

ELECTION OF LGAT PRESIDENT

Candidate Statements (in alphabetical order)

Brendan Blomeley



At a time when the role of local government is coming under increasing scrutiny both at a state and federal level, it is important our association has direct and clear access to elected officials as well as decision makers in both tiers of Government in order to ensure the sector's best interests are served.

I am 44 years of age and the proud dad of two wonderful children. I have a strong professional background, having led a national industry association, managed the government and corporate relations for a significant Tasmanian company as well as a top-50 ASX-listed entity. I have also worked as a ministerial adviser at both a state and federal level with strong links to senior bureaucrats and elected officials of all political persuasions.

I have a passion for serving my community and was first elected to Clarence City Council in 2000 and re-elected in 2005. After nearly a decade of working at the highest level of my field interstate, I returned to put my roots down once and for all in our wonderful state in 2015 and was honoured to be elected again to Clarence City Council last year.

I have an MBA and am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I was made a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD) in 2012 and in 2017 I was also made a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders (FIML).

My community service has also included:

- Deputy Chairman, The Education Foundation of Tasmania;
- Chairman of Variety the Children's Charity, Tasmania;
- Vice-Chairman, Property Council of Australia (Tasmanian Division);
- Director, Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania); and
- Director, Crime Stoppers Tasmania.

As Councils seek to adequately address the many challenges associated with the infrastructure deficit, particularly in our rural and regional areas, our association needs strong, fearless and effective leadership.

With nearly a decade of Local Government involvement in Tasmania, combined with my corporate and political experience as well as media capacity, I have the skills and capabilities to provide the strong, fearless and effective leadership LGAT needs and deserves.

Importantly, as I do not bear the additional weight of mayoral chains, I will be in a position to devote 100% focus on delivering for you, the Members.

If you would like to discuss my candidacy or have suggestions as to how we can improve our community, I'd love to hear from you so please feel free to contact me on 0413 972 307.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen Burnet



I seek your council's nomination for the position of President for the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

This is an important role for Tasmania. With a passion for local government and the communities we serve, I have the skills and time to commit to this important role.

I feel that the following issues are important for our communities:

- preparing our communities for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events including bushfires
- access to affordable housing
- planning reform
- recycling and waste management
- good health and wellbeing
- elected representative and staff skills development
- effective purchasing through the National Procurement Network
- advocating for Tasmanian local government at both the state and national forums

My relevant experience has included key leadership positions in Council, both as Deputy Mayor (2009-11 and from the recent council election), chairperson of the City Planning Committee and other council committee memberships, my experience both in a previous professional capacity (Tasmanian Health Service Podiatry Manager 2005-2017), and as a

volunteer on community boards (TMAG, Maritime Museum and recent chair of the Migrant Resource Centre of Tasmania).

I am a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and regularly update my skills relating to governance, financial, infrastructure and planning issues.

My children now adults have grown up in Tasmania where they both work and study. I am married and like many Tasmanians, have a strong connection to this place.

I see the pressures on our councils both rural and city-based, to be effective in delivering for their communities. With an emphasis on City Deals and a population drift to cities, smaller councils as well as large need good representation by the umbrella organisation. This is of great importance to me and I would see this as critical in providing that balanced representation.

The role of LGAT in advocating for, providing training, skills development and recruitment for the sector, and driving policy in key areas is vital and I want the organisation to consolidate and extend the work already undertaken.

It is now that the Local Government needs a strong voice. If you have any queries, please contact me to discuss. I look forward to meeting you and your Councils, should I be elected as President, as this will be one of my priorities.

Helen Burnet

Deputy Lord Mayor

City of Hobart

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Peter Freshney



I am writing to seek your support for my candidacy for the position of President of our Local Government Association.

Like other candidates, my nomination was underpinned by a passionate belief in Local Government and our combined commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of those we are elected to represent.

Similarly, I believe there is a real need for strong leadership of our sector and in particular, in providing advocacy on those issues that are determined to be a priority by our membership.

More so, I'm also committed to ensuring support and assistance is provided to individual members of our Councils and to ensure, wherever possible, our peak body's priorities are clearly aligned with those of the membership.

In terms of my experience, I'm currently Mayor of the Latrobe Municipality and Co-Chair of the Municipal Alliance Committee that Latrobe Council has with Kentish Council. I also Chair the Mersey Leven Emergency Management Committee and am a TasWater Owner Representative. I Chaired the North West Flood Recovery Committee in the aftermath of the 2016 floods and am presently a member of the Local Government Act Review Reference Group. I also currently sit of the boards of the Latrobe Early Learning Centre and the Shearwater Country Club Timeshare Resort.

In 2016 I led a three Mayor delegation to Canberra to lobby on behalf of the Cradle Coast Region seeking a new long term funding agreement for the Mersey Community Hospital which ultimately resulted in the single largest financial agreement between the Federal and State Government in Tasmania's history. That agreement also secured a return for the Mersey Community Hospital to the state health system with guaranteed 10 year funding. I am a strong supporter of, and contributor to, the Cradle Coast Authority through my role as Deputy Chief Representative and have played a significant role in the restructuring and renewed leadership of that organisation.

I have a strong business background and own and manage a state-wide communications contracting company that currently employs 20 full time staff and provides services to all the major communications companies operating in the state. I have been a long term contributor to, and member of, many sporting and community based clubs primarily in leadership and executive roles.

All that being said, I am committed and passionate about contributing to Local Government and local communities and I would sincerely appreciate your support in my candidacy for the Presidency of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Christina Holmdahl



In the ten years that I have been leading my municipality, firstly as a Councillor for four years, Deputy Mayor for two years and Mayor for four years and re-elected as Mayor last October, I have gained the skills and experience that I am confident will enable me, if elected, to effectively represent our sector as your President.

As well as my duties as Councillor and Mayor of the West Tamar Municipality I am serving my third term as a member of the General Management Committee of LGAT, I am a member of the Premier's Local Government Council, a member of the LGAT CEO Appraisal Committee and a member of the Tamar Estuary Management Task Force.

In the last term of Local Government I spear-headed the West Tamar's Council's campaign to merge with the George Town Council and while the merger didn't eventuate, the experience gave me a clear understanding of the importance for regional co-operation and working across all municipal boundaries.

I spent 25 years in the media, fourteen of them in Canberra. My time in the capital developed my capacity as an effective political lobbyist.

My time in Canberra prepared me very well for a career change into the area of Corporate Public Affairs in Adelaide. I held the position of Corporate Public Affairs Manager for the Australian National Railways Commission, a Commonwealth Government commercial enterprise, for seven years. In that role I liaised on a regular basis with ministers' advisers in matters related to transport and railways, as well as working closely with our clients and my counterparts in the other State Railways.

As Mayor and Councillor I have strong connections with my community and this was reflected in my vote at the recent Local Government elections, the highest ever vote for a Mayor in the municipality.

I believe that I am qualified to continue the good work of our previous presidents and I'm confident that my working life prior to entering Local Government has prepared me well to be a strong and effective advocate for our sector as the next president of LGAT.

I have a very good working relationship with all levels of government on both sides of politics and I firmly believe that the best results come to Local Government by the sector remaining independent of party politics.

Daryl Quilliam



I am extremely humbled by the encouragement I have had to nominate for the President of LGAT.

I am passionate about Local Government and the incredible influence and positive leadership we can have on local communities.

I have a wide range of experience and understanding across all aspects of Local Government and community, and as your representative would be a huge privilege to serve you as your President.

I am now retired so this gives me plenty of time to address issues of Local Government.

My experience for the position includes:

1. Councillor for the past thirty-two years and the Mayor of Circular Head for eleven of those years,
2. Vice President of LGAT for the past 7 years, and acted for a short time as president after the untimely death of President Barry Jarvis, and
3. Board Member on the ALGA Board, a position arising from my role as LGAT Vice President.

I am invested heavily in local community, supported ably by my wife of 45 years, Bev, and my 2 daughters, their partners and my grandchildren.

Amongst my other state-wide community roles representation has included Chairperson of Rural Health Tasmania (10 years), and Chairperson of 26Ten Coalition (3 years). I also represent LGAT on the Rural Financial Counselling Committee for the State.

My involvement and interests in local community organisations and sporting clubs, are too numerous to mention here.

I believe I would be a safe pair of hands to lead the organisation forward to new horizons, in challenging and dynamic times. My personal circumstances will allow me to be dedicated to supporting this important role full time in advancing and promoting LGAT objectives.

I hold a strong professional rapport with the Premier and Cabinet Ministers of Tasmania and numerous other State and Federal leaders, which I feel promotes opportunities for LGAT and local government in building stronger funding and community outcomes.

I strongly believe that LGAT is owned by all councillors, so if elected as President, I would commit to personally visiting all councils within my first two years, whereby to listen, face to face to the local concerns to better inform my support and representation of you.

Given the wide range of candidates, and the desire by some councils to support their own nomination, I would really appreciate your Council's number two vote.

I thank you for taking the time to support my interest in nominating, I can be contacted most days on 0408 543 927, should you have any questions that you would like to raise.

Michael (Mick) Tucker



I am a passionate advocate not just for Break O'Day and the East Coast but all of our beautiful state. This is because I have a deep seeded love for Tasmania, her people and her landscape. This is why I am so committed to my role as a public servant and the responsibility of serving my community.

While I acknowledge the outstanding work of current and previous committee members, I am a believer in change being a revitalising force as it allows different views and perspectives to be heard and ensures an organisation's momentum towards the future.

At times I have been referred to as outspoken, and this is a direct result of my passion for our region and eagerness to ensure the community's voice is heard. Fiercely independent, I will never be swayed by political agenda or promise, once committed to a stance I am unshakeable in my determination and focus.

Over the years I have been involved with a number of boards and committees and so have a grounded understanding of the level of responsibility and commitment required to ensure the interests of an agency are both represented and imposed.

My experience as an Executive board/committee member includes:

- Past President of the Tasmanian Hook fisherman's association
- Past Executive Committee member of SENTMAC (South East Non-Trawl Management Committee)
- Past Board Director of the Australian board of directors of the Australian Newsagents Federation

- Past Executive Committee member of TFIC (Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council)
- Past Executive Board member of the St Helens Chamber of Commerce
- Past President of the Tasmanian Axeman's Association and current state representative
- Break O'Day Mayor and Councillor

A bit about Mick personally:

An East Coast stalwart, I have been the Mayor of Break O'Day Council for four years and was a Councillor for three years prior to that.

I believe in cohesion and collaboration between the community and bureaucracy, and have dedicated more than 30 years of my life to community service both through Local Government and my involvement with committees including the St Helens Chamber of Commerce.

I have been married to my wife Charmaine for 40 years and we have two beautiful daughters. Charmaine and I have owned and run the St Helens Newsagency for the last 17 years which is my second Mayoral office and certainly somewhere the community knows where to find me if they want a quick chat. I am also an avid woodchopper and still represent both the state and the nation. I am also a qualified shipwright and was a professional fisherman for 26 years.