council
Mr John Jordan	Meander Valley Council
Mr Robert Higgins	Sorell Council
Mr David Midson	West Coast Council

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Glenorchy City Council/Break O' Day Council

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2022, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 16 September 2022, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Glenorchy City Council/Break O’Day Council

That Members note the information.

Carried

Background:

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

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Glenorchy City Council/Break O’Day Council

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

Carried

Background:

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

1.4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Glenorchy City Council/Break O’Day Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background:

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

1.5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Glenorchy City Council/Break O'Day Council

That Members note the report on the President's activity from 9 August to 18 November 2022.

Carried

Meetings and events

September General Meeting and GMC meeting
ALGA Board Meetings
National Roads Congress, including welcome and session MC

Media and correspondence

LGAT News Articles
Local government subsidising health services - ABC radio interview statewide

Code of conduct

- Media query (multiple)
- Newspaper article – The Mercury, Advocate & Examiner
- Radio & TV interview statewide (multiple)

Compulsory voting

- Radio interview statewide (multiple)
- TV interview (multiple)

Local government elections – diversity of candidates

- Radio interview statewide (multiple)
- TV interview (multiple)

Local government elections - Concern that Tasmanians don't understand voting is by post and compulsory

- Radio interview statewide (multiple)
- TV interview (multiple)

Local government elections - Post-election

- Radio interview statewide (multiple)
- TV interview (multiple)

Candidate behaviour

- Media query (multiple)
- Newspaper article – The Mercury, Advocate & Examiner
- Radio & TV interview statewide (multiple)

LGAT Awards presented to councillors - Newspaper article, The Advocate

Local government review – Radio interview statewide (multiple)

ALGA to put local government jobs on national agenda - Radio interview

1.6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Glenorchy City Council/Break O'Day Council

That Members note the report on the CEO's activity from 9 August to 18 November 2022.

Carried

Advocacy

In the period since my last report our advocacy focus has continued to be on making sure the Future of Local Government Review maintains appropriate engagement with our sector alongside ensuring they are gathering and utilising appropriate and contemporary data to inform their investigations.

We have maintained our efforts in the key advocacy areas of waste and resource recovery, planning and housing, and the Code of Conduct Framework.

While the implementation of the statewide waste levy has gone well so far, our advocacy has continued to ensure the regional waste authorities are appropriately supported.

We are at a critical stage of the planning reform agenda with the final draft of the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) imminent and the review of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) commencing. Our submission on the latter highlighted the following key points from council feedback:

1. To consider a limited SPPs review now to focus on strategic reforms, such as the TPPs and Regional Strategies.
2. To separate SPPs review priorities into discrete projects that are progressively implemented.

3. The major issues for review are:
 - a. critical operational issues
 - b. infrastructure contributions
 - c. stormwater code
 - d. emerging economic opportunities requiring recognition.

The State Government continues with a suite of activities aimed at improving Tasmania's housing crisis. Amongst these we have been participating in the development of the Housing Strategy and the Minister's Housing Reference Group to ensure local governments perspective is captured and that our planning processes do not become the scapegoat for housing supply issues, as is the tendency.

August also saw the long awaited release of the draft *Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022*. While broadly our sector supported the proposed changes, a number of councils commented on the need to include more significant sanctions for more significant breaches of governance standards, serious cultural issues, or loss of public confidence in local government. Frequent comment was also made on the ability of the proposed changes to deal with frivolous, vexatious and trivial complaints. The Bill, which was recently introduced to Parliament, only goes part way at addressing the highlighted issues. We expect that implementation of the recommendations from the workplace health and safety review of elected representatives (see separate agenda item) will further improve the overall framework for supporting a positive culture in local government.

Sector Services

Our sector support activities over the past few months have centered around promoting the local government elections. Initially this was via the successful "want a seat at the table" campaign and then encouraging the community to vote and also ensuring the Government and Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) were investing sufficient resources to inform the community that the elections were compulsory. It is fair to say that the initial efforts of the TEC were not sufficient to get the message out. However, we successfully advocated for an additional investment from the Government to broaden the promotional campaign in the last few weeks of the election, which was ultimately successful with a return rate of almost 85% being achieved.

In addition to promoting the elections, there has been substantial work in supporting councils via both candidate sessions and also the production of councilor and mayoral handbooks to support their induction and ongoing education.

Governance and operations

The past quarter has involved the Australian Local Government Association CEO and Board Meetings and most recently the National Roads Congress, held in Hobart. In addition, I presented at the Local Government Professionals Annual Conference and we recently ran a very successful General Managers workshop.

Initial scoping work commenced on a customer relationship management system for LGAT to enable us to track and enhance our engagement with the sector and work continued on improving our business processes to streamline operations.

On the staff front we have seen the departure of two staff, our Project Officer, James Francis-Smith, who has moved across the Office of Local Government and Christine Agostinelli, who has been with LGAT for 21 years and will be sadly missed. Recruitment is underway for both positions.

Media

Local government subsidising health services media query – The Mercury, Huon Valley Gazette

Councillor's missing meetings media query

Code of conduct media query (multiple) and newspaper article – The Mercury, Advocate & Examiner

Compulsory voting

- Media query (multiple)
- Newspaper article (multiple) – The Mercury, Advocate & Examiner
- Community newspapers (numerous statewide)

Local government elections – diversity of candidates

- Newspaper article (multiple) – The Mercury, Advocate & Examiner
- Community newspapers (numerous statewide)
- Media release – Equity Tas (combined)

Local government elections media query The Advocate - voting outside your area

Education tools for councillors - media release, media query

Corporations given extra vote - media query

What do councillors do - media query

State Government policy partnership - newspaper article (multiple) – The Mercury, Advocate & Examiner

Road quality and safety

- Radio interview RACT working with LGAT to raise concerns and a review for the government about the quality of new roads
- Media query on the maintenance of state roads – The Examiner

1.7 COUNCIL ROUND UPS

Glenorchy City Council/Break O’Day Council

That Members note there will not be a council round up this meeting.

Carried

Background

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 LGAT GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CASUAL VACANCY

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Kingborough Council

That Members endorse the extension of the term of the GMC representative from the Northwest electoral district (population greater than 20,000) from when elected until June 2025.

Carried

Background

Following the 2022 local government elections there have been two GMC casual vacancies - Annette Rockcliff (Northwest electoral district with a population greater than 20,000) and Alex Green (Southern electoral district with a population less than 20,000).

The LGAT Rules (clause 21 (d)) indicate that *“A casual vacancy on the General Management Committee shall be filled as soon as practicable by the conduct of a by-election in accordance with Rule 20.”*

There is an ordinary GMC election scheduled for next year, with the call for nominations likely to be in early March.

This timing causes challenges, as anyone elected in a by-election would be subject to another election immediately on taking office and also face the potential of only having a term of 4 months (March – July).

Typically, in circumstances such as this, the relevant proxy assumes the GMC membership for the remainder of the term of GMC. Kelly Spaulding, Tasman Council, is the proxy for the Southern electoral district (population less than 20,000) and has agreed to take the role. However, the Northwest electoral district (population greater than 20,000) proxy was Jan Bonde, who retired at the local government elections, leaving this position vacant. There are two councils in this electoral district – Devonport and Central Coast.

At its September meeting, the GMC determined to conduct a by-election for the vacant Northwest electoral district this year.

In recognition of the overlap between the by-election and the ordinary GMC election, Member endorsement is sought to extend the term of the successful candidate in the by-election until July 2025, pursuant to clause 21 (c) of the LGAT Rules, which states:

“The term of office of the General Management Committee may be extended by any Meeting of the Association for such periods as it determines.”

This allows LGAT to conduct a by-election for the casual vacancy, commencing in December, for the current casual vacancy, with the GMC elections proper for the remaining positions to commence in March. All elected members will complete their two year term in June 2025.

An extension to an individual GMC members’ term under these circumstances has precedent. In December 2016 the term of Tony Bisdee was extended following his by-election to fill a casual vacancy.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Governance and operations

2.2 WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY REVIEW OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Break O’Day Council/George Town Council

That Members receive and note the Work Health and Safety Review – Elected Representatives and that the General Management Committee will review the recommendations and prepare an implementation plan for consideration at the General Meeting in March 2023.

Background

At the August 2021 General Meeting members resolved that:

The Tasmanian local government sector confirms its commitment to ensuring a safe workplace for elected representatives and staff and, that LGAT calls on the State Government to commission a review of the workplace health and safety of the Local Government sector for elected representatives.

Discussions with the State Government resulted in agreement for the Office of Local Government to fund the engagement of a suitably qualified consultant to undertake the review, with LGAT to manage the work.

Edge Legal were awarded the review following a competitive tender process. The full terms of reference are available on the LGAT Member Portal under “Elected reps governance”.

Broadly the engagement involved:

- A State-wide online survey document able to be answered anonymously by elected representatives, senior staff and relevant regulators.
- One on one confidential interviews (by request and invitation) of elected representatives, senior staff and relevant regulators.
- Inviting written submissions from elected representatives, senior staff and relevant regulators.
- A review of the current regulatory environment in Tasmania and other relevant jurisdictions.
- Written feedback on the draft report from all participants and the broader sector.

Edge Legal has produced the following deliverables as part of their work:

- an Executive Summary of the review, including all recommendations
- the full report
- stand alone reports on council, elected representatives and council staff responsibilities under the various legislative instruments (e.g. WH&S, Code of Conduct, Anti-Discrimination Act etc.)
- a statewide assessment of the health and safety hazards to elected representatives and appropriate risk mitigation actions (pursuant to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*) that can be taken by individual councils, depending on local circumstances’.

Each of these documents is available on the LGAT Member Portal under “Elected reps governance”. The Executive Summary is also included at **Attachment to Item 2.2**, with the full suite of recommendation outlined in detail from page 8 to 14.

Member endorsement of the recommendations is sought to allow LGAT to prepare an implementation plan for the work in 2023.

A summary of the recommendations is included below.

1. Legislation

- 1.1 If any current initiatives to ensure a more comprehensive Model Code of Conduct are not achieved, include a requirement to have a Behavioural Management Policy and optional Behavioural Support Policy (similar to the current SA Framework).¹
- 1.2 Amend Part 12B of Local Govt Act (Performance Improvement Directions) to broaden the application upon which a Director can make recommendations including a breach of the WHS Act, referral from GM/ CEO or Mayor; or not meeting the Director's assessment of "not acting in the best interest of the Community".
- 1.3 Amend Local Govt Act to permit removal of an Elected Representative from office by Minister (upon recommendation of the Director) for matters more currently recognised as not meeting contemporary community standards.
- 1.4 Include provisions in the Local Govt Act similar to allow those disrupting public meetings to be removed by the GM/ CEO and/or Mayor and with the potential to ban persons from future attendance.
- 1.5 Amend Integrity Commission Act to allow Integrity Commissioner to refer minor matters or matters, that in the opinion of the Integrity Commissioner would be more appropriately dealt with by another body, to Council or the Code of Conduct Panel to deal with at the triage stage.

2. Code of Conduct

- 2.1 Amend s.28Y to allow the initial assessment² to be conducted by an expert (with expertise in behaviour and local government related matters) and/ or independent a Respectful Conduct Advisor appointed by GM/ CEO.
- 2.2 Permit Respectful Conduct Advisor to assess the matters as either:
 - a) frivolous, vexatious or without reasonable foundation;
 - b) minor breach; or
 - c) serious breach.
- 2.3 Amend s.28ZA to allow Chairperson to have reference to the Respectful Conduct Advisor's assessment.
- 2.4 Have separate processes for the Code of Conduct Panel to conduct investigations for minor and serious breaches.
- 2.5 Allow Code of Conduct Panel to impose 'without fault' restrictions (up to and including suspension) upon Elected Representatives whilst investigating serious breaches.
- 2.6 Strengthen sanctions for serious breaches – no requirement for 3 suspensions before removal of office is considered.

¹ The Government initially agreed to do this but rescinded after consultation on the draft Bill. Feedback received suggested that a comprehensive Code of Conduct is the preferred option. The Government will introduce a new mandatory Code of Conduct for all Councils.

² Noting that the processes that Government has suggested could be further supported by such an additional assessment.

- 2.7 Allow Code of Conduct Panel to impose suspensions until training orders have been complied with.
- 2.8 Allow Code of Conduct Panel to determine breaches of matters already subject to training orders to be serious breaches.
- 2.9 Amend Model Code of Conduct to include additional matters as set out in Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (Vic) Schedule 1 – Standards of Conduct.
- 2.10 Confirm regulatory intent of the Model Code of Conduct is to promote and protect psychosocial safety.
- 2.11 Allow Code of Conduct Panel to provide permitted disclosures during the process to avoid ‘silence’ being used to ‘weaponise’ the process by preventing an Elected Representative who is responding to a complaint to declare their innocence and/or outline a basic summary of their defence.
- 2.12 Amend s.28ZN to allow a Code of Conduct Panel to award costs against either party or both.³
- 2.13 Change the “prescribed period” in s.28ZL(1) to be over the life of an Elected Representative’s tenure – not just limited to consecutive terms.
- 2.14 Allow automatic removal of an Elected Representative without requiring Ministerial discretion in s.28ZL(3), after 3 suspensions.
- 2.15 Introduce specific statutory protection for complainants and witnesses generally similar to the intent of those contained Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002.

3. Third Party Framework

- 3.1 LGAT to coordinate with The Office of Local Government, Equal Opportunity Tasmania, Integrity Commission and WorkSafe Tasmania to review the status quo/ improvements in relation to behavioural management and publish annual results for the industry.
- 3.2 LGAT (from the information above) provide clear guidance materials to Chair of Code of Conduct Panel.
- 3.3 LGAT (from the information above and direct information from Councils direct) to publish statistics on matters to demonstrate appropriate monitoring (eg due diligence) within the industry.
- 3.4 Independent Respectful Conduct Advisor position, with terms of reference, be created to assist GMs/ CEOs and the Mayor deal with behavioural matters informally and within Council.
- 3.5 Create standardised behavioural monitoring templates for Council to record and provide their behavioural management statistics to LGAT to publicly publish.

³ To be considered as part of TASCAT feasibility study.

- 3.6 LGAT provide industry-wide examples of “what IS” and “what is NOT” acceptable behaviour in a council context for Elected Representatives, Council staff and members of the Community.
- 3.7 LGAT create standardised policies and processes for councils to deal with unreasonable complaints or inappropriate conduct from community members.
- 3.8 Introduce industry sponsored communication to the community to confirm what the Code of Conduct process or any other behavioural management process can and can't be used for.
- 3.9 Create a community education campaign to set realistic expectations for the services Councils are able to deliver.
- 3.10 Create specific processes and expectations for Community participation in Council meetings.
- 3.11 Create standardised procedures for the conduct of meetings across the Local Government industry.
- 3.12 Implement a public Community education campaign to set behavioural expectations for the manner in which interactions with Council (Elected Representatives, GM/ CEO and Council staff) are to occur – similar to the Retail Industry campaign of “No one deserves a serve”.
- 3.13 Develop and introduce a Diversity campaign.
- 3.14 Extend EAP to Elected Representatives.
- 3.15 Extend Grievance Resolution and Workplace Behaviour Policies to Elected Representatives or create new ones voted on by Elected Representatives.
- 3.16 Councils to introduce practical measures which focus on building, maintaining and improving relationships between Elected Representatives (eg dinners, events, etc).
- 3.17 Councils to require full disclosure of any correspondence to prevent anonymous or unauthorised interactions and recommend to Elected Representatives to do the same for their personal accounts.

4. Training

- 4.1 Introduce additional training and education focused and tailored for 3 main stages of an Elected Representative's Journey - pre-election, induction; and refresher.
- 4.2 Clarify the role of GM as an officer of the PCBU with certain obligations under WHS laws which cannot be unreasonably interfered with.
- 4.3 Training for Mayors on the management of meetings and chairing meetings under the meeting regulations.
- 4.4 Introduce a requirement for qualification similar to Company Director's Course as a mandatory pre-condition for seeking election, an ongoing requirement for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to be maintained throughout the term of an Elected Representative. The CPD to have a mandatory requirement for appropriate behavioural standards.

4.5 Provide opportunities for 'one on one' coaching for Elected Representatives.

Budget Impact

This work was supported by funding from the Office of Local Government.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan Advocate

- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Local government reform
- Health and wellbeing
- Sector development

Items 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 below are motions that have been received from councils. The Summary of Motions document is included for reference at **Attachment to Item 2.3**, which provides information as included in the LGAT submission of motions form that is provided by the submitting council.

2.3 TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS * **Council – Burnie City**

Burnie City Council/Kingborough Council

That LGAT adopt a policy position that ensures that council meeting and workshop times occur at times that are conducive to and facilitate increased participation across a broader cross section of community candidates, particularly bearing in mind time constraints and commitments that would apply to those working full time, young people and those with caring responsibilities.

Lost

Background

At its meeting of 26 July 2022, Burnie City Council resolved to submit a motion to the upcoming LGAT General Meeting, asking the above policy be adopted.

The motion raises valid considerations about the practical structural barriers that might preclude the fullest range of community members from participating as councillors.

It would be counter-productive to prescribe the times at which Council meetings and Workshops should be held, as this may cause more problems than it solves. But making the

issue of structural barriers more explicit and having each Tasmanian Council consider and determine meeting times to facilitate participation and access is worthy.

The demographic make up of elected councillors across the state is often a cause for discussion. There are persisting stereotypes that Councils are not particularly representative of the demographics of the communities from which they hail. Considering and minimising structural barriers that might preclude candidates from particular demographics is one way on improving the representative make-up of Councils.

LGAT Comment

There have been no previous motions on this matter.

The *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Regulation 6 (excerpt below) details the requirements around council meeting times. Following an election, councils are required to review their meeting times, with the intention that the times determined allow equal participation of all elected members.

6. Times of meetings

- (1) A meeting is not to start before 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise determined by the council by absolute majority or by the council committee by simple majority.
- (2) After each ordinary election, a council and a council committee are to review the times of commencement of their meetings.

2.4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Kingborough Council/Burnie City Council

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through:

- a) Measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing;**
- b) Promote the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies; and**
- c) Require the development of affordable housing with the use of mandatory provisions in appropriate locations (ie, a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).**

Amendment Motion

Devonport City Council/Break O'Day Council

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through:

- a) Measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing;
- b) Promote the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies;
- c) Require the development of affordable housing with the use of mandatory provisions in appropriate locations (ie, a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).
- d) That the State Government includes provision for a minimum percentage of affordable tenancy properties available for the low socio economic community within certain sized developments

The Amended Motion was put and Lost

Amendment Motion

Dorset Council/Meander Valley Council

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, including social housing as a matter of urgency through:

- a) Measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing;
- b) Promote the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies; and
- c) Promote the development of affordable housing with the use of provisions in appropriate locations (ie, a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).

The Amended Motion was put and Lost

Amendment Motion

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That the Motion be split into three separate motions.

Carried

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing.

Carried

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through promoting the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies.

Carried

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through requiring the development of affordable housing with the use of mandatory provisions in appropriate locations (ie, a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).

Lost

Housing affordability is an increasing problem throughout Tasmania particularly for women escaping from family violence, young people and older Tasmanians. Despite this, there are currently no mechanisms in Tasmania to encourage housing affordability through the planning framework.

The land use planning framework can provide important support to promote affordable and social housing. Promoting new sources of affordable housing means encouraging provision through the private market of housing options that are more likely to meet the needs of low to moderate-income households now and in the future.

The State Government's "Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023" included the following statement:

“Action 2.2. Planning mechanisms will be reviewed to promote a greater array of housing options in new developments, including affordable housing, to determine those best suited to the specific Tasmanian regulatory, social and economic context”.

However, with just one year left of this strategy and Tasmania’s worsening housing crisis, it does not appear that much progress has been made. Opportunities to promote new sources of affordable housing through the planning system could include:

- Ensuring that the Planning Scheme contains overall planning objectives to promote affordable housing. Such objectives will provide a basis for planning authorities to encourage applications that contribute to affordable housing or housing choice within an area;
- Facilitating the supply of appropriately zoned residential land, to avoid artificial supply constraints that may affect the cost of housing, by identifying potential housing opportunities such as un-utilised or under-utilised land, areas in need of urban renewal or upgrading, or vacant sites in public ownership;
- Ensuring that zone and locality provisions are sufficiently flexible to promote new affordable housing opportunities; and
- Introducing planning incentives for diverse housing types or for affordable housing.

Some Councils in other parts of Australia have introduced requirements in their planning schemes to diversify housing forms. For example:

- Leichhardt Council enforces mandatory requirements for diverse multi-unit configurations.
- Blue Mountains Council have developed specific development controls for accessible housing, including residential care facilities, hostels, or groups of two or more self-contained units intended to be used for older people or people with a disability. These controls include requirements to ensure that such housing is fully adaptable.
- Waverley Council encourages shop top or mixed commercial/residential developments through floor space incentives.

Communities Tasmania is currently in the process of reviewing their Housing Strategy, and the State Planning Office is working on planning reforms. It is therefore considered timely to advocate for policy change to ensure that all sectors work together to improve housing choices and access to suitable and affordable homes, particularly for the most vulnerable Tasmanians.

LGAT Comment

LGAT has one related resolution on record from July 2018:

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania be requested to lobby the State Government to ensure that the State is taking sufficient measures and allocating sufficient resources to provide affordable, low cost housing, particularly in rural and outer suburban areas with transport and social services to support the same.

This resolution informed LGAT's advocacy to Tasmania's Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023.

As councils respond to the intensifying housing pressure they see in their communities, LGAT has received a significant increase in housing related issues from the sector in the last few years. Housing affordability and shortages continue to be a problem nationally and internationally, which strongly demonstrating that economic and social factors are the primary cause, rather than local land use planning.

There is a range of current reforms and policy development where we are currently advocating on housing including:

- Planning reforms and reviews⁴:
 - Phase 1 Review: State Planning Provisions Review
 - Phase 2 Reforms: Tasmanian Planning Policies and Regional Land Use Strategies update
- Tasmanian Housing Strategy⁵.

Please refer to the specific agenda paper in this meeting's agenda for further information.

2.5 REVIEW OF PROPERTY AGENTS AND LAND TRANSACTIONS ACT 2016

Council – West Tamar

West Tamar Council/Central Coast Council

That LGAT seek revisions to the Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016 to consider:

- a) Requiring a 337 Certificate prior to listing of a property and making it available as part of the sale process; and**
- b) Requiring full disclosure for properties as part of the listing process."**

Carried

⁴ See: <https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/planning-reforms-and-reviews>

⁵ See: <https://tashousingstrategy.communities.tas.gov.au/>

Background

The process of seeking the issue of a 337 Certificate as part of purchasing a property provides an effective tool in identifying a range of matters including matters relating to planning, building and plumbing. Regrettably normal practice is that a purchaser does not seek a certificate until they are about to, or already have, signed a contract meaning important information can remain unknown until the end of the process. This can and often does lead to frustration, increased costs, legal argument and ultimately delays in the process.

Requiring a 337 certificate prior to listing a property places the onus on the vendor and ensures the information is available when the property is listed for sale. This places the responsibility where it should lie and ensures a prospective purchaser is able to make a more informed decision.

Property disclosure statements exist in most states and territories in Australia and form part of the process of residential property sale. As with the responsibility described above regarding 337 certificates, it is appropriate that a property vendor be responsible for disclosing matters related to the property being listed for sale.

This is a matter which has been previously considered by government however with the recent increase in property transactions it has become apparent that it is appropriate to reconsider these suggested changes and incorporate them into Tasmanian law.

Providing this level of consumer protection has become the minimum standard expected by our communities.

LGAT Comment

A similar resolution was passed at the July 2019 General Meeting.

In January 2020 LGAT wrote to the Minister for Building and Construction, Hon Elise Archer MP. The Minister responded by noting that (emphasis added):

the matter of vendor disclosure was considered by Government as recently as 2016 and not implemented as no consensus for reform was able to be reached among stakeholders. I understand that this remains the case, however I will continue to have discussions and monitor the issue to inform any future decision in relation to the proposed reforms.

Tasmania and the Northern Territory are the only jurisdictions without mandatory disclosure, by either the seller or the property agent. The depth of disclosure varies around the country⁶. Tasmania is relatively unique in the public availability of maps⁷ of environmental hazards –

⁶ See summary: <https://propertyupdate.com.au/property-sellers-disclose/>

⁷ See: <https://alert.tas.gov.au/get-ready/risk-ready/>

bushfire, coastal erosion, coastal inundation, landslide and flood yet property buyers may not be aware of this information or not have access. Without this disclosure, property buyers may be unknowingly exposed to risks that they would otherwise avoid, with limited legal recourse even under Australian Consumer Law.⁸

The State Government may be more open to reforms than the previous attempt. For example, the Residential Building (Miscellaneous Consumer Protection Amendments) Bill 2022 is before the Parliament that is intended to strengthen consumer protections within the building industry and provide for streamlined dispute resolution for residential building work. Our submission⁹ to the bill's consultation was supportive of the consumer protections, but critical of how the reforms will impact local government.

DRAFT

⁸ See: <https://www.hopgoodganim.com.au/page/knowledge-centre/court-decision/no-relief-for-buyer-of-property-for-seller's-misleading-and-deceptive-conduct>

⁹ See: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/1192564/LG1E90~1.PDF

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There are No Items For Discussion

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – UPDATE Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on the Future of Local Government Review.

Carried

Background

Since the release of the Future of Local Government Review Interim Report on the 28 July, the Local Government Board has been undertaking a number of key activities. This has included targeted data and further information requests from councils to inform specific areas of investigation, one-on-one meetings with council Mayors and General Managers and focus group sessions across the following six priority reform areas:

- Councils' Role in the 21st Century
- Local Representation and Good Governance
- Strategic and Regional Capability
- Efficient and Effective Infrastructure and Service Delivery
- Sound and Consistent Planning and Regulatory Services
- Operational Sustainability.

Each of these priority reform areas are being considered by individual focus groups, who have now met on two occasions to review information and options provided by the Local Government Board. At the most recent series of focus group sessions a range of potential options were considered, with the groups providing information on the technical, legislative, financial, organisational benefits and issues for each of the options being explored.

The Board will be releasing an option discussion paper in early December and running engagement sessions throughout late January and February to inform their next steps. Once we have an understanding of the Board's proposed engagement, then we will develop our plan for sector sessions.

Review of Council Strategic Asset Management Plans and Practices

As part of their work, the Local Government Board has commissioned a review of council strategic asset plans and practices. At the time of writing, a report of this review has not yet been published on the Review website¹⁰, but has been distributed to General Managers and LGAT for early comment.

This work is intended to provide the Board with a better understanding of council asset management approaches and of how councils' current and future asset maintenance renewal obligations impact financial sustainability. The report produced a range of data on council financial and asset management documents that will be useful in driving sector improvement, such as through the regular Tasmanian Asset Management Group meetings collaboratively run by the Tasmanian Division of Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA Tas) and LGAT.

The report frames asset management performance as a compliance matter, rather than as a best practice achievement of a complex technical task. It also takes a sector assessment view, rather than understanding councils individually. The combination of these factors results in a report that represents individual council shortcomings as a failure of the entire sector. It overlooks successful asset management implementation and doesn't examine these for how and why they achieved success.

It is important to note that any failures could be a result of the implementation strategy, rather than the failings of a particular council. Given almost half of councils have completed the full suite of asset management documentation and many are on the way, it is not accurate to attribute this as a sector failure and it would be more appropriate to evaluate the implementation steps. This would be a learning approach that highlights to others how to achieve a successful system and can set the sector up for comprehensive implementation.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2022 Annual Priority

- Local government reform
- Sector development

¹⁰ <https://www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/publications/>

4.2 PLANNING REFORM UPDATE

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on the progress of planning reforms.

Carried

Background

The Tasmanian Government’s planning reforms continue to progress. There are four major areas of work:

1. preparation of the Tasmanian Planning Policies
2. review of the Regional Planning Framework
3. review of the Regional Land Use Strategies
4. review of the State Planning Provisions.

Since the September General Meeting update, the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies (draft TPPs) have been released. The State Planning Office (SPO) held a one hour online presentation on the draft TPPs, with a recording and transcript available on the Planning in Tasmania website¹¹.

In addition, LGAT held an online workshop with council planning professionals to delve into the detail and gather comments. The response to the draft TPPs was mixed. Councils welcomed the promise of strategic guidance in the planning system in the draft TPPs and there was an acknowledgment of the SPO’s efforts to respond to past LGAT and council submissions. Many of the points we raised in our 2021 submission to the Scope of the Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies had been incorporated or touched upon, including our suggestions around structure, addressing climate change, getting ready for growth, and supporting infrastructure contributions.

However, there were concerns that the draft TPPs are not composed in a way that helps councils constructively manage the growth task that communities are facing. Contributing to this, and more broadly, is the disappointment in the level of engagement from the SPO with no workshops or two-way engagement to inform drafting, beyond the initial scoping consultation. We will be undertaking further, focused advocacy to the SPO to encourage them undertake better two-way engagement, early in the reform process to ensure the reforms support councils’ ability to deliver on their communities’ development needs.

¹¹ See: <https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/planning-reforms-and-reviews/tasmanian-planning-policies>

The SPO has also released a summary of key issues raised in the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) Review scoping consultation¹². We hosted an online workshop with planners to help councils develop their submissions, and to inform a sector view. Our submission¹³ suggested limiting the current SPPs Review to allow focus on strategic reforms, separating the SPPs Review into several discrete projects, and a priority list of issues for review. These issues include critical operational issues, infrastructure contributions, a stormwater code, and facilitating emerging economic opportunities that are not well dealt with currently.

We continue to put pressure on the SPO through the range of reviews to ensure they have an eye to practical implementation with a continual improvement approach, and that the SPO's workload does not hinder important system-level work, such the strategic reforms of the TPPs and the updates of the regional land use strategies. The concurrent reforms are substantial tasks that require prioritisation of the aspects that will have the most impact to supporting communities.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2022 Annual Priority

- Planning

4.3 INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on infrastructure contributions advocacy.

Carried

Background

LGAT is advocating at every opportunity for a complete and fit for purpose infrastructure contributions framework for councils.

In April this year, LGAT published an infrastructure contributions discussion paper on the LGAT website¹⁴. The paper investigates the infrastructure charging approaches of other Australian

¹² See: <https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/planning-reforms-and-reviews/review-of-the-state-planning-provisions>

¹³ See: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/lgat-advocacy/reports-and-submissions>

¹⁴ See: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/media-and-publications/reports-and-submissions>

states, including New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, to inform policy development and advocacy for Tasmanian local government. The paper categorises how contributions are used to finance infrastructure and makes ten recommendations for developing a Tasmanian infrastructure contributions system:

1. A formal system of infrastructure charging: That Tasmania develop a cohesive, complete and mature infrastructure contributions framework that enables advanced-level infrastructure contributions (general charging) to be implemented.
2. Prioritise simplicity: a Tasmanian system should prioritise simplicity and usability for end users and ease of implementation.
3. Principles-based: the infrastructure contributions framework be a fairly apportioned, beneficiary pays system that enables development with the specific principles:
 - a. simple and consistent
 - b. certain and predictable
 - c. equitable and reasonable
 - d. transparent and accountable
 - e. efficient.
4. Integrated into planning legislation: the infrastructure contributions framework be integrated into the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, with supporting guidance for implementation.
5. Infrastructure planning: the infrastructure contributions framework be built upon, and integrate, infrastructure planning as the basis for charging.
6. Simple charging: consistent and simple charging methodology, supporting incremental accounting of infrastructure demand, supported through a State legislative framework.
7. Offsetting supported: land and works-in-kind contributions be supported through an offsets and refunds mechanism.
8. Local pricing control: councils be supported to implement local pricing control over charging that applies to infrastructure network managed by local government through discount policies.
9. Appeal limitations for proper planning: a Tasmanian infrastructure charging regime include efficiency and incentivisation mechanisms for participation, particularly by implementing specific limitations on appeals where a local government has undertaken robust infrastructure planning, including public consultation, to support its charging.
10. Infrastructure agreements: infrastructure contributions agreements remain supported by State legislation as a customisable mechanism for infrastructure needs that fall outside the planned infrastructure delivery of general charging.

We have presented the paper to council planners, engineers and executives at several forums, as well as at the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia Tasmania State Conference in

November 2021. LGAT encourages new councillors to read the Discussion Paper as an introduction to the state of play of infrastructure contributions in Tasmania.

We integrate infrastructure contributions into all of our planning-related submissions, such as the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) and State Planning Provisions. Some of the supporting documentation of current planning reforms now references LGAT's infrastructure contributions paper, an early indication that the outputs of the reforms will support infrastructure charging in some way.

We have presented on infrastructure contributions to the Housing Policy team of the Department of Communities. Consequently, we were invited to present on infrastructure contributions and put forward the case at the Minister's Housing Reference Group. We will also incorporate infrastructure contributions into our submission on the draft Tasmanian Housing Strategy when it is released.

As part of the Future of Local Government Review, we are also noting the vital importance of infrastructure contributions in topics related to infrastructure provision, revenue and financial sustainability.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics census data shows that Tasmania's population growth has greatly exceeded Government projections, even the highest projected levels. As a result, the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) have undertaken an out of schedule update to rebase their population projections based on this new data¹⁵. This data clearly shows the intense growth pressures that Tasmanian councils have been experiencing since at least 2017. It demonstrates the need for the Tasmanian Government to ensure councils have the tools they need to properly manage this growth, especially a robust infrastructure contributions regime.

Tasmania is the only Australian state without a framework for local government infrastructure charging built into state planning legislation. This is a serious gap that hinders Tasmania's ability to properly cater for the growth task in front of us.

We will continue to advocate for this fundamental infrastructure financing reform until it is implemented.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

¹⁵ The updated population projections can be found at: <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-data/2019-population-projections-for-tasmania-and-its-local-government-areas>

2022 Annual Priority

- Local government reform
- Planning
- Sector development

4.4 HOUSING

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council**That Members note the update on housing policy matters.****Carried****Background**

Housing continues to be an active policy area that crosses a wide range of areas of local government interests, including planning and development regulation, infrastructure provision and community wellbeing. This means that connections and integration across policy areas is critical, alongside building a coordinated response.

We have been advocating in this area and working with our interstate local government association partners for many years. LGAT is actively participating in Tasmanian Government expert panels and reference groups to inform policy development on behalf of the sector. This year this has included LGAT participating in the Tasmanian Housing Strategy expert panels and the Minister’s Housing Reference Group.

All of our submissions to the planning reforms¹⁶ address the housing crisis and point the way for solutions.

Our key messages in these forums and submissions include:

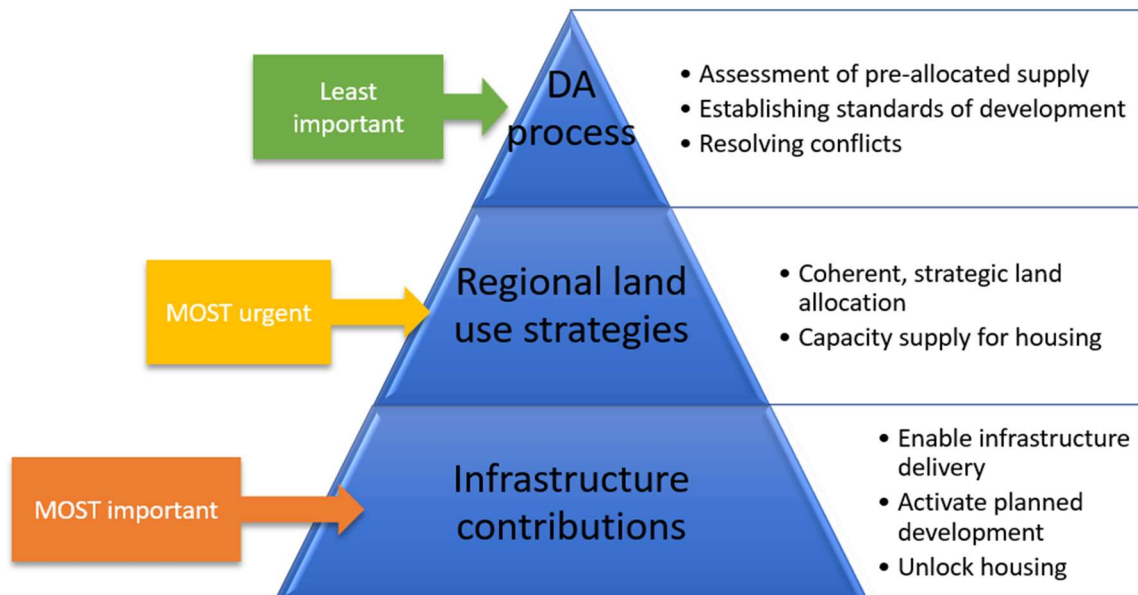
1. There is an overemphasis, and simplification, on the planning system to deliver supply-side solutions and not enough interrogation of the market conditions and nature of demand-side factors.
 - a. This leads to blaming of councils, an over-expectation of results through ‘simple’ legislative quick fixes, and a lack of real solutions that improve people’s quality of life.
 - b. Planning has a small, but important role to play in responding to our housing market crisis. There are a range of levers and tools that are available to other spheres of government for what is a social and economic problem.

¹⁶ All LGAT submissions can be found here: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/lgat-advocacy/reports-and-submissions>

2. The planning system contributions to our housing crisis in Tasmania include:
 - a. Most important – a complete framework for infrastructure contributions to properly resolve the first mover problem, deliver infrastructure solutions reliably and to activate development, particularly housing.
 - b. Most urgent – fill the strategic gap in Tasmania’s planning system by finally publishing a full set of Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs), and most critically, urgently updating the Regional Land Use Strategies (RLUSs) to unlock land releases, or density improvements, for housing.
 - c. Lowest priority – tinkering with the development assessment process.
3. The housing crisis will not be solved or even noticeably affected by actions in the development assessment process, especially actions that place more pressure on the system, such as reducing timeframes through superficial legislative changes. This will only increase tensions and conflict and deepen community divisions over the development solutions that we need to address this crisis.
4. Engagement with the community is needed on how we can meet the often, conflicting needs and desires of our communities. This may include considering and having a conversation on different forms of housing, like medium density housing in inner urban areas.

We presented these priorities to the Minister’s Housing Reference Group, as follows:

Importance in housing supply



Tasmania has experienced slow growth rates over many decades resulting in today’s generation inheriting a planning system that is not equipped to manage higher rates of growth:

- Our RLUSs are outdated, hindering the strategic release of development capacity to the market.
- We lack strategic policy guidance from the State (TPPs) to inform our development direction.
- We lack the foundational effect of a proper infrastructure charging system that would activate development.

At the same time the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics census data shows that Tasmania's population growth has greatly exceeded even the highest State Government projections. As a result, the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) have undertaken an out of schedule update to rebase their population projections based on this new data¹⁷. This data clearly shows the intense growth pressures that Tasmanian councils have been experiencing since at least 2017. It demonstrates the need for the Tasmanian Government to get Tasmania ready for growth and ensure councils have the tools they need to properly manage the development pressures they are facing and unlock housing capacity for the market.

We continue to advocate for an approach to housing that achieves real results and not mere superficial actions.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Planning

¹⁷ The updated population projections can be found at: <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-data/2019-population-projections-for-tasmania-and-its-local-government-areas>

4.5 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT *

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on emergency management.

Carried

Background

LGAT continues to engage with the State Government on critical emergency management issues for local government.

Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements Review

In June 2022, the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) Review Project commenced. The *Emergency Management Act 2006* requires that the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) review the TEMA and State Special Emergency Management Plans at least once every two years. The TEMA is the guiding document outlining the emergency management arrangements in Tasmania. LGAT provided a [submission](#) on behalf of the sector into the review and have since met with the project manager undertaking the review to discuss the LGAT submission. The project manager has agreed to incorporate many of our suggested changes into the draft TEMA. A draft of the TEMA is expected to be circulated to councils for review before the end of this year, with the finalisation scheduled for the end of February 2023.

Fire Services Act Review

The review of the *Fire Services Act 1979* continues to progress at a slow rate, coming into its 5th year. There has been no further external progress and LGAT have sought an update from the State Government and are awaiting a response.

SES Regional Planners

The State Emergency Service (SES) has provided three regional planner roles, to support municipal emergency management arrangements, for the last four years. The funding for these positions is due to conclude at the end of 2022-23.

LGAT has been actively advocating for the continuation of these positions, which to date have provided an integral link between State Government emergency management functions and municipal coordinators and have contributed positively towards the capability of councils in fulfilling their emergency management functions. We have highlighted the need for recurrent funding for the three positions in our State Budget Priority Statement for 2023-24, refer **Attachment to Item 4.5**.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2022 Annual Priority

- Emergency management

4.6 ELECTED MEMBER INDUCTION AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the report on elected member induction and learning and development.

Carried

Background

After completion of the successful ‘want a seat at the table’ campaign, work commenced on a suite of resources to support new and returning elected members. Also under development are supporting events and other face to face learning and development opportunities.

We have worked with Office of Local Government and a local government reference group to develop the Local Government Learning and Development Framework. The first part of this is the online learning modules that are currently available and will be expanded over coming months. The next stage will be guided by a more formal governance framework that will include senior officers and elected representatives.

We are holding two induction events for elected members. The 26 November for all elected members and the 7 December for Mayors, coinciding with our Annual Conference. The two events will support the online Learning and Development Framework and council-specific induction and provide an important networking opportunity with peers. In addition, the CEO is presenting at a number of council induction sessions. Topics for the 26 November session include:

- Councillor role and function
- Land use planning
- Confidentiality, managing interest and the Code of Conduct
- Council meetings.

Attendees will also be able to meet and learn from key people in the local government sector and the State Government.

We will be running a series of face-to-face learning events in 2023 and beyond, that will provide more detail on the online learning packages and also cover other relevant topics. These will be developed through the Learning and Development Framework governance group, with some of the more immediate topics for consideration including:

- Meeting procedures and effective council culture.
- Land use planning - strategic and statutory planning, council's role as the planning authority.
- Strategy and monitoring performance.
- Financial and risk management.
- Ethics, building positive relationships, community consultation.

Our State Budget Priority Statement 2023-24 sought \$360,000 over two years to engage a Learning and Development Coordinator. The intent of the role would be to enhance our capability to provide face-to-face training, workshops and experiences for elected members. This would bring expertise in curating, designing and procuring learning that is appropriate for the range of councillors across the state.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Sector development

4.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN *

Contact Officer – Laura Verdouw

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the success of the local government election campaign in 2022.

Carried

Background

This paper summarises the reach of LGAT's Local Government Election Campaign 2022.

The campaign was jointly funded by LGAT and the Office of Local Government and supported by an Agency who developed the digital assets and social media campaign.

It aimed to increase the number and diversity of candidates (age, gender, ability, and the culturally and linguistically diverse) who nominated for the local government election in 2022. In addition, the campaign raised awareness of the local government elections more generally across a diverse range of audiences, specifically online.

Impact

We have prepared a detailed analysis of the campaign, including the performance on each social media platform (and reach), which you can find in the CorComms report at **Attachment to Item 4.7**.

Following the local government election campaign in October, we obtained the demographic data (age and gender) from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC), which shows the difference between the 2018 and 2022 elections.

This data unequivocally shows both an increase in younger people and women nominating to run and also being successful in the 2022 local government elections.

Age

- 20 – 24: doubling of candidates and elected
- 25 – 34: 31 per cent increase in candidates, but no more elected
- 35 – 44: 23 per cent increase in candidates, 24 per cent increase in elected
- 45 - 54: 5 per cent decrease in candidates, 12 per cent decrease in elected
- 55 – 64: 5 per cent increase in candidates, 11 per cent increase in elected
- 65+: 1 per cent decrease in candidates, no change in elected.

Gender

- Councillors - 13 per cent increase female candidates, 9 per cent increase in elected.
- Mayor - 32 per cent increase female candidates and 50 per cent increase in elected.
- Deputy Mayor - 10 per cent decrease female candidates and 38 per cent increase in elected.

At this stage there is no data available on other important measures of diversity, such as cultural background.

The TEC and Government plan to release a report in 2023 reviewing the elections. It is hoped that further data will be available at that time to confirm the success of our campaign, which to date has at least played a role in seeing a broader range of gender and age representation on our councils.

Budget Impact

Funding for the local government election campaign came from equal contributions from the Local Government Office and the LGAT. The total figure for running this campaign was \$70,000, including campaign and media spending for July – August.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Local government reform
- Sector development

4.8 STATE BUDGET 2023-24 LGAT PRIORITY STATEMENT *

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the report on LGAT's State Budget 2023-24 Priority Statement.

Carried

Background

Each year in the lead up to the State budget LGAT is invited to submit a priorities list. For the State Budget 2023-24 our budget submission had two drivers:

- The Treasurer's request that submission focus on cost of living, improvements to Government services or processes and support for vulnerable people.
- Our focus on a more limited set of priorities that have existing advocacy momentum.

Our Priority Statement sought investment across:

- Safe and efficient local roads – through speeding fine revenue being fully hypothecated into road safety initiatives, supporting our advocacy and that of others, such as the RACT. We also continued our advocacy for a fairer, proportional share of the State Government heavy vehicle motor tax, which follows the General Meeting resolution in August 2021.
- Regional emergency management planning – to support our advocacy for the retention of the successful SES Regional Planners.

- Learning and development coordinator – supporting the learning and development of elected members and officers for health and wellbeing/community development.

A copy of the State Budget priority statement is provided at **Attachment to Item 4.8.**

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Emergency management
- Health and wellbeing
- Sector development

4.9 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

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

Carried

LGAT Procurement Business Case

The LGAT Procurement business case for sustainable and progressive growth articulates a clear path to an improved procurement service for local government.

The year one initiatives are progressing well, including the establishment of the LGAT Procurement Reference Group to provide support and advice to LGAT on what procurement services we should develop for councils.

The Reference Group comprises three council representatives from each region. The agenda for the first meeting includes testing our initial scoping of procurement professional development options to ensure they support the current and future needs of Tasmanian councils.

Panel Updates

Our new ICT (LB 308) panel commenced on the 1 November 2022.

This panel combines the now expired ICT Solutions (BUS 274) and Smart Cities (NPN 2.18) panels, and includes significantly more local providers, and some additional categories (e.g., emerging technologies, digital health, educational and childcare related ICT).

Another panel which more Tasmanian councils are using is the Open Spaces, Parks, Play, Sport, and Recreation (LGAP 21120) panel which covers a broad range of goods and services and has a broader scope than our previous playground panel.

Local Suppliers

LGAT Procurement continues to undertake work to provide opportunities for more local suppliers to participate in our panels. We are doing this through regular panel refreshes. It is fantastic to see a number of councils using their social media and other platforms to ensure their local suppliers are aware of the opportunity.

Budget Impact

As part of LGAT Procurement's future operations, two additional staff will be required to support the delivery of new initiatives. The business model for delivering an expanded service is estimated to become self-sustaining within three years of implementation.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector Services

2022 Annual Priority

- LGAT Procurement

4.10 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT

Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on the community health and wellbeing project.

Carried

The Local Government Community Health and Wellbeing Project, funded by the Public Health Service (PHS), concludes in December. This five-year program has enabled LGAT to support councils' valuable work to improve community health and wellbeing. For the last two years the emphasis has been on promoting the significant and essential work that councils already do and advocating for appropriate acknowledgment and funding. This has been recognised in the *Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan 2022-26*.

The essential role that local government plays in implementing local, state and federal policies across public health, sport and recreation, inclusion and physical and mental wellbeing is an ongoing advocacy position for LGAT. We continue to be influential in building the case for local government's unique role in local service provision and the significant value of practical actions to address policy priorities. The project has supported our advocacy to government agencies and not-for-profit organisations about the important preventative health and community wellbeing work that councils initiate right across Tasmania. Councils are service providers, partners and facilitators of a diverse and innovative range of programs in their communities.

Feedback from councils during the project included the view that the Department of Health's grant funding model had to change. We strongly advocated on this position and the new model reflects our work. Collaboration with PHS in support of that advocacy has resulted in the new Lift Local program where \$20,000 will be available to every council through 2023. This is not competitive, and the purpose of the funding will be decided by each council's view of what health and wellbeing priority is most relevant to their community. The Lift Local program will be supported by a Funding Agreement between LGAT and PHS, which will facilitate a network and professional learning support for councils working in this area for three years from 2023.

We are currently representing councils in developing the partnership between state and local government on the development of the Child and Youth Safe Organisation Bill. This is an example of consultation with the sector beginning early in the development and implementation of policy. The implementation of this legislation over 2023 will have consequences for councils and local community organisations. We will be consulting with councils when the Bill is available at the beginning of 2023.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current State Government grant resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2022 Annual Priority

- Health and wellbeing

4.11 ALGA 2022 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the report on the ALGA's 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

Carried

Background

This year ALGA held its annual National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Hobart from 1-4 November. The Congress' central themes were road safety and productivity. It featured addresses from the Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Senator Carol Brown, and the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Senator Bridget McKenzie.

There were several Tasmanian presentations, including:

- Simon Buxton, Department of State Growth (DSG), presenting on Tasmania's Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS).
- Nigel Coates, City of Launceston, and Craig Hoey, DSG, presenting a road safety case study.
- Michael Edrich, LGAT, and Craig Hoey, DSG, presenting and on a panel on all three levels of government collaborating on road safety.

These and other presentations are available from the Congress website¹⁸. The City of Hobart assisted ALGA with preparations and guiding the technical tour of kunanyi/Mount Wellington.

On the back of the Congress, Transport for NSW arranged a meeting in Hobart of representatives from all of Australian state government road agencies to discuss the expansion of Tasmania's HVAMS through Austroads project NEF6393¹⁹. This was a valuable opportunity to showcase Tasmania's work, led by DSG, and to raise the profile of local roads in delivering transport solutions.

The next Congress is expected to be held in Canberra, which will provide the opportunity to connect with federal ministers and further raise the profile of councils and local roads.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate
- Sector services

¹⁸ Speaker presentations: <https://conferenceco.eventsair.com/roads-2022/speaker-presentations>

¹⁹ See: <https://austroads.com.au/projects/project?id=NEF6393>

2022 Annual Priority

- Sector development

DRAFT

4.12 POLICY UPDATE

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on submissions and various policy matters.

Carried

Submissions made in 2022

We made the following formal legislative submissions over 2022:

- State Budget Priority Statement 2023-24
- Child and Youth Organisation Safety Bill
- State Planning Provisions Review - Scoping Paper
- Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements Review (Issue 2)
- Code of Conduct Bill 2022
- Draft Residential Building (Miscellaneous Consumer Protection Amendments) Bill 2022
- Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021
- Tasmanian Community Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure Strategy
- Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Regulations 2022
- Review of the *Strata Titles Act 1998* - Targeted Consultation
- Targeted Review of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*
- TasWater 2022 Water and Sewerage Price Investigation - Draft Report
- State Emergency Service Structural Flood Mitigation Investment Policy.

In addition, in April, we produced a major discussion paper on infrastructure contributions.

All of the submissions are available on our [website](#).

Climate change

The Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill (*to amend Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*) has now passed through Parliament. The key elements of the Bill include:

- A requirement for the preparation of a climate change action plan every five years.
- A requirement for a statewide climate change risk assessment to be undertaken at least every five years.
- Establishing a requirement for sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans to be prepared and updated at least every five years.

LGAT and council advocacy resulted in changes to the original Bill that included recognising the role of local government, the sector's engagement, community and health and wellbeing. A new Climate Change Reference Group will be formed that will include local government, alongside State Government, community, stakeholder and business groups. It was pleasing to see Labor proposing all our proposed amendments²⁰, with one being accepted by the State Government – changing 'measures in 5E(2(b)) Climate Change Activity Statement to 'details of progress towards achieving the targets and objectives of the sector-based emission reduction and resilience plans'.

We understand that the passing of the Bill will pave the way for the release of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Advocate

2022 Annual Priority

- Climate change
- Health and wellbeing

4.13 REGIONAL TOWNS CCTV PROJECT

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the update on the Regional Towns CCTV project.

Carried

Background

As noted in the 16 September General Meeting Agenda²¹, LGAT has commenced the \$4 million program to deploy security cameras (CCTV) into regional towns.

Invitations to participate have been sent to all 29 Councils via General Managers. At the end of October, 13 councils have expressed an interest in being part of the project. Our Project

²⁰ See: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/lgat-advocacy/reports-and-submissions>

²¹ Available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0039/1198569/16-Sep-22-General-Meeting-Agenda-and-Attachments.pdf

Manager has commenced direct engagement with interested councils, this includes reviewing existing CCTV and server infrastructure, meeting and briefings key infrastructure and IT staff.

Involvement of Tasmania Police is important to the success of the project. We have formally engaged the Commissioner of Police and now, with her office through Specialist Support. Tasmania Police have committed to being part of the project through reviewing the project's scope, and supporting guidance at a statewide level, as well as council-scale input into the identification of key CCTV sites.

Preliminary design has commenced, with the review of requirements for a statewide CCTV data backbone. The design is emphasising a heavy focus on using existing assets, particularly where councils have invested in suitable infrastructure.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken with external grant funds.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Sector development

4.14 LGAT EVENTS UPDATE

Contact Officer – Carly Hay

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That the Committee note the report on LGAT events.

Carried

Background

LGAT provides a series of events throughout the year to support the professional development of ,and engagement with, our members. During the previous financial year, LGAT hosted fourteen face to face events that were attended by over 400 delegates. In addition to face-to-face events LGAT also hosts a series of webinars on various issues to update and engage with officers on emerging policy and legislative change.

LGAT has also initiated an Events Newsletter to showcase the professional development and networking opportunities that LGAT hosts throughout the year. You can sign up to this newsletter through the LGAT website or by emailing events@lgat.tas.gov.au.

LGAT will continue to provide a suite of professional development opportunities and events to elected members and council officers in the coming year.

Induction Day

We will be holding an Induction Day for newly elected representatives on 26 November in Launceston. This event was created to support the online Learning and Development Framework and council-specific inductions and provide an important networking opportunity with peers. Topics for the session include:

- Councillor role and function
- Land use planning
- Confidentiality, managing interest and the Code of Conduct
- Council meetings.

Attendees will also be able to meet and learn from key people in the local government sector and the State Government.

Mayors Workshop

A short Mayor's Workshop will be held on Wednesday 7 December to coincide with the Annual Conference and General Meeting, at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

The agenda includes a presentation and a question-and-answer session with David Morris from Simmons Wolfhagen Lawyers and a roundtable discussion.

Annual Conference

This year's annual conference is taking place on the 8 and 9 December 2022 at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart. The theme of the conference is "leading through uncertain times". At the time of writing, registrations for the Annual Conference are open and we have a number of delegates already signed up. Highlights from the program include ABC's Tony Jones, Uluru Statement From the Heart carrier Thomas Mayo, Jack Jumpers' Christine Finnegan and UTAS Chancellor Alison Watkins.

General Managers Workshop

We recently hosted a General Managers Workshop at the RACV Hotel Hobart on the 27- 28 October. The day saw General Managers come together to participate in a round table and listen to speakers including the Director of Local Government Mat Healy, Dr. Amy Imms on how to manage burnout and Dr. Kathy Alexander on fostering a positive culture amongst new councillors.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Sector services

2022 Annual Priority

- Sector development

4.15 ANNUAL PLAN *

Contact Officer – Ben Morris

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Members note the report against the Annual Plan.

Carried

Background

An **Attachment to Item 4.15** is a copy of the LGAT Annual Plan and progress to date.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business the President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl declared the meeting closed at 12.51pm.

Items 1.1 to 1.7 Governance

Total Responses: 59

Items 1.1 – 1.7

Glenorchy City Council/Break O'Day Council

That Items 1.1 to 1.7 be endorsed.

1. For  57
 2. Against 0
 3. Abstain  2



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	For	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	Abstain	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	For	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3

Northern Midlands Council	For	2
Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.1 General Management Committee Casual Vacancy

Total Responses: 59

2.1 LGAT General Management Committee Casual Vacancy

Clarence City Council/Kingborough Council

That Members endorse the extension of the term of the GMC representative from the Northwest electoral district (population greater than 20,000) from when elected until June 2025.

1. For  57
 2. Against 0
 3. Abstain  2



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	For	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	Abstain	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	For	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3
Northern Midlands Council	For	2

Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.2 Workplace Health and Safety Review of Elected Representatives

Total Responses: 59

2.2 Workplace Health and Safety Review of Elected Representatives

Break O'Day Council/George Town Council

That Members receive and note the Work Health and Safety Review – Elected Representatives and that the General Management Committee will review the recommendations and prepare an implementation plan for consideration at the General Meeting in March 2023.

1. For  51
 2. Against  7
 3. Abstain  1



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	Against	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	Abstain	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	For	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	Against	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	For	4
Meander Valley Council	Against	3

Northern Midlands Council	For	2
Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.3 Timing of Council Meetings

Total Responses: 59

2.3 Timing of Council Meetings

Burnie City Council/Kingborough Council

That LGAT adopt a policy position that ensures that council meeting and workshop times occur at times that are conducive to and facilitate increased participation across a broader cross section of community candidates, particularly bearing in mind time constraints and commitments that would apply to those working full time, young people and those with caring responsibilities.

1. For  12
 2. Against  45
 3. Abstain  2



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	Against	1
Brighton Council	Against	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	Against	3
Central Highlands Council	Abstain	1
Circular Head Council	Against	1
Clarence City Council	Against	4
Derwent Valley Council	Against	2
Devonport City Council	Against	3
Dorset Council	Against	1
Flinders Council	Against	1
George Town Council	Against	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	Abstain	1
Glenorchy City Council	Against	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	Against	2
Kentish Council	Against	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	Against	1
Latrobe Council	Against	2
Launceston City Council	Against	4
Meander Valley Council	Against	3

Northern Midlands Council	For	2
Sorell Council	Against	2
Southern Midlands Council	Against	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	Against	2
West Coast Council	Against	1
West Tamar Council	Against	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

DRAFT

Item 2.4 Affordable Housing

Total Responses: 59

2.4 Affordable Housing

Devonport City Council/Break O'Day Council

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through:

- a) Measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing;
- b) Promote the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies; and
- c) Require the development of affordable housing with the use of mandatory provisions in appropriate locations (ie, a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).
- d) THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT INCLUDES PROVISION FOR A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF AFFORDABLE TENANCY PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FOR THE LOW SOCIO ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WITHIN CERTAIN SIZED DEVELOPMENTS

1. For 15
2. Against 44
3. Abstain 0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	Against	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	Against	3
Central Highlands Council	Against	1
Circular Head Council	Against	1
Clarence City Council	Against	4
Derwent Valley Council	Against	2
Devonport City Council	Against	3
Dorset Council	Against	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	Against	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	Against	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	Against	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	Against	1
Latrobe Council	Against	2
Launceston City Council	Against	4
Meander Valley Council	Against	3
Northern Midlands Council	Against	2

Sorell Council	Against	2
Southern Midlands Council	Against	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	Against	2
West Coast Council	Against	1
West Tamar Council	Against	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.4 Affordable Housing Amendment Motion

Total Responses: 59

2.4 Affordable Housing

Dorset Council/Meander Valley Council

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, INCLUDING SOCIAL HOUSING as a matter of urgency through:

- a) Measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing;
- b) Promote the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies; and
- c) PROMOTE the development of affordable housing with the use of provisions in appropriate locations (ie. a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).

1. For  22
2. Against  35
3. Abstain  2



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	Against	2
Burnie City Council	Against	2
Central Coast Council	Against	3
Central Highlands Council	For	1
Circular Head Council	Against	1
Clarence City Council	Against	4
Derwent Valley Council	Against	2
Devonport City Council	Against	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	Against	1
George Town Council	Against	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	Abstain	2
Kentish Council	Against	1
Kingborough Council	Against	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	Against	2
Launceston City Council	Against	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3

Northern Midlands Council	Against	2
Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	Against	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	Against	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.4 Affordable Housing Amendment Motion

Total Responses: 59

2.4 Affordable Housing

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That Item 2.4 be split into three separate motions.

1. For  39
 2. Against  20
 3. Abstain  0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	Against	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	Against	1
Circular Head Council	Against	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	Against	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	Against	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	Against	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	Against	3
King Island Council	Against	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	Against	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3
Northern Midlands Council	Against	2

Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	Against	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

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Item 2.4 Affordable Housing Amendment Motion

Total Responses: 59

2.4 Affordable Housing

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through:

- a) Measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing

1. For  59
 2. Against 0
 3. Abstain 0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	For	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	For	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	For	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3

Northern Midlands Council	For	2
Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.4 Affordable Housing Amendment Motion

Total Responses: 59

2.4 Affordable Housing

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through:

- b) Promote the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies

1. For  56
 2. Against  3
 3. Abstain  0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	Against	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	For	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	Against	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	For	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3
Northern Midlands Council	For	2

Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.4 Affordable Housing Amendment Motion

Total Responses: 59

2.4 Affordable Housing

Kentish Council/City of Hobart

That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through:

- c) Require the development of affordable housing with the use of mandatory provisions in appropriate locations (ie, a threshold that would require certain sized developments to provide a minimum percentage of affordable housing).



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	Against	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	Against	3
Central Highlands Council	Against	1
Circular Head Council	Against	1
Clarence City Council	Against	4
Derwent Valley Council	Against	2
Devonport City Council	Against	3
Dorset Council	Against	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	Against	4
Hobart City Council	Against	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	Against	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	Against	1
Latrobe Council	Against	2
Launceston City Council	Abstain	4
Meander Valley Council	Against	3

Northern Midlands Council	For	2
Sorell Council	Against	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	Against	2
West Coast Council	Against	1
West Tamar Council	Against	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Item 2.5 Review of Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016

Total Responses: 59

2.5 Review of Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016

West Tamar Council/Central Coast Council

That LGAT seek revisions to the Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016 to consider:

- a) Requiring a 337 Certificate prior to listing of a property and making it available as part of the sale process; and
- b) Requiring full disclosure for properties as part of the listing process."

1. For  53
2. Against  6
3. Abstain  0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	For	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	Against	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	Against	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3

Northern Midlands Council	For	2
Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

Items for Noting – 4.1 to 4.15

Total Responses: 59

Items for Noting

Northern Midlands Council/Dorset Council

That Items 4.1 – 4.15 be endorsed.

1. For 59
 2. Against
 3. Abstain



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council	For	1
Brighton Council	For	2
Burnie City Council	For	2
Central Coast Council	For	3
Central Highlands Council	For	1
Circular Head Council	For	1
Clarence City Council	For	4
Derwent Valley Council	For	2
Devonport City Council	For	3
Dorset Council	For	1
Flinders Council	For	1
George Town Council	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council	For	1
Glenorchy City Council	For	4
Hobart City Council	For	4
Huon Valley Council	For	2
Kentish Council	For	1
Kingborough Council	For	3
King Island Council	For	1
Latrobe Council	For	2
Launceston City Council	For	4
Meander Valley Council	For	3
Northern Midlands Council	For	2

Sorell Council	For	2
Southern Midlands Council	For	1
Tasman Council	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council	For	2
West Coast Council	For	1
West Tamar Council	For	3
President LGAT	[No Response]	0
CEO LGAT	[No Response]	0
Policy Director LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 1 LGAT	[No Response]	0
Guest 2 LGAT	[No Response]	0

General Meeting 8 December 2022

Item No		
2	Items for Decision	
2.1	LGAT GMC Casual Vacancy	No further action
2.2	Workplace Health and Safety Review of Elected Representatives	Refer to Item 2.1
2.4	Affordable Housing	Refer Item to 1.4 Follow up of Motions
2.5	Review of Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016	Refer Item to 1.4 Follow up of Motions
4	Items for Noting	
4.1	Future of Local Government Review	Ongoing
4.2	Planning Reform Update	Refer to Item 4.2
4.3	Infrastructure Contributions	Ongoing
4.4	Housing	Refer to Item 4.1
4.5	Emergency Management	Refer to Item 4.4
4.6	Elected Members Induction Learning and Developmnet	Ongoing
4.7	Local Government Election Campaign	No further action
4.8	State Budget 2023-24 LGAT Priority Statement	Ongoing
4.9	Procurment Update	Refer to Item 4.5
4.10	Community Health and Wellbeing Project	Refer to Item 4.6
4.11	ALGA 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congresss	No further action
4.12	Policy Update	Refer to Item 4.8
4.13	Regional Towns CCTV Project	Refer to Item 4.9
4.14	LGAT Events Update	Refer to Item 4.10
4.15	Annual Plan	Refer to Item 4.11

Follow up of Motions Report				
Report to General Meeting				
This report details motions where LGAT is actively pursuing an outcome				
Motion	Topic	Sub-topic	Meeting date	Member Update
That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through measures that promote the efficient supply of well located, diverse housing.	Housing	Affordable Housing - diversity and supply	8/12/2022	LGAT is advocating for action on the national housing crisis across a range of forums, including through its position on the Minister's Housing Reference Group and through the current Phase 2 Planning Reforms. LGAT will include this in its submission to the draft Tasmanian Housing Strategy, when released for consultation.
That LGAT lobby the State Government to encourage the development of affordable housing, as a matter of urgency through promoting the development of affordable housing with specific incentives for affordable housing enabled through planning schemes and policies.	Housing	Affordable Housing - incentives	8/12/2022	LGAT's advocacy on affordable housing is part of our 'ready for growth' work. We have been pushing the Tasmanian Government across our direct advocacy and submissions of the need to address the key elements in an integrated way. In particular, the Regional Land Use Strategies, infrastructure contributions, the State Planning Policies, the media and the Ministers Housing Reference Group. We have emphasised the broader context given the push towards fast tracking affordable housing without addressing the larger, and more impactful system settings. We will also highlight these issues in our submissions to the State Population Strategy and the draft Tasmanian Housing Strategy.
That LGAT seek revisions to the Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016 to consider: a) Requiring a 337 Certificate prior to listing of a property and making it available as part of the sale process; and b) Requiring full disclosure for properties as part of the listing process.	Governance	Review of Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016	8/12/2022	LGAT appeared across a range of media speaking to this issue in week of 13 February: TV (Channel 7, Win, ABC), radio (ABC), print/online (The Mercury, The Advocate and The Examiner). Discussions with Tasmanian Government and other parties are underway.
That LGAT raise concerns with the Tasmanian Government in relation to the quality of maintenance and new construction work which is being undertaken on the network of roads which are the responsibility of the Department of State Growth, and ask the Tasmanian Government to implement an independent review of the construction and maintenance methodology being used.	Infrastructure	State Road Maintenance	16/09/2022	LGAT intends to raise this issue through the Tasmanian Government's Road Legislation Management Review and seek a response based on sound financial and asset management principles.

That LGAT investigate mechanisms to enable councils to differentially rate vacation rental properties and bring back to the next general meeting for a discussion and decision.	Planning	Differential Rating	18/03/2022	LGAT has discussed the matter with the Valuer-General. The Valuer-General's Office is currently developing a guidance note for councils around the process of changing properties to the short stay code.
That LGAT lobby the State Government to investigate a legislative mechanism to provide local government authorities with enhanced power to appropriately act on dilapidated, derelict and abandoned buildings registers and to charge levies in respect to those properties.	Building	Abandoned buildings	18/03/2022	The range of planning reforms underway has put the proposed guidance note on hold. The intention is for LGAT, with CBOS and the State Planning Office, to prepare a guidance note for councils on their existing powers and tools available to act on dilapidated and derelict buildings.
That LGAT lobby the State Government and TasFire Services to investigate the accreditation of fire bunkers and other structures legalised in other Australian states for use in Tasmania.	Building	Fire Bunkers	18/03/2022	The CBOS has advised that it intends to develop a working group, including a local government representative to address a range of matters (accreditation and guidance) around landowners around constructing a fire bunker on private property.
That LGAT lobby the State Government to initiate and fund the development and implementation of a family and sexual violence prevention framework for local government across the state.	Society	Family and sexual violence	18/03/2022	The Department of Communities has recently appointed a new officer for Our Watch. LGAT has discussed with the Department the importance of direct support to councils as part of this role. The Department has developed a new plan that includes the priorities for the officer's work. The plan is not yet available.
That the Local Government Association of Tasmania call upon the Tasmanian State Government to address the use of Tiny Houses and Self Contained Caravans for alternative accommodation with appropriate standards in planning schemes or other legislation to provide for the safe and healthy use and addressing needs for affordable housing whilst balancing the potential poor planning and environmental outcomes.	Planning	Tiny Houses	3/12/2021	LGAT has written to the Minister for Housing highlighting the opportunities that 'tiny houses' present to address the housing shortage, as well as the challenges that councils face. The State Planning Office, Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) and Department of Communities (Housing Strategy) have been provided with a copy of the letter. We are expecting a working group to be initiated in March-April to examine and progress this issue.
That LGAT advocate to the State Government for the introduction of a consistent State-wide approach to infrastructure charges to ensure that the burden of public infrastructure provision is shared equitably between developers and communities.	Infrastructure	Infrastructure Charges	3/12/2021	Advocacy on this important item continues and is multifaceted. The LGAT discussion paper is a useful tool for education and advocacy. We will continue to advocate for this fundamental infrastructure financing reform until it is implemented.

<p>That LGAT lobby the State Government to investigate amending the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 to provide alternative mechanisms for consideration of the development applications submitted by elected members as a means to removing any perception of bias or conflict of interest.</p>	Planning	LUPAA Amendment Conflicts of Interest	3/12/2021	Councils and elected members role in development assessment is a focus area for Stage 2 of the Future of Local Government Review. LGAT has provided this resolution to the Review team for consideration during the review.
<p>The investigation shall provide the pros and cons of any (alternative) solutions.</p>				
<p>That LGAT continue to lobby the State Government to implement funding change by-</p> <p>a.A 3 year, phased in reinstatement of the equitable distribution of the heavy motor vehicle road tax distribution to the percentage of funds collected; and</p> <p>b.A one off additional annual payment allocation of the heavy motor vehicle road tax distribution as compensation for 25 years of no indexation of the funding allocation and to support enhanced road infrastructure development in all local government areas.</p>	Finance	Heavy Vehicle Road Tax	5/08/2021	This issue formed one of three priorities issues of our State Budget 2023-24 priority statement. We will explore how road funding can be included as part of the reviews on road management legislation that are currently underway.
<p>The Tasmanian local government sector confirms its commitment to ensuring a safe workplace for elected representatives and staff and, that LGAT calls on the State Government to commission a review of the workplace health and safety of the Local Government sector for elected representatives.</p>	Governance	Workplace health and safety	5/08/2021	The paper in this agenda, March 2023, outlines how the recommendations of the Edge Legal review align with existing work underway. This item is part of the 2023 Annual Plan where we will continue to progress the recommendations through the channels identified. We intend to close this resolution following the March 2023 meeting.
<p>That LGAT lobby the State Government on behalf of all Local Councils for improved & mandated Environment Protection Authority (EPA) transparency, community facing participation and engagement processes in the assessment of development proposals for which the Environment Protection Authority have levels of responsibility in determining recommendations and approvals.</p>	Planning	EPA Planning Assessment	5/08/2021	The new MoU has been progressed to in-principle support level, pending resolution of minor matters. The MoU details improved collaborative arrangements with local government and a new EPA portal for local government is currently operating. This resolution will be closed following the March 2023 meeting.

<p>That LGAT calls on the State Government to increase or share resourcing to Local Governments to meet the increasing EPA regulatory and compliance functions required to be provided by Local Governments. This should include the resourcing and authorisation of Council Officers to facilitate illegal dumping enforcement on crown land.</p>	<p>Waste and circular economy</p>	<p>Illegal dumping on Crown Land</p>	<p>3/12/2020</p>	<p>EPA Director, Wes Ford wrote to LGAT advising that he is establishing an illegal dumping team. We understand that this team has a number of roles that are actively being filled. Illegal dumping is a priority "The EPA will design and lead an illegal dumping compliance and enforcement program which will include engagement and where possible, joint work with councils."</p> <p>Following the March 2023 meeting this resolution will be closed.</p>
<p>That LGAT coordinate arrangements for a more collaborative arrangement between Local Government and State Government and all compliance agencies with responsibilities that include dog control and wildlife management and protection.</p>	<p>Animals and wildlife</p>	<p>Dog Control and Wildlife Management</p>	<p>3/12/2020</p>	<p>The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is currently preparing a Dog Management Policy that will provide guidance on the management of dog exercising on PWS managed land, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - detailing matters to be assessed if dog exercising is to be authorised on reserved land (this would include wildlife management and protection); - providing administrative procedures regarding the creation of designated dog-exercise areas under the National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 (NPRM Act) and the National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019 (NPRM Regulations); - providing advice regarding the creation of declared areas on PWS managed land under the Dog Control Act 2000; and - providing administrative procedures regarding assistance dogs, seizure of dogs and signage. <p>This policy will be developed in consultation with stakeholders, in particular local government. The PWS has already had preliminary discussions with LGAT in drafting the Policy.</p> <p>The Policy will apply to land managed by PWS, including reserved land and Crown land (including public reserves, Crown land and future potential production forest land).</p>
<p>That LGAT ask the Tasmanian Government to improve and increase its education and enforcement programs for the conservation of shorebirds and other coastal wildlife values</p>	<p>Environment</p>	<p>Shorebirds and Coastal Wildlife Values</p>	<p>3/12/2020</p>	<p>We are waiting on the Parks and Wildlife Service who are working on clarifying meanings of regulations and responsibilities between state and local government. LGAT will resume work on this matter when that is shared with us.</p>

<p>That LGAT: Advocate on behalf of all Councils the deep concern at the level of the Fire Service Contribution that councils are expected to collect from ratepayers each year on behalf of the State Fire Commission; and Seek justification for the excessive level of financial burden that has been imposed over the last five years.</p>	<p>Emergency management</p>	<p>Fire Services Levy</p>	<p>25/07/2018</p>	<p>The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management announced on 24 January 2023 it will establish a new legislation, Fire and Emergency Services Act, replacing the Fire Services Act 1979. LGAT are awaiting an update from the State Government on the establishment of the reform project team.</p>
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TASMANIAN HOUSING STRATEGY

Communique

The Minister's Housing Reference Group has been convened to provide advice to the Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing (the Minister), the Parliamentary Secretary and the Tasmanian Government on cross-sector and collaborative approaches to improving housing outcomes in Tasmania.

About the Housing Reference Group

The functions of the Housing Reference Group are to:

- advise the Minister and Government on challenges being experienced in the market now and the opportunities, including those presented through the Government's existing policies, to in addressing them
- support the Government in developing actions to implement its strategy for housing, including cohesive support services and increasing housing affordability and supply
- provide collaborative advice and solutions with an outcome focus, with the shared objective of ensuring every Tasmanian can have the opportunity to live in safe, secure and affordable accommodation and
- provide advice on other matters relating to housing and homelessness as requested by the Minister.

The Housing Reference Group contributed to the development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Discussion Paper and are providing advice that will feed into the Tasmanian Housing Strategy.

Building on the outcomes of the inaugural meeting, its second meeting on Wednesday, 21 September 2022, focused on demand modelling and presentations by members on improving planning and infrastructure schemes.

This communique provides an overview of the issues discussed at this meeting.

Meeting date: 21 September 2022

DEMAND MODELLING

The Reference Group discussed the key evidence base needed to ensure that all planned and committed social and affordable housing was delivered when and where it was most needed.

It was noted that recently released Census data is a critical input into demand modelling and that work on demand modelling should prioritise a framework that can help guide future demand analysis and decision-making.

PROPOSALS BY MEMBERS

Infrastructure Contributions Scheme

The Local Government Association of Tasmania presented its proposal on an infrastructure contributions scheme that could help fund basic and essential infrastructure for new and growing communities.

The Infrastructure Contributions Discussion Paper can be downloaded using this link - [Infrastructure Contributions Discussion Paper \(lgat.tas.gov.au\)](https://lgat.tas.gov.au)

Planning approvals timeframes

Community housing providers, Centacare Evolve Housing and Housing Choices Limited, presented an overview of issues to help identify planning approval challenges impacting social housing developments.

Key issues identified were time delays and increasing costs and their corresponding effect on delivery of much needed homes.

HOMES TASMANIA BILL 2022 UPDATE

The *Homes Tasmania Bill 2022* was passed by the House of Assembly in August 2022. As Parliament was prorogued due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen, debate will resume when Parliament resumes from Tuesday, 27 September 2022.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Housing Reference Group includes:

The Minister (Chair)

Parliamentary Secretary for State Development, Construction and Housing

TasCOSS

Shelter Tasmania

The Local Government Association of Tasmania

Colony 47

Anglicare

CatholicCare

Centacare Evolve Housing

Community Housing Ltd

Housing Choices Tasmania

Mission Australia Housing

St Vincent de Paul

The Salvation Army

Hobart City Mission

Launceston City Mission

Housing Industry Association

Master Builders' Association of Tasmania

The Property Council of Tasmania

Communique

The Housing Reference Group has been convened to provide advice to the Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing (the Minister), the Parliamentary Secretary and the Tasmanian Government on cross-sector and collaborative approaches to improving housing outcomes in Tasmania.

About the Housing Reference Group

The functions of the Housing Reference Group are to:

- advise the Minister and Government on challenges being experienced in the market now and the opportunities, including those presented through the Government's existing policies, to in addressing them
- support the Government in developing actions to implement its strategy for housing, including cohesive support services and increasing housing affordability and supply
- provide collaborative advice and solutions with an outcome focus, with the shared objective of ensuring every Tasmanian can have the opportunity to live in safe, secure and affordable accommodation and
- provide advice on other matters relating to housing and homelessness as requested by the Minister.

The Housing Reference Group contributed to the development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Discussion Paper and are providing advice to inform development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy.

Meeting date: 13 December 2022

Building on the outcomes of the first two meetings, the third meeting on Tuesday, 13 December 2022 marked the first Housing Reference Group meeting since the commencement of Homes Tasmania.

This meeting introduced the Housing Reference Group to the new Homes Tasmania Board, discussed the Minister's draft Statement of Expectations for Homes Tasmania, as well as providing updates about the Tasmanian Housing Strategy project including preliminary findings from the Discussion Paper consultation analysis and updated demand modelling. This communique provides an overview of the issues discussed at this meeting.

Statement of Expectations

The Minister sought feedback on the draft Ministerial Statement of Expectations, outlining the strategic expectations and key Government policy priorities for Homes Tasmania.

The primary focus for Homes Tasmania is to provide housing assistance to eligible Tasmanians and to strategically manage and develop housing across Tasmania.

Homes Tasmania will also:

- continue to drive delivery of social and affordable housing, including support to prevent homelessness

- design an effective housing system
- align housing with the need of cohorts
- undertake the strategic acquisition and development of land
- be a committed, high-performing and engaged organisation with a focus on customer service and satisfaction.
- deliver the Government's capital plan of 10 000 social and affordable homes by 2032
- be guided by the Tasmanian Housing Strategy
- collaborate with other Agencies, Authorities and organisations, and
- establish advisory committees for homelessness and housing services, and property development, building and construction.

Project updates

Project timeline

Updated project timelines for delivery of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy were discussed.

A consultation draft of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy is projected to be released for comment in March 2023 pending approval from the Homes Tasmania Board and the Tasmanian Government.

Internal work has commenced on development of the action plan which will accompany the Tasmanian Housing Strategy when it is released in mid-2023.

Planning and next steps

During the last meeting, the Housing Reference Group raised planning processes as having an impact on the timely delivery of social and affordable housing for communities in need. The Minister tasked the Housing Reference Group to work together on strategies to address these impacts and provide recommendations to Government at the next meeting in February 2023.

Consultation feedback

The Housing Reference Group heard a preliminary analysis of submissions to the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Discussion Paper.

Throughout the six-week consultation, 162 submissions were received. Responses highlighted that more social housing is the most important housing priority for Tasmanians and that there are great opportunities to strengthen and expand the proposed vision statement and focus areas. Information in these submissions will help inform the development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy consultation draft.

Further information on the consultation outcomes will be available from the website with the release of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy consultation draft in early 2023.

Demand and affordability modelling

Building on the previous meeting's demand modelling presentation, the Housing Reference Group was presented with updated demand modelling work at an LGA level, and new affordability modelling which looks at projected demand for social housing and for those who may experience housing stress.

This information will help inform development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy consultation draft and initiatives for consideration in the action plan.

Further information on the demand and affordability modelling will be available from the website with the release of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy consultation draft in early 2023.

The next Housing Reference Group meeting is planned for February 2023.

Membership

The membership of the Housing Reference Group is:

The Hon Guy Barnett MP, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing (Chair)

Lara Alexander, Parliamentary Secretary for State Development, Construction and Housing

TasCOSS

Shelter Tasmania

The Local Government Association of Tasmania

Colony 47

Anglicare

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Centacare Evolve Housing

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Housing Choices Tasmania

Mission Australia Housing

St Vincent de Paul

The Salvation Army

Hobart City Mission

Launceston City Mission

Housing Industry Association

Master Builders' Association of Tasmania

The Property Council of Tasmania

Real Estate Institute of Tasmania

The newly appointed Homes Tasmania Board are:

Michele Adair (Chair)

Tim Gourlay

Daryl Lamb

Robert Pradolin

Alice Spizzo

Ellen Witte

Communique

The Housing Reference Group has been convened to provide advice to the Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing (the Minister), the Parliamentary Secretary and the Tasmanian Government on cross-sector and collaborative approaches to improving housing outcomes in Tasmania.

About the Housing Reference Group

The functions of the Housing Reference Group are to:

- advise the Minister and Government on challenges being experienced in the market now and the opportunities, including those presented through the Government's existing policies, to in addressing them
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- provide collaborative advice and solutions with an outcome focus, with the shared objective of ensuring every Tasmanian can have the opportunity to live in safe, secure and affordable accommodation and
- provide advice on other matters relating to housing and homelessness as requested by the Minister.

The Housing Reference Group contributed to the development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Discussion Paper and are providing advice to inform development of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy.

Building on the outcomes of the first three meetings, the fourth meeting on Thursday, 16 February 2023 was attended by the Premier, the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP, and the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Michael Ferguson MP in his role as the Minister for Planning. The Housing Reference Group considered recommendations about potential reforms to the planning system to support the delivery of social and affordable housing and discussed the draft Tasmanian Housing Strategy which is scheduled for release in the coming months.

This communique provides an overview of the issues discussed at this meeting.

Meeting date: 16 February 2023

PLANNING REFORMS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On 24 January 2023, Housing Reference Group members convened three working groups to discuss potential planning reforms to support the delivery of social and affordable housing.

The Group shared the outcomes from the working group discussions and expressed their views, advice and recommendations with the Premier, the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Planning. The Reference Group made the following recommendations:

- Support development of legislation or other regulatory reform to expedite the delivery of social and affordable housing in Tasmania,
- Support development of a campaign to tackle 'not in my backyard' (NIMBY) community attitudes which negatively impact on the timely delivery of social and affordable housing, and
- Support further investigation of options to accelerate approvals for the rezoning of land for social and affordable housing.

HOUSING STRATEGY PROJECT UPDATE

Project update

Updated project timelines for delivery of the Housing Strategy were discussed.

A draft Tasmanian Housing Strategy is projected to be released for comment in April 2023 pending approval from the Homes Tasmania Board and the Tasmanian Government.

Work has commenced on development of the action plan which will accompany the final Tasmanian Housing Strategy when it is released in the second half of 2023.

DRAFT TASMANIAN HOUSING STRATEGY

The Chair of the Homes Tasmania Board, Ms Michele Adair, provided an overview of the structure and framing of the draft Housing Strategy.

A copy of the draft Housing Strategy document was provided to Housing Reference Group members who were invited to provide comment/feedback ahead of the Homes Tasmania Board considering a more detailed draft in the coming weeks.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Housing Reference Group includes:

The Hon Guy Barnett MP, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing (Chair)

Lara Alexander, Parliamentary Secretary for State Development, Construction and Housing

TasCOSS

Shelter Tasmania

The Local Government Association of Tasmania

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Housing Industry Association

Master Builders' Association of Tasmania

The Property Council of Tasmania

Real Estate Institute of Tasmania

Homes Tasmania Board

WH&S Review Recommendations Review

Rec Ref	Recommendation	Category	Priority	Comments & Next Steps
1.15a	If any current initiatives to ensure a more comprehensive Model Code of Conduct are not achieved, include a requirement in the Local Govt Act to have, in addition to the Model Code of Conduct and other existing provisions of the Local Govt Act, a Behavioural Management Policy and optional Behavioural Support Policy (similar to the current SA Framework).	Advocacy	On hold	<i>This item will be put on hold pending an assessment of the success of the Code of Conduct Bill changes, expected to be active in 2023.</i>
1.15b	Express confirmation in any such Policies that the intention is to manage complaints under the Policies within Council with as little formality and technicality as reasonably possible and with the intent on early resolution <u>without</u> resorting to Code of Conduct complaints.	Advocacy	On hold	<i>As above.</i>
1.15c	Amend Part 12B of Local Govt Act (Performance Improvement Directions) to broaden the application upon which a Director can make recommendations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. breach of the WHS Act, ii. referral from GM/ CEO or Mayor; or iii. simply not meeting the Director's assessment of "not acting in the best interest of the Community" 	Advocacy	High	In its November 2022 response to council submissions on the Code of Conduct Bill the Government indicated that it will consider and consult on options that could better address instances of very serious councillor misconduct that may not fall within the parameters of the current Code of Conduct Framework. <i>This recommendation will be progressed through that mechanism.</i> It should also be noted that Option 2.3 of the Future of Local Government (FoLG) Review Options Paper recommends a: "Review statutory sanctions and dismissal powers."
1.15d	Amend Local Govt Act to permit removal of an Elected Representative from office by Minister (upon recommendation of the Director) for matters more currently recognised as not	Advocacy	High	<i>As above.</i>

	meeting contemporary expectations of appropriate Community standards as to being a fit and proper person.			
1.15e	Include specific provisions in the Local Govt Act similar to those contained in Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 and Police Offences Act regarding disrupting public meetings – but allow action to be immediately taken by GM/ CEO and/or Mayor to ban persons from future attendance.	Advocacy	Low	<i>This recommendation will be progressed as part of the Review of the Local Government Act, once that re-commences.</i>
1.15f	Amend Integrity Commission Act to allow Integrity Commissioner to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. refer minor matters or matters, that in the opinion of the Integrity Commissioner would be more appropriately dealt with by another body, to Council or Code of Conduct Panel to deal with at the triage stage; and ii. facilitate its acceptance of referrals from Code of Conduct panels. 	Advocacy	Medium	<p>The 2016 review of the <i>Integrity Commission Act 2009</i> recommended changes to facilitate referral by the Integrity Commission to the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Department of Justice is currently developing legislative amendments to implement the review and LGAT recently met with the officers to discuss this recommendation.</p> <p><i>LGAT will continue to engage with the Department of Justice to progress this recommendation. .</i></p>
1.16a	Amend s.28Y to allow the initial assessment to be conducted by an expert (with expertise in behaviour and local government related matters) and/ or independent Respectful Conduct Advisor (similar to the City of Melbourne) appointed by GM/ CEO.	Advocacy	On hold	<p>The Code of Conduct Bill includes a requirement for all initial assessments of complaints to be assessed by a lawyer, who will not participate in any subsequent panel hearings, should they be required.</p> <p><i>This recommendation will be put on hold until an assessment can be made as to the impact of this change.</i></p>
1.16b	Permit Respectful Conduct Advisor to assess the matters as either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. frivolous, vexatious or without reasonable foundation; ii. minor breach; or 	Advocacy	High	The Code of Conduct Bill establishes a local dispute resolution process that should, if effective, deal with matters that are minor breaches. It also includes two additional grounds for dismissing a complaint, being:

	<p>iii. serious breach.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the complainant has not satisfactorily participated in the dispute resolution process; and - If it is not in the public interest to investigate the complaint. <p>While the Local Government Act already contains an ability for a complaint to be dismissed on the basis that it is frivolous or vexatious, there has been criticism from the sector that this is not being applied effectively.</p> <p><i>The dispute resolution policy* that all councils are required to adopt will include a requirement for the council appointed mediator to provide an assessment for the initial assessor on the matters recommended and also if the complainant has satisfactorily participated in the dispute resolution process.</i></p> <p>*LGAT will be developing a template policy for councils to use.</p>
1.16c	Amend s.28ZA to allow Chairperson to have reference to the Respectful Conduct Advisor's assessment.	Advocacy	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.16d	<p>Have separate processes for the Code of Conduct Panel to conduct investigations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. minor; or ii. serious breaches. 	Advocacy	On hold	<p>A separate process should not be required if the reforms discussed above are successfully implemented.</p> <p><i>This recommendation will be put on hold until an assessment can be made as to the impact of the existing other reforms.</i></p>
1.16e	Allow Code of Conduct Panel to impose 'without fault' restrictions (up to and including suspension) upon Elected Representatives whilst investigating serious breaches.	Advocacy	Medium	As part of the initial targeted reforms to the Code of Conduct, a commitment was made by the Government to investigate the feasibility of transferring the Code, or elements of it, to TasCAT. This is due to commence this year.

				<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of this process.</i>
1.16f	Strengthen sanctions for serious breaches – no requirement for 3 suspensions before removal of office is considered.	Advocacy	High	<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of the review of sanctions for serious misconduct.</i>
1.16g	Allow Code of Conduct Panel to impose suspensions until training orders have been complied with.	Advocacy	Medium	<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of the review of sanctions for serious misconduct.</i>
1.16h	Allow Code of Conduct Panel to determine breaches of matters already subject to training orders to be serious breaches.	Advocacy	High	<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of the review of sanctions for serious misconduct.</i>
1.16i	Amend Model Code of Conduct to include additional matters as set out in Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (Vic) Schedule 1 – Standards of Conduct (Set out in full in Schedule 5)	Advocacy	Low	The Code of Conduct Framework review includes a commitment for the model Code of Conduct to be reviewed after the legislative amendments and this workplace culture review are complete. <i>This recommendation will be progressed through that mechanism.</i>
1.16j	Confirm regulatory intent of the Model Code of Conduct is to promote and protect psychosocial safety.	Advocacy	Low	<i>As above.</i>
1.16k	Allow Code of Conduct Panel to provide permitted disclosures during the process to avoid ‘silence’ being used to ‘weaponise’ the process by preventing an Elected Representative who is responding to a complaint to declare their innocence and/or outline a basic summary of their defence.	Advocacy	Low	<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of the feasibility study into transferring the Code to TasCAT.</i>
1.16l	Amend s.28ZN to allow a Code of Conduct Panel to award costs against either party or both.	Advocacy	Low	<i>As above.</i>
1.16m	Change the “prescribed period” in s.28ZL(1) to be over the life of an Elected Representative’s tenure – not just limited to consecutive terms.	Advocacy	Medium	<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of the review of sanctions for serious misconduct.</i>

1.16n	Allow automatic removal of an Elected Representative without requiring Ministerial discretion in s.28ZL(3).	Advocacy	Low	<i>As above.</i>
1.16o	Introduce specific statutory protection for complainants and witnesses generally similar to the intent of those contained <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002.</i>	Advocacy	Low	<i>This recommendation will be considered as part of the feasibility study into transferring the Code to TasCAT.</i>
1.17a	LGAT to coordinate with The Office of Local Government (OLG), Equal Opportunity Tasmania (EOT), Integrity Commission and WorkSafe Tasmania (WST) to review the status quo/ improvements in relation to behavioural management and publish annual results for the industry.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>This recommendation will be progressed by LGAT in 2023. This will involve engagement with each of the relevant named agencies, followed by scoping of the process and then development of relevant reporting documentation for each reporting agency.</i>
1.17b	LGAT (from the information above) provide clear guidance materials to Chair of Code of Conduct Panel.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>This recommendation will be progressed following the publishing of the first years annual results of above.</i>
1.17c	LGAT (from the information above and direct information from Councils direct) to publish statistics on matters to demonstrate appropriate monitoring (eg due diligence) within the industry.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>As above.</i>
1.17d	Independent Respectful Conduct Advisor position be created to assist GMs/ CEOs and the Mayor deal with behavioural matters informally and within Council.	LGAT Project	High	<p><i>Shortly after the Code of Conduct Bill receives Royal assent LGAT will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Develop terms of reference for the position of Respectful Conduct Advisors / mediators for councils to access.</i> - <i>Establish a panel of providers.</i> - <i>Develop a template Dispute Resolution Policy for councils.</i> - <i>Create a standardised behavioural monitoring template and reporting process for councils.</i>
1.17e	Panel of Respectful Conduct Advisors to be created so access can be provided to Councils fairly and transparently.	LGAT Project	High	<i>As above.</i>

1.17f	Create Respectful Conduct Advisor (terms of reference).	LGAT Project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.17g	Create standardised behavioural monitoring templates for Council to record and provide their behavioural management statistics to LGAT to publicly publish.	LGAT Project / council action	Medium	<i>As above.</i>
1.17h	LGAT provide industry-wide examples of “what IS” and “what is NOT” acceptable behaviour in a Council context for Elected Representatives, Council staff and members of the Community.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>LGAT to develop a project plan to deliver this in 2023 alongside recommendation 1.17j, k, l & n.</i>
1.17i	LGAT create standardised policies and processes for Councils to deal with unreasonable complaints or inappropriate conduct which specifically put Community complainants on notice regarding their conduct and allow them the opportunity to respond before implementation of any remedy (including alternative service remedy) [see joint project of Australasian Parliamentary Ombudsman examples].	LGAT Project	High	<i>LGAT will work with the Office of Local Government to prepare this policy and then engage with the other relevant regulatory authorities (Integrity Commission, Ombudsman etc.) to seek support for when councils implement the standardised policy when subject to unreasonable or inappropriate conduct from a community member.</i>
1.17j	Introduce industry sponsored communication to the Community to confirm that the Code of Conduct process or any other behavioural management process adopted in relation to Elected Representatives should not be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide feedback in response to consultation or engagement on Council projects; ii. agitate disagreements about an Elected Representative’s viewpoint on a particular matter; iii. requesting service or information from Council; or iv. complaining about a Council service provision. 	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>To be delivered as part of recommendation 1.17h.</i>
1.17k	Create a public Community education campaign to set realistic expectations for the services Councils are able to deliver.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>To be delivered as part of recommendation 1.17h.</i>

1.17l	Create specific processes and expectations for Community participation in Council meetings.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>To be delivered as part of recommendation 1.17h.</i>
1.17m	Create standardised procedures for the conduct of meetings across the Local Government industry.	LGAT Project	Low	<i>This recommendation will be progressed as part of the Review of the Local Government Act, once that re-commences.</i>
1.17n	Implement a public Community education campaign to set behavioural expectations for the manner in which interactions with Council (Elected Representatives, GM/ CEO and Council staff) are to occur – similar to the Retail Industry campaign of “No one deserves a serve”.	LGAT Project	Medium	<i>To be delivered as part of recommendation 1.17h.</i>
1.17o	Develop and introduce a Diversity campaign.	LGAT Project	On hold	To support the 2022 local government elections LGAT successfully delivered the ‘stand for council’ campaign that resulted in an increase in the diversity of candidates and those elected (from an age and gender perspective at least). <i>A similar campaign goal will be set for the 2026 local government elections.</i>
1.17p	Extend EAP to Elected Representatives.	Council action	High	Many councils already do this. <i>LGAT will write to all council CEOs / GMs to encourage this, where it does not currently occur.</i>
1.17q	Extend Grievance Resolution and Workplace Behaviour Policies to Elected Representatives or create new ones voted on by Elected Representatives.	LGAT Project / council action	High	LGAT maintains the Workplace Behaviours Toolkit ¹ , a suite of template workplace policies for council staff. Currently the majority of councils utilise these policies. <i>LGAT will review the Grievance Resolution and Workplace Behaviour Policies for applicability to</i>

¹ <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/member-portal/human-resources/workplace-behaviour-toolkit>

				<i>elected representatives and if necessary prepare templates for consideration by councils.</i>
1.17r	Introduce practical measures which focus on building, maintaining and improving relationships between Elected Representatives (eg dinners, events, etc).	Council action	Medium	<i>LGAT will write to all council CEOs / GMs to encourage this where it does not currently occur.</i>
1.17s	More rigorous internal monitoring of behavioural standards, and external referral at the earliest stages where resolution has been unable to be reasonably achieved.	Council action	Medium	<i>LGAT will write to all council CEOs / GMs to encourage this where it does not currently occur.</i>
1.17t	Councils to require full disclosure of any correspondence to prevent anonymous or unauthorised interactions and recommend to Elected Representatives to do the same for their personal accounts.	Council action	Low	<i>LGAT will write to all council CEOs / GMs to encourage this where it does not currently occur.</i>
1.18a	Introduce additional training and education focused and tailored for 3 main stages of an Elected Representative's Journey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. pre-election, ii. induction; and iii. refresher. 	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<p>Option 2.1 of the FoLG Review Options Paper suggests the development of “an improved councillor training framework which will require participation in candidate pre-election sessions and, if elected, ongoing councillor professional development.”</p> <p>It is further noted that there has been, and continues to be, significant work by the Office of Local Government and LGAT on the development of the new Councillor Learning Framework².</p> <p><i>This and the following training recommendations will be provided to the Learning and Development Framework Governance Group for consideration.</i></p>
Training – Elected Representatives				

² https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/Local-Government-Learning-and-Development-Framework

1.18b	Understanding of Elected Representative's obligation to move from activism (personal interest) to a whole of Council's approach (Community interest).	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18c	Understanding of genuine leadership and how to implement leadership in an Elected Representative's multi-faceted role.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18d	Understanding of the role functions of the Mayor and GM/ CEO.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18e	Understanding of meeting regulations	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18f	Capacity to work constructively and collaboratively within the Council's framework.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18g	Capacity to make decisions on merit.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18h	Capacity to accept decisions made by Council and how to appropriately respond to constituents who continue to disagree with such decisions.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18i	Understanding of psychosocial safety.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18j	Bystander skills to 'respond' to unacceptable behaviour at the earliest opportunity.	Advocacy / LGAT project	Medium	<i>As above.</i>

1.18k	Capacity to manage conflicts.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18l	Understanding of the dispute resolution process.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18m	Communication skills.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18n	Civility skills.	Advocacy / LGAT project	Medium	<i>As above.</i>
1.18o	Representation skills.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18p	Media and Social Media skills.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18q	Clarify the role of GM/ CEO as an Officer of the PCBU with certain obligations under WHS law which cannot be unreasonably interfered with.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18r	Dealing with unreasonable complaints conduct.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.18s	Referrals to Respectful Conduct Advisor.	Advocacy / LGAT project	Low	<i>As above.</i>

Training – CEOs / GMs				
1.19a	Clarify the role of GM as an officer of the PCBU with certain obligations under WHS laws which cannot be unreasonably interfered with.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<p>The GM / CEO responsibilities as a PCBU have been clarified as part of this review with the development of a separate report. However, concerns have been raised on the implications for a GM that enforces this responsibility with elected representatives, who ultimately are responsible for determining a GMs contract.</p> <p>While training for elected representatives will assist, it is suggested that further legislative protection for a GM exercising this responsibility may be required within the Local Government Act.</p> <p><i>This recommendation will be progressed as part of the Review of the Local Government Act, once that re-commences.</i></p>
1.19b	Dispute Resolution	LGAT project	High	<i>LGAT will deliver training to GMs / CEOs to support the introduction of the dispute resolution process.</i>
1.19c	Dealing with unreasonable complaints conduct.	LGAT project	High	<i>As above.</i>
1.19d	Referrals to Respectful Conduct Advisor.	LGAT project	On hold	<i>This item will be put on hold pending an assessment of the success of the Code of Conduct Bill changes, expected to be active in 2023.</i>
Training – Mayors				
1.20	Management of meetings and chairing meetings under the meeting regulations.	Advocacy / LGAT project	High	<i>This recommendation will be provided to the Learning and Development Framework Governance Group for consideration.</i>
1.21a	Requirement for qualification similar to Company Director's Course as a mandatory pre-condition for seeking election.	Advocacy	Not being progressed	Option 2.1 of the FoLG Review Options Paper suggests the development of <i>"an improved councillor training framework which will require</i>

				<p><i>participation in candidate preelection sessions and, if elected, ongoing councillor professional development.”</i></p> <p>It is further noted that there has been, and continues to be, significant work by the Office of Local Government and LGAT on the development of the Learning Framework.</p> <p><i>This recommendation <u>will not be progressed</u> given the above activities and also concerns raised within the sector over mandatory qualifications.</i></p>
1.21b	Ongoing requirement for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to be maintained throughout the term of an Elected Representative.	Advocacy	On hold	<i>As above.</i>
1.21c	CPD to have a mandatory requirement for appropriate behavioural standards.	Advocacy	On hold	<i>As above.</i>
1.21d	Provide opportunities for ‘one on one’ coaching for Elected Representatives.	LGAT project	High	<i>LGAT will develop a panel of mentors / coaches for elected representatives.</i>

LGAT Annual Plan 2023 Progress Report

March 2023

Commenced	Commenced, but progress delayed
Completed	Not yet commenced

Area	Focus	KPI – process and outcome	Progress	Comments
Local government reform	Direct and concerted effort to ensure that the Future of Local Government review provides proposals to create a more robust and capable system of local government. These will recognise the challenges and opportunities that councils need to meet, understanding functions and services, and strengthen trusted local democratic representation.	<p>Process LGAT is deeply engaged in the process so that the review is broad, inclusive and appropriately considers democratic representation and function.</p> <p>Outcome The review proposals create a more robust and capable system of local government to support and service communities.</p>		<p>Process The Local Government Board has released the Options Report for review. The Board has met with most councils to understand their perspectives and priorities. The LGAT secretariat is engaging on an ongoing basis with the Board and with the review secretariat</p> <p>Outcome The Options Paper report provides a series of recommendations that seek to create a more robust and capable sector. LGAT has provided a submission¹ on some targeted aspects of the options.</p>

¹ Available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1300636/Submission-FoLG-February-2023-Final.pdf

Area	Focus	KPI – process and outcome	Progress	Comments
Workplace health and safety for elected representatives	Implementation of the recommendations from the Workplace Health and Safety Review of Elected Representatives, to ensure that they understand their obligations and are supported in maintaining a safe workplace.	<p>Process Implementation of the priority sector endorsed recommendations.</p> <p>Outcome A safe and respectful workplace for elected representatives.</p>		<p>Process LGAT GMC have prioritised the recommendations to ensure the highest impact. Most of the recommendations will fall under existing reforms already underway, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Code of Conduct review • Feasibility of transferring Code to Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TasCAT) • Options review for serious misconduct outside of the Code <p>Outcome Progressing.</p>
Ready for growth communities	Continue and strengthen our advocacy to State and Federal Governments for the policy settings and funding to support councils in positioning our communities for growth. This will be across the policy areas of strategic land use planning, housing, infrastructure contributions, equitable road funding and consistent development standards.	<p>Process State Government engages openly with local government on the opportunities and improvements that are needed.</p> <p>Outcome Tasmania has the right, integrated policy and financing arrangements for appropriate, sustainable growth.</p>		<p>Process Improving engagement from State Government in areas such as road management, land use planning and housing.</p> <p>We continue to advocate for an integrated approach, with the first strategic regional partnership announced in the Premier’s State of the State Address.</p> <p>Outcome Progressing.</p>
Waste and resource recovery	Ensure that investment from the waste levy supports local government’s role in resource recovery across the state.	<p>Process LGAT maintains its role as a leading voice and trusted advisor in the waste and resource recovery policy arena.</p>		<p>Process</p>

Area	Focus	KPI – process and outcome	Progress	Comments
		<p>Outcome Statewide waste levy is invested in local government waste and resource recovery initiatives.</p>		<p>LGAT recently made a submission² on the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. The Association continues to be sought out by the State Government for its insight into waste and resource recovery.</p> <p>Outcome The Waste and Resource Recovery Board was appointed in July 2022. The Board’s investment priorities will be guided by the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. We are pleased that the Board is supporting the three regional waste groups.</p>
Climate change	<p>Advocacy to the State Government for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for local government to increase understanding of their climate risks and support for dealing with them. - Collaboration with councils to access the opportunities through reducing emissions, such as shifting energy sources for transport. 	<p>Process Strong collaboration with local government on addressing climate risk and opportunities through emissions reduction.</p> <p>Outcome Improved council understanding of climate risk and availability of programs for councils to reduce risks and their emissions.</p>		<p>Process There is ongoing collaboration with RECFIT for emissions reduction and climate risk and adaptation. This will expand with the formation of a new reference group following the passing of the revised climate change Act, with LGAT as a member.</p> <p>Outcome Waiting on the release of State Government’s climate change action plan.</p>

² Available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0036/1299393/LGAT-Submission-Waste-Strategy-2022.pdf

Area	Focus	KPI – process and outcome	Progress	Comments
Emergency management	Advocacy for acknowledgement and support for the role of local government in emergency management.	<p>Process Strong collaboration and engagement with local government in supporting capability and capacity in emergency management and the associated legislative reform.</p> <p>Outcome Increased State Government support to strengthen local government’s capability and capacity in emergency management.</p>		<p>Process LGAT is advocating strongly for robust local government engagement to inform the various reforms, in particular to the Fire Services Act. Refer to Emergency Management item in this agenda, March 2023.</p> <p>Outcome The increased support will be a key focus of our advocacy into the emergency management reforms currently underway.</p>
Health and wellbeing	Support for local government officers working in health and wellbeing to connect and share with others in the sector, learn and develop skills.	<p>Process Development of a strengthened local government health and wellbeing network that connects council officers with State Government agencies and best practice.</p> <p>Outcome Local government leverages the State Government’s Healthy Tasmania funds to improve community health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>		<p>Process Four workshops are scheduled through March to support the Lift Local \$20,000 grants for local health and wellbeing initiatives.</p> <p>Outcome The Lift Local grants will provide a foundation for councils to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>
LGAT Procurement	LGAT procurement to implement year 1 of the business plan supporting increased services and advice to councils.	<p>Process Strong collaboration with our members to ensure LGAT procurement activities meet council needs.</p> <p>Outcome</p>		<p>Process LGAT held its first reference group meeting at the end of November 2022. During the quarter we engaged directly with eight councils and held two training sessions.</p>

Area	Focus	KPI – process and outcome	Progress	Comments
		Year 1 actions completed to support the delivery of best practice procurement services and products that provide value for councils.		Outcome Year 1 delivery of the LGAT Procurement business plan is on track.
Sector Development	Support the professional development and capacity of elected representatives.	Process Delivery of the elected member learning and development activities. Outcome Elected members have enhanced capability and capacity to fulfil their roles.		Process The first meeting of the new Governance Group for the Local Government Learning and Development Framework has been held. We have scheduled our first face-to-face professional development session, for the 5 th of April in Hobart; and the 28 th of April in Devonport. Outcome Progressing.