

GMC Election Nominees

President

Doug Chipman, Mayor Clarence City Council

I am writing to you to seek your support for my re-election as President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT). Your Council, as a member of LGAT, is entitled to vote in this optional preferential election.

When I was first elected as President in 2015, I wanted to ensure that LGAT continued as a powerful and respected advocate for local government throughout the State. In particular, I wanted to see LGAT "on the front foot" in regard to issues such as governance and planning reform.

While some progress has been made, Local Government as a sector continues to face challenges with the introduction of planning and building reforms, implementing code of conduct legislation, and advocating about proposed changes to the Local Government Act. The fact that two councils have been either dismissed or suspended has created further complexities.

A positive relationship with the State Government is clearly essential as we navigate these challenges.

Disappointingly, this relationship has been threatened by the State Government's hostile takeover announcement concerning Taswater.

It is absolutely critical that the ill-will created by this hostile takeover announcement does not poison our overall relationship and is quarantined from our other activities. Should I be re-elected as your President, I will do my very best to manage this critical issue in the context of the many other challenges facing our sector.

I also believed it then, and continue to see it as crucial that LGAT remains the preferred representative body for all councils in Tasmania. To that end, LGAT must continue to be of value to its members and I do intend if re-elected to continue my council visits, and retain an "open door" policy in regard to any matters you might wish to raise with me personally.

If you would like to discuss any issues or matters regarding my candidacy please do not hesitate to call me on 0409 704 835 or contact me at mayor@ccc.tas.gov.au.