



Local Government Association Tasmania

General Meeting

Agenda

9.30am

(Coffee on arrival from 9.00)

18 May 2018

Windsor Park Function Centre

326 Macquarie Street,
GPO Box 1521, Hobart, Tas 7000
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**PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
RULES REGARDING CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

13. WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) Each Member shall be entitled to send a voting delegate to any Meeting of the Association, such voting delegate exercising the number of votes determined according to Rule 16(a).
- (b) After each ordinary Council election, the Chief Executive Officer shall request each Member to advise the name of its voting delegate and the proxy for the voting delegate for Meetings of the Association until the next ordinary Council elections.
- (c) Members may change their voting delegate or proxy at any time by advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing over the hand of the voting delegate or the General Manager prior to that delegate taking his or her position at a Meeting.
- (d) A list of voting delegates will be made available at the commencement of any Meeting of the Association.
- (e) Members may send other elected members or Council officers as observers to any Meeting of the Association.

14. PROXIES AT MEETINGS

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

15. QUORUM AT MEETINGS

At any Meeting of the Association, a majority of the Member Councils shall constitute a quorum.

16. VOTING AT MEETINGS

- (a) Voting at any Meeting of the Association shall be upon the basis of each voting delegate being provided with, immediately prior to the meeting, a placard which is to be used for the purpose of voting at the meeting. The placard will be coloured according to the number of votes to which the Member is entitled:

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

- (b) The Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the raising of a coloured placard as the recording of the vote for the Member and as evidence of the number of votes being cast.
- (c) Except as provided in sub-rule (d), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
- (d)
 - (i) When a vote is being taken to amend a Policy of the Association, the resolution must be carried by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
 - (ii) When a vote is being taken for the Association to sign a protocol, memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement, the resolution must be carried by a majority of votes capable of being cast by Members and by a majority of Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
 - (iii) When a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.

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5.	Other Business & Close	30

* Denotes Attachment



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 9.00 | Morning Tea on arrival |
| 9.30 | Meeting Commences |
| | Council Round Up
Flinders Island |
| 10.00 | Minister Roger Jaensch
Minister for Planning |
| 11.00 | Reconciliation Tasmania
Fiona Hughes and Russell Reid |
| 1.00 approx | Lunch |

1. GOVERNANCE

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2018, as circulated, be confirmed.

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 2 March 2018, 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 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 activity since the last General Meeting (15 February to 4 May inclusive).

Meetings

- General Meeting
- General Management Committee Meeting
- ALGA Strategic Planning
- Elected Member Weekend
- Lyons candidate forum
- State Election Leaders' forum
- International Stewardship Forum (panelist for ALGA)
- Future of TasWater (TasWater/State Government) – pre and post election
- David O'Byrne re shadow portfolios

Media/Communication

- Pulse articles
- LGTas article
- Radio – TasWater, RV/Caravans, election priorities

1.6 CEO REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on activity since the last (15 February to 4 May inclusive).

Media and Messaging

- Pulse
- LGTas
- Brian Carlton/ABC/Examiner/Mercury regarding Waste
- MR reappointment and related article Examiner
- MR Council Cost Index
- MR International Women's Day/ Women Can and related media
- Op Ed – CCI and rates
- Op Ed – Difference between assertion and evidence
- Op Ed – Managing the cost of free camping

Policy and Projects

- TasWater advocacy during election campaign including production of newspaper advertisement, op ed and letter for Mayor Downie.
- TasWater advocacy post-election including letter to Government seeking meeting, and meeting between TasWater/LGAT and Treasurer.
 - Election campaign advocacy
 - Internal workshop on Model Credit Card Policy

Meetings

- Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy Steering Committee
- David O'Byrne re shadow portfolio
- Director of Local Government regular meetings
- General Management Committee Meeting
- General Meeting
- Lead Peak Body Coalition candidate forums during the election - one in each of 5 electorates as well as the Leader's Forum
- MAV Insurance Board Meeting
- Minister Roger Jaensch re housing and planning
- Premier's Housing Summit
- Presentation on LGAT activity to Launceston City Council
- RDA Tasmania Board Meeting
- Road Safety Advisory Committee
- TASSIC Chair (teleconference)
- Various meetings with conference speakers and stakeholders
- Veolia re waste matters
- Youth Local Government Conference – re MOU re support and participation.

Events

- N/NW Breakfasts
- International Women's Day Breakfast and support to launch Women Can campaign.
- General Manager's Workshop

- Duke of Edinburgh Awards Employer Breakfast
- Farewell for Bertrand Cadart (speaking on behalf of sector)

Training/Development

- Elected Member weekend
- Presentation to MAV/JLT Risk Forum (South)
- Women's Leadership Symposium

Operational

- Local Government Association of QLD re a range of policy and projects and opportunities for sharing
- Telecommunications review

1.7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*

Decision Sought

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

Background:

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

1.8 COUNCIL ROUND UPS

Decision Sought

That Members determine who will present briefings at the next meeting.

Background comment:

Flinders Council has offered to conduct a brief presentation on a matter that is of interest in their municipality. The session also allows time for questions and provides an opportunity to briefly share and highlight problems or opportunities facing councils.

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 **TASWATER *** **Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That the Meeting

- 1. Note the current status of the TasWater debate; and**
- 2. Agree that LGAT’s advocacy effort on TasWater gradually reduce to a focus on ensuring sector feedback on key issues, especially legislative changes, as well as any support required to the Chief Owner Rep that cannot be provided by TasWater.**

Background

As outlined at the last Meeting, on the 6 February 2018 the Liberal Party confirmed their commitment to taking over the ownership of TasWater and announced they had ‘sweetened’ the deal for councils with:

- An immediate 12-month price freeze for customers, with no subsequent catch-up, meaning prices will always be lower;
- Total savings to customers of approximately \$700 on average over six years, an increase of \$200 on the original proposal; and
- The provision to councils of either 50 per cent of TasWater’s profits or \$20 million (whichever is greater), indexed forever instead of until 2025.

The GMC convened a special teleconference to consider this announcement and determined that the risks had not fundamentally changed and that the Government had still not addressed concerns about governance, scrutiny, debt, viability and risks of political interference.

They determined that the position developed by Members in May 2017 (as well as that outlined in our election document) stood and that we would continue to advocate for “no further action by State Government with respect to ownership” and “collaboration between State Government, TasWater and Council Owners to prioritise those major water and sewerage initiatives that have the potential to provide significant shared benefits at a regional level”.

After the election, LGAT, through the President, took swift action to engage with the Premier and Treasurer on the issue of TasWater. The Government were receptive to developing a different approach and following meetings developed a new pathway which could be taken to councils, in the form of an MOU.

That MOU was signed on 1 May by the Chief Owner Representative, Mayor David Downie, but is subject to ratification by owner councils. It will be discussed in some detail at the Owner Representative Meeting on 10th May.

The MOU and related press releases, as distributed to councils is at **Attachment to Item 2.1**.

In summary if endorsed:

- The State Government will contribute \$20 million a year for 10 years in exchange for equity in TasWater;
- As a shareholder they will have a role in the Board and CEO selection and the signoff of the corporate plan;
- They State Government will not take distributions, but council's current distributions are preserved;
- The injection of funding will allow price increases for consumers to be capped and some acceleration of the capital program.
- There will be a collaborative approach to progressing Macquarie Point, the Launceston combined system and Cameron Bay.

The principles outlined in the MOU were developed with consideration of the key concerns raised by LGAT Members which formed LGAT's advocacy and informed our legislative council submission. These included maintaining Local Government ownership, revenue/rating impacts, cost of living concerns, independent oversight, skilled board, ease of raising issues with TasWater, ensuring all community needs considered (avoiding pork barrelling) and so on.

It is important to understand that the MOU is non-binding and serves at this stage as a vehicle to consult with councils. This is because it was not practical to consult widely in the post-election environment.

Even if the MOU is endorsed there is much more detailed work to be undertaken and agreed by owners. TasWater and the Government must work together to determine the necessary changes to Legislation and the TasWater Constitution. TasWater will then call a meeting of Owner Councils with a detailed Information Memorandum that includes resolutions to approve constitutional changes. If the proposed resolutions are endorsed by Councils, government will then take the agreed the legislative changes to Parliament.

Budget Implications

Advocacy support and actions have been funded without an additional call on Members but total direct expenditure on consultancy and advertising costs was \$40,000.

Current Policy

Advocacy against the State takeover of TasWater has been a strategic priority for LGAT. Assuming that councils ratify the MOU it is intended that LGAT's role will gradually reduce, with a focus on ensuring sector feedback on key issues, especially legislative changes as well as any support required to the Chief Owner Rep that cannot be provided by TasWater.

Strategic Plan, Priority 1:

Influence the State Government agenda for TasWater.

2.2 GMC REPRESENTATIVE – NORTH- NORTH WEST REGION

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That the Meeting agree to deferring a GMC by-election to fill the vacancy left by Steve Martin until after the October Local Government elections and allow the proxy, Mayor Jan Bonde to continue to serve on GMC until that time.

Background

The former Mayor of Devonport, Senator Steve Martin, was a member of the GMC. He resigned from council and therefore under our rules the position on GMC became vacant. The position on GMC (NW >20,000 population) is currently being filled by the proxy, Mayor Jan Bonde.

Ordinarily LGAT would run a by-election to fill the casual vacancy (Rule 21 (d)) however with Local Government elections in October there is always a risk we will have a vacancy arise if a current GMC member is not re-elected.

On that basis, we are seeking agreement of the Members to hold off running an election process until after the October elections, which reduces the cost risk to LGAT. Further, we are seeking agreement not to hold an election for a proxy for the NW position being filled by Mayor Bonde, on the same basis.

Under the LGAT Rules, 21 (c) The term of office of the General Management Committee may be extended by any Meeting of the Association for such periods as it determines.

Budget Implications

Potentially LGAT may have to fund two by-elections if the motion is not supported.

Current Policy

There is precedent for applying Rule 21(c), it has been applied several times over the last decade including most recently with Mayor Tony Bisdee and Ald Heather Chong.

2.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members agree to a feasibility study into the establishment of a Local Government statewide waste management organisation.

Background

In Tasmania our landfill diversion rate of 37% is significantly lower than the national average of 58% and almost half that of the ACT, NSW, Victoria and South Australia. This poor waste management practices present a risk to public health and the environment and negatively impacts on the public image of our State.

The lack of a state-wide landfill levy has created a market environment where resource recovery has a limited capacity to compete with landfill. The low landfill diversion rates in Tasmania result in a low economic benefit from the waste and recycling sector and the loss of the value of recoverable resource. Resource recovery operations employ more people and require greater investment in infrastructure per tonne of material processed compared to landfills.

A range of further issues have been identified in the current resource recovery system that prevent greater resource recovery. These include a lack of infrastructure planning, an absence of clear performance targets for resource recovery and data collection management systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and provide public transparency. Significant opportunities exist for improving resource recovery rates which target priority materials such as organics and materials from the construction and demolition, optimising kerbside systems, upgrade of Local Government infrastructure to best practice and addressing more efficient collection of problematic wastes such as Hazardous Household Wastes.

At the May 2016 Premier's Local Government Council meeting, the State Government advised that they would not be introducing a waste levy but that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) would be updating the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy (TWRMS). The draft Strategy was expected to be released by mid-2017 with a three to five-year time horizon. It was likely to be project and action based in the first instance.

At the July 2016 LGAT General Meeting, members moved that LGAT re-establish the Waste Reference Group (WRG) to develop recommendations for Members, with respect to the TWRMS and/or a waste levy. The WRG consists of representatives from each of the three regional waste authorities and the LGAT Policy Director.

At the November 2016 General Meeting, members moved that LGAT reconfirm its commitment to the introduction of a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected by public and private landfills, as endorsed at the Local Government General Meeting in July 2012. In late 2016 the WRG determined that it was strategically important that a "statewide waste strategy", from a Local Government perspective, be prepared. This document would

be used as our main tool to engage with the EPA. The completed strategy was presented at the April 2017 General Meeting and is available on the LGAT website:

http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/LGAT%20Waste%20and%20Resource%20Management%20Strategy_Final%20.pdf

The Strategy was provided to the EPA and Minister for Environment shortly after the April 2017 General Meeting to inform the State Government's work on preparing a State Waste Strategy. Since that time LGAT staff have met with the EPA several times to discuss their progress. At the time of writing, the State Government was yet to release a draft State Waste Strategy, despite promising its imminent release more than once.

The recent issues resulting from the Chinese policy changes and its impact on kerbside recycling highlight the need for there to be leadership and action on waste management in Tasmania and Local Government can no longer afford to wait for the State Government. In addition, when the State Waste Strategy is released it will be project and action based in the first instance and this will not address some of the issues and challenges associated with waste management in Tasmania.

A critical factor which is key to improving our resource recovery and waste management in Tasmania is an adequately resourced state-wide organisation to lead, champion and deliver improvements to waste management. Evidenced by the lack of progress on a State Waste Strategy, the capacity of the EPA is constrained with respect to being able to adequately undertake this task.

Tasmania requires an organisation to lead and provide oversight of the implementation of improvements to our waste management, and funding to deliver programs and or strategic actions. Tasmania does not have a dedicated body with capacity to provide advice on state-wide waste issues to the Tasmanian Government, or the resources to deliver state-wide programs. For example, Sustainability Victoria, Green Industries South Australia and the Western Australian Waste Authority all have a strategic planning and program delivery roles with guaranteed core funding (hypothecated from a landfill levy).

The three regional waste management groups generally have a common purpose; however, their governance arrangements differ significantly across the state as does their function, resources and funding. Currently regional activities focus primarily on the waste generated from the Municipal Solid Waste sector, as it is the focus of and directly within the sphere of influence of their member councils.

It is unlikely that the State Government will establish an organisation to undertake this state-wide role, but Local Government has the opportunity (and experience) to investigate the benefits and risks of doing so and if feasible, what roles and functions such an organisation should perform. Any such investigation would need to look at delineating between function, roles and responsibilities of the regional groups and State government but at a minimum any state-wide organisation could support greater collaboration and coordinated delivery of strategies and programs across Tasmania.

As a first step it is requested that Members support a feasibility study to look at whether Tasmania would benefit from an organisation with state-wide oversight of our waste management and potentially what its roles and functions should be but, noting for it to be effective these functions should include:

- Providing leadership in developing and implementing improvements to our waste management;
- Delivering programs and or strategic actions; and
- Expand on opportunities in the waste sector.

While infrastructure ownership impacts and commercial arrangements would be part of the study, it would be recognised that historically councils have invested differently in waste infrastructure. Further, the final solution may or may not include infrastructure and ownership considerations.

It would be stipulated in the scope of work that any new arrangements would have to be at no detriment to councils.

Budget Impact

This work is substantial and will require additional resourcing, outside of LGAT's existing subscriptions. It is anticipated that approximately \$100,000 will be required for this work. If this motion is endorsed, the 2018-19 budget would contain a per council share to cover the additional cost, based on the subscription formula.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

3. ITEMS FOR NOTING

3.1 CREDIT CARD POLICY

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the Model Credit Card Policy.

Background

LGAT has completed a draft Model Credit Card Policy for Tasmanian Local Government. An earlier draft version was provided to General Managers in March for initial consultation and feedback. After incorporating comments, LGAT has provided an updated version to all councils as well as to key State Government stakeholders, particularly the Local Government Division and the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO).

This latest version provides clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities required to manage credit card allocation, appropriate use, as well as statement reconciliation and acquittal. The draft model policy aims to reflect the sound basis found in councils' existing credit card policies while reconciling their diversity.

The draft policy aims to reflect that, despite intense media publicity and detailed independent auditing, the TAO *“did not find evidence of serious or systemic misuse of public funds or fraud”* and recommended *“the development of a model credit card policy and its adoption by all councils to maintain a degree of consistency across the Local Government sector”*.

Therefore, to respond to this, LGAT's draft policy aims to harmonise the variety of individual policies across the sector, while recognising and building upon the strong existing level of policy foundation that already existing across Tasmanian Councils. A degree of customisation is built into the model policy to allow councils to adapt it to their own policy framework, while still addressing the TAO recommendations.

The draft policy is intended to be a model, not a mandatory requirement, so the intention is for it to form a robust guideline for councils in customising their response to the TAO recommendations.

Consultation will be open until **Monday 28 May**, a total of five weeks with feedback or questions to be directed, in the first instance, to Michael Edrich at michael.edrich@lgat.tas.gov.au.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change;
- Building Local Government's reputation

3.2 TASNETWORKS PRICING RESET 2019-2024

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the TasNetworks Pricing Reset.

Background

TasNetworks submitted its combined Transmission and Distribution Regulatory Proposal (Proposal) for 2019 to 2024 to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) on 31 January 2018.

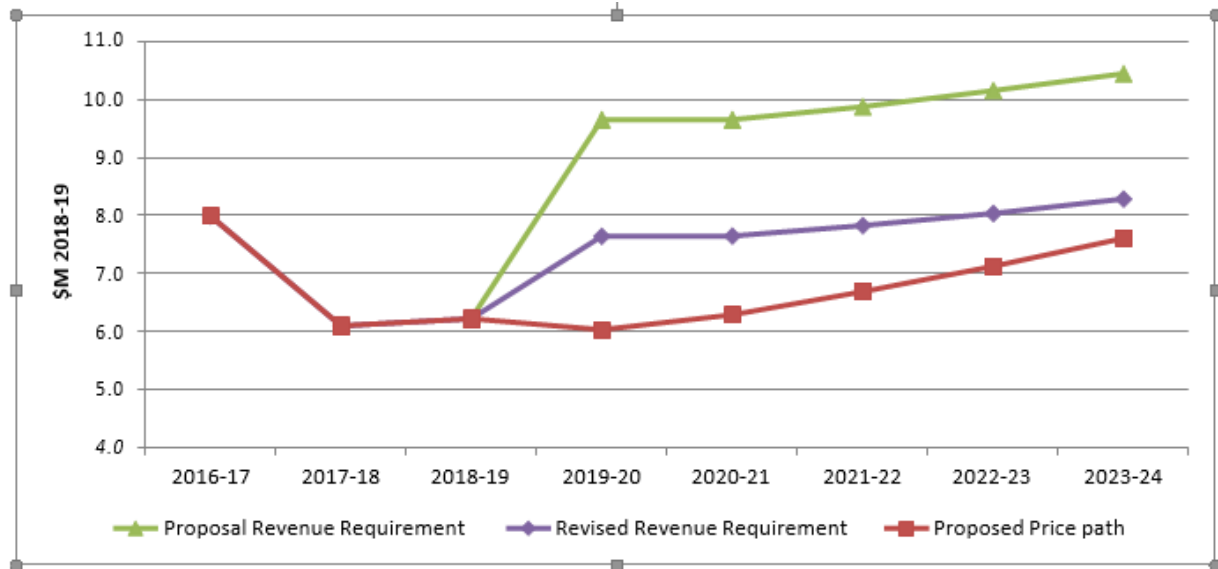
As a monopoly provider of transmission and distribution network services, the amount of revenue TasNetworks is able to earn from its customers each year is set by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). This regulation exists primarily to protect electricity customers by ensuring specific performance standards and by capping revenue based on expected costs forecast during a regulatory period (usually five years).

The TasNetworks proposal has highlighted that the current prices for public lighting assets fall significantly short of full cost recovery. As a result, TasNetworks proposes to increase its public lighting prices over the 2019-24 and 2024-29 regulatory period to fully cost reflective pricing. Accordingly, TasNetworks proposes to increase the prices charged for public lighting service by the consumer price index (CPI) plus 2.5 per cent annually. TasNetworks submits that this will still be under full cost recovery in this period.

In reviewing the TasNetworks proposal, LGAT identified several issues, notably:

- The significant increase in overheads and corporate capex annuity attributed to each light type, accounting for much of the cost increase;
- That the capital cost of LED lights and new technology is priced in the model for 5 years with the price being the same in year 1 and year 5. This is concerning as the technology continues to move quickly and it is likely that prices will decrease over the 5-year period. It is also difficult to price a technology which hasn't yet been developed or approved;
- That the cost of installing a new light seems to be significantly higher than it should be; and
- That the model may not account for the northern lights project and the change in ownership.

LGAT has raised these concerns directly with TasNetworks as well as the AER and the Consumer Challenge Panel. The Australian Energy Regulator has identified public lighting as one of the key areas of scrutiny as part of its assessment of the TasNetworks proposal. Due of this scrutiny, TasNetworks has reviewed the public lighting model and identified that it had made an error to the numbers and the split between public lights and contract lights and the forward program of lighting replacement. As a result of the review of inputs into the model TasNetworks has reduced the overheads by \$1.4 million a year for the 5-year period (see graph below).



However, as the TasNetworks pricing proposal is not for full cost recovery during this period (e.g. the red proposed price path above), this reduction will not lead to any council savings in the 2019-2024 period. The savings to councils because of this adjustment are likely to occur in future determinations, e.g. post 2024.

Although the initial response to feedback on the model by TasNetworks is good news, LGAT believes that there are other pricing issues in their model that need to be addressed. LGAT has raised these concerns in its formal submission to the AER. It is hoped that the AER will require further adjustments to the public lighting proposal when it provides a formal response to TasNetworks in September. The final determination will be made by the AER in January 2019.

Budget Implications

Does not apply

Current Policy

Strategic plan:

- Facilitating Change; and
- Promoting financial sustainability.

3.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Decision Sought

That Members note the actions LGAT has in train to support the upcoming Local Government Elections.

Background

The Association has already commenced activity designed to support Local Government elections in October. This work will be delivered in two phases. Phase 1 is focussed on attracting and informing candidates and Phase 2 is encouraging voter turnout and supporting newly elected councillors.

Having had some early opportunity to consider our process, materials and partnership in relation to the Glenorchy City Council elections the following activities are being put in train.

Phase 1:

- Review and update the Becoming a Councillor Handbook.
- Develop new web based materials for candidates including video, audio and text. Topics covered include:
 - Are you able to stand for council?
 - What skills do you need?
 - What's in it for me?
 - What do councillors do?
 - Working together.
 - Planning Authority role.
 - What you need to know about campaigning.
 - If you are elected.
 - How to nominate.

It is hoped that this provides a source of information for those who can't attend regional sessions or for councils to use in local sessions.

- Provide template text and links for councils to use on their websites.
- Deliver regional and remote candidate information sessions in partnership with the Local Government Division, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, the Audit Office and the Australian Local Government Women's Association (Tas). Dates have been secured and forums will commence in late May with advertising in mid May. Partners are also participating in a series of forums in the Huon Valley Municipality at different dates over the next few months.
- The *Better Councils Better Communities* television commercial will be run during late May/June with an end title "Stand for Council" and direction to the LGAT website.

Key Dates

North West Forum	5 June
Northern Forum	6 June
Southern Forum	13 June

Phase 2:

- Review and update the Mayoral Handbook and Councillor Resource Kit and Induction Checklist.
- Develop new web-based materials to supplement those provided for candidates, including more in-depth information on functions, including Land Use Planning; Meeting Procedures, Code of Conduct and Good Governance.
- The *Better Councils Better Communities* television commercial will be run during October with an end title encouraging people to vote in council elections.
- A Professional Development weekend for new councillors (with a special session for new Mayors) will take place on 17 November. This is intended to be run in partnership with the Local Government Division, Integrity Commission and Audit Office.

Key Date:

New Councillor/New Mayor Training -Launceston 17 November.

In addition to supporting the LGAT sessions the Local Government Division has indicated they will also engage with councils and councillors on a prioritised basis following the elections, to assist with induction. This might include councils that experience a significant change in councillors, and particularly where there are several first-time councillors.

The Division also advise that their regulatory activities will include efforts to ensure the integrity, and confidence in, the democratic process in the lead up to, and in the conduct of, the October election. These activities will complement the jurisdiction of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) and the Director has been in discussion with the TEC on this issue. The integrity of the electoral roll and the eligibility of candidates for each council are vital to the community's confidence in the outcomes of the elections.

At its December 2018 meeting, the PLGC agreed to include in its official Communique a statement of principle that affirmed the commitment of both levels of government to promoting, in the lead-up to the 2018 council elections:

1. The important, and increasingly complex role of Local Government in serving and representing the interests of local Tasmanian communities, whilst discharging statutory obligations such as acting as a planning authority;
2. The encouragement of candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds, so that elected members reflect a broad cross-section of the community and the value diversity brings;
3. The continuous improvement in the professionalism, capacity, and integrity of councils and councillors;
4. A recognition of the valuable role that a councillor plays in local communities and the personal satisfaction councillors can gain from helping their communities; and
5. An increase in active community engagement and participation at the local Government level, both at and between council election

Budget Impact

Within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan -

- Building Local Government's reputation;
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

Priority 5. Prepare communities and councils for the Local Government elections in 2018.

3.4 PLANNING REFORM

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on the State Government's Planning Reform Agenda.

Background

The State Government's planning reform agenda priorities are establishing the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the introduction of a set of Tasmanian Planning Policies to inform the planning system. In addition, the Government is undertaking measures to facilitate affordable housing.

Tasmanian Planning Scheme

Councils are currently preparing their Local Provision Schedules (LPSs), with it anticipated that 17 of the 29 LPSs will be submitted to the Tasmanian Planning Commission by the end of 2018, with the remainder in 2019.

At the time of writing concerns had been raised by a number of councils that the Natural Assets Code was not workable. The state-wide mapping undertaken collectively by councils has substantially improved what was available from the State Government, however it does not overcome the poorly drafted Code. Discussions are on-going with the Tasmanian Planning Commission on how this can be resolved in a reasonable timeframe.

Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs)

As part of its planning reform agenda the Government is developing a suite of new TPPs to support and inform the planning system. The new policies are anticipated to provide the long overdue strategic direction to the planning system. In mid-2017 the Government consulted on the draft Bill (the Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Tasmanian Planning Policies) Bill), which establishes the mechanism to create the TPPs.

The Government has indicated the Bill will be introduced to Parliament in the autumn Session of 2018. Once the Bill is passed by Parliament formal consultation will then begin on the actual Policies.

Regional Land Use Strategies

The three regional land use strategies were declared on 27 October 2011, with the northern and southern strategies undergoing a number of revisions in the intervening years. The strategies provide strategic direction (at a regional level) for land use and development and are implemented via the interim planning schemes (and subsequently the LPSs).

A broader review of the strategies and the governance arrangements has been discussed with Government, although it is not anticipated this would occur until the TPPs are developed and implemented (2 – 3 years off). However, owing to the growth pressure being experienced in the south of the State, the Government has agreed to consider a medium-term review of the southern strategy contingent on their LPSs being submitted. The scope of this medium-term review will address some of the concerns raised by councils in relation to the urban growth boundary, growth management strategies and general interpretation issues identified in the Strategy.

The Government is not intending to undertake a similar medium-term review for the Northern and Cradle Coast strategies.

Housing Supply – Crown Land Rezoning

On 15 March 2018, the Premier hosted a Housing Summit comprising key stakeholders in the housing sector. The Summit was called as a result of community concern about the availability of housing in the Greater Hobart region. A key action arising from the Summit was for the Government to develop fast-track legislation for land release and development. This will involve the introduction of enabling legislation in the autumn session of Parliament to fast track the required zoning changes for identified surplus government land.

A draft Bill was released for a very limited (2 weeks) consultation on Monday 30 April. The Bill establishes a power for the Minister to directly rezone specific parcels of Crown land, which will be identified in a schedule attached to a Regulation. It also allows the Minister to approve related subdivision applications and nominate specific planning controls that apply to the land.

The Bill will also provide a power for the Minister to issue ‘Temporary Emergency Residential Planning’ Permits to allow the immediate provision of emergency accommodation in appropriate locations where that might normally be prohibited under a planning scheme. This power applies to both Crown and private land.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources, noting this accounts for a significant workload.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

3.5 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Local Government Relief and Recovery Policy

Feedback from LGAT on the draft Local Government Relief and Recovery policy has now been reviewed by the Office of Security and Emergency Management. Some of the feedback has been incorporated into a revised draft and a suite of guidelines have been developed to support the draft. The draft will now go to the State Recovery Committee for endorsement before going to the State Emergency Management Committee for ratification. LGAT will continue to liaise with the State Government in relation to the policy and will look to ensure that the policy and supporting guidelines are reviewed after the first major event so as to ensure councils have the information they need through the guidelines.

Flood Debris Management on Crown Land

LGAT recently raised the issue of flood debris management on crown land at the Premiers Local Government Council Officials meeting. A number of councils have raised concerns in relation to the clean-up of debris in waterways and on coastal beaches after flooding. This is in relation to safety of the public as well as the potential impact of the debris on future flood events. The current emergency management documentation does not clearly articulate responsibility for clean-up and rehabilitation of our waterways and beaches and this needs to be addressed.

As a result of the item and following discussion, the Deputy Secretary of Premier and Cabinet has agreed to task the Office of Security and Emergency Management with working with Crown land to address the gap, with LGAT to be consulted throughout the work.

Lidar Data and Flood Study Funding

The Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments have committed to jointly funding the Tasmanian Flood Project under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The Tasmanian Flood Project will:

- Ensure that most if not all communities will have access to a high-resolution surface model for the purpose of flood modelling through the collection of light detection and ranging (LiDAR);
- Development of a Tasmanian Flood Hazard Map to support flood risk assessment and the development of land use planning and building controls; and
- Partner with Local Government (on a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 funding basis) to undertake detailed flood studies and evacuation planning for the communities most at risk of flooding that do not have a current flood study.

The Tasmanian Flood Project has a budget of \$3 million that is roughly evenly spread across the tasks above. The project will commence in the third quarter of 2018 under the SES and will take three years to complete. The first year will be dedicated to LiDAR data capture, the second year the Tasmanian Flood Hazard Map and, the third year to detailed flood studies.

Workshop Program:

Stream 1: Infrastructure & Engagement

David Bobberman - Austroads Safety Program Manager

The 5 R's to help achieve the safest road network; Local Government liability, standards, & practices

Kimbra White - Co-founder and director of MosaicLab

Engagement - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

Stream 2: Innovation & Digital

Sally Curtain - Thought Leader, Strategist and Reformer

Reform Program on a Page – Understanding your digital maturity

Eyal Halamish - OurSay - Founder and Risk Communication Expert

Risky business: Community in the Digital Space

Stream 3: Corporate Development

Dr Matt Constable – Chiropractor, Business and Clinical Consultant

Rejuvenate and Reinvesting in your greatest Assets: You and your Team.

Dr Seth Nicholls – Principal Consultant, Nicholls Consulting

Rejuvenating, Reforming and Reinventing your Council's Decision-Making Process

The 106th LGAT Awards for Excellence

The annual Local Government Awards for Excellence aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement among Tasmanian councils. The Awards for Excellence recognize and reward councils for their hard work benefiting local communities. The Awards for Excellence celebrate and raise awareness of successful Local Government projects and promote networks and collaboration between Local Government organisations

The nomination process is now open. The Guidelines and entry form can be found [here](#). Nominations close 1 June 2018.

Entries can be submitted to Reception@lgat.tas.gov.au

LGTas

The April edition of LGTas is out now and available [here](#)

This LGTas we are showcasing Local Government collaboration and partnerships; celebrating the achievements of our members.

All Elected Members have been provided a printed edition of April LGTas. If you would like any further printed copies, please contact Kate Hiscock: kate.hiscock@lgat.tas.gov.au

Mayors' Professional Development Day

Thursday 17 May, Windsor Park, Riverside.

David Dilger will lead an interactive discussion about steps your Council can take to ensure councillors and managers are communicating effectively with their peers and employees to avoid dealing with sexual harassment, bullying, conflicts of interest breaches, victimisation and other legal claims.

Budget Impact

The LGAT Annual Conference is funded through Sponsorship.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan:

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

3.7 POLICY UPDATE

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the Policy Update.

Local Government Community Health and Wellbeing Project

The engagement and consultation phase of the project has commenced through face-to-face meetings with Community Development Officers (and equivalent officers) at 23 councils and one video link meeting. These meetings included discussion of councils' current work on community health and wellbeing, information about upcoming funding opportunities and sharing of documents and resources. Face to face or video link meetings will be sought with the remaining five councils.

The Project Advisory Committee met for the first time in May and is expected to provide useful input into the project.

Community Satisfaction Survey

Since October 2001 LGAT has undertaken state-wide community satisfaction surveys, typically interviewing (by telephone) around 1240 Tasmanian residents from all Local Government areas.

There have been seven (7) previous surveys in 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, with the next one due this year. Nine areas of council services were identified and within these areas some 30-35 distinctive service areas were identified. The service areas were Council staff, other council service areas, waste management, community health and safety, recreation and cultural facilities, social and community services, roads, footpaths and traffic, community involvement, and planning and development. The questions have largely remained the same since 2001.

Analysis of the results across each survey has indicated that the scores, or community satisfaction, tends to vary very little from year to year. Beyond the positive media that has been gained from the results (average satisfaction has tended to be around 70 out of 100) the results offer little value to councils or LGAT on areas for improvement.

Given the limited value received from the survey and the cost involved (~\$30,000 per survey) it has been determined that for 2018, the survey will be reviewed and updated to try and make it more useful for councils and LGAT. LGAT will look to academic research and the work of other associations in developing robust and sustainable measures for the future. Certain questions will inevitably remain. All going well, LGAT is intending to release the survey results during the Local Government election period as another mechanism for encouraging voter turnout.

Code of Conduct

The new code of conduct framework commenced on 13 April 2016. In early 2017, the Tasmanian Government agreed to a request by the sector for a review of the framework at the conclusion of its initial 12 months of operation. The aim of the review was to investigate whether the framework is proving to be effective and identify and address any aspects of the framework that have not operated as intended. LGAT led consultation with councils, while the Local Government Division (LGD) has led consultation with members of the Code of Conduct Panel and Executive Officer.

Members endorsed a series of recommendations at the November 2017 General Meeting. These recommendations and those provided by the Panel members have been considered by the LGD and a package of recommendations have been presented to the Minister. At the time of writing the Minister was still considering this information.

Gifts and Benefits

In late 2017 the *Local Government Act 1993* was amended as part of the targeted review. A key amendment was the inclusion of a head of power to provide that elected members notify the general manager of receipt of gifts or donations, and that the general manager maintains a gifts and donations register.

Consequential amendments to the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* (General Regulations) are now required to prescribe the classes of gifts and donations, the monetary threshold for disclosure, notification requirements and the details recorded in the register.

The draft *Local Government (General) Amendment Regulations 2018* have been released for formal consultation, with comments due to by **close of business Friday 25 May** to Dion (dion.lester@lgat.tas.gov.au). The draft amendments to the General Regulations include:

- A period for notification of receipt of a gift or donation of 14 days. If a councillor receives a gift or donation while overseas, the 14-day period will commence on the councillor's return to Australia;
- Amending regulation 21 to remove unnecessary prescriptions for the size and number of electoral posters and signs;
- Amending regulation 22 to introduce a single electoral expenditure limit of \$10,000 for a candidate, regardless of whether they are running for mayor or deputy mayor or councillor, increased each year by CPI; and
- Amending regulation 22 to remove restrictions on the conditions of advertising, specifically in relation to the limits on television, radio and newspaper advertising.

The Government is aiming to amend the General Regulations well before the October 2018 Local Government elections so that persons nominating for election are aware of their obligations.

New Valuation Information System of Tasmania

The Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) within DPIPWE is working on a new valuation and information system, which is scheduled to go-live at the end of August 2018. The primary business objective of the new Valuation Information System of Tasmania (VISTAS) is to develop a contemporary property information system, which provides an authoritative property and valuation register that underpins the framework for all Tasmanian land.

The transition to the new VISTAS system will not affect existing interaction and processes between the OVG and local councils. The OVG will be better placed to service the councils with their queries and statutory valuations more efficiently, with opportunities in the future to automate or streamline processes across all municipality in Tasmania.

LGAT's Policy Director sits on the Steering Committee for the project.

Free Camping

The Government formally commenced a review into how national competitive neutrality principles are applied to council-owned RV parking and camping facilities early this year. This review is being oversighted by senior representatives from the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance and State Growth. As part of the process a stakeholder reference group has been established with representatives from LGAT and Local Government generally, caravan park operators and RV tourists and camping facility consumers. The stakeholder group has met once and is due to meet again on 23 May. Following the first stakeholder meeting Treasury commenced developing an options paper based on initial feedback from the reference group and this will be used as the basis for further consultation with stakeholders. A final report is anticipated by the end of June.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

3.8 YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on the Tasmanian Youth Local Government Taskforce

Background

Late last year LGAT hosted a training session for Tasmanian Youth Local Government Taskforce members in preparation for their Youth Local Government Conference. In the session Mayor Doug Chipman and media consultant Keryn Nyland gave the young people an overview of some of the procedural and communication issues for the sector.

The Youth Local Government Conference was held at the Hobart City Council from 14-16 October and attracted 28 young people from all over Tasmania (including Flinders Island). The attendees were nominated by their council. The young people used the Council Chambers to run mock council meetings and discuss the topics that they highlighted as important in their municipalities.

Participants noted the priorities for Tasmania's youth as mental health, public health, development, fisheries, waste management and recycling, recreational facilities, employment, public transport and youth advisory groups.

The Taskforce aims to raise the youth voice with councils. In summary, the Taskforce stated that:

“the Tasmanian Youth Local Government program of meetings has proven to be beneficial for students. It has encouraged youth to contribute to their local communities and ensured those youth who are engaged are genuinely listened to. The quality of debate and depth of understanding of the young councillors was inspiring, and it will be wonderful to see the conference blossom in future years. This conference is set to be an annual event that will provide a link between Tasmania's youth and the Local Government sector”.

Last year LGAT provided \$500 in sponsorship for the conference to support accommodation for those attending from regional areas.

Last month, LGAT entered into an MOU with the Tasmanian Youth Government Association with the aim of supporting further collaboration over the next few years, including through ongoing partnership for the Tasmanian Youth Local Government conference. Support includes promotion to councils and to that end, Members are encouraged to nominate students locally for participation in the program.

A copy of the MOU is at **Attachment to Item 3.8.** *

Further, the TYGA are providing some information for dissemination at the meeting.

3.9 ANNUAL PLAN *
Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

A report against the progress of the LGAT Annual Plan is at **Attachment to Item 3.9.**

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Owing to the need for some Members to leave by 1pm to attend Government House in Hobart and, given the attendance of Minister Jaensch at the Meeting, there is no specific item for discussion at this Meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE
