

AGENDA ATTACHMENTS

18TH JUNE 2019

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
BOTHWELL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Table of Contents

AGENDA ITEM 10.1	3
RECEIVAL DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 10.3	27
RECIEVAL DRAFT MINUTES AUDIT PANEL MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 10.4	29
RECIEVAL DRAFT MINUTES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 10.5	39
RECIEVAL DRAFT MINUTES INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS COMMITTEE MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 13.3	41
ANNUAL PLAN 2019 / 2020	
AGENDA ITEM 16.10	63
DISCUSSION PAPER – STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT 1975	
AGENDA ITEM 16.12a	79
LGAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & GENERAL MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 16.12b	206
LGAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & GENERAL MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 16.12c	266
LGAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & GENERAL MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 16.12d	280
LGAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & GENERAL MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM 16.13	366
ABORIGINAL AND DUAL NAMING POLICY	
AGENDA ITEM 16.15a	375
SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCILS AUTHORITY - RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY ENERGY USE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROJECT 2018	
AGENDA ITEM 16.15b	392
SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCILS AUTHORITY - RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY ENERGY USE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROJECT 2018	
AGENDA ITEM 16.17	417
POLICY 2014-24 WORK HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY	
AGENDA ITEM 16.18	421
POLICY 2014-27 DONATIONS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY	
AGENDA ITEM 16.19	426
POLICY 2014-22 CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER	
AGENDA ITEM 16.20a	434
POLICY HR-020 – LONG SERVICE LEAVE	
AGENDA ITEM 16.20b	438
POLICY HR-020 – LONG SERVICE LEAVE	

Central Highlands Council

Draft Minutes – ORDINARY MEETING – 21st May 2019

Minutes of an Open Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council held at Hamilton Council Chambers, on Tuesday 21st May 2019, commencing at 9am.

1.0 OPENING

The Mayor advises the meeting and members of the public that Council Meetings, not including Closed Sessions, are audio recorded and published on Council's Website.

Mayor L Triffitt opened the meeting at 9.00am.

2.0 PRESENT

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer (arrived at 9.10am and left the meeting at 2.18pm), Clr A Bailey (arrived at 9.02am), Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore, Mrs Lyn Eyles (General Manager), Mrs Michaela Herbert (Minutes Secretary) and Mr Adam Wilson (Deputy General Manager, attended at 10.52am).

3.0 APOLOGIES

NIL

4.0 PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

In accordance with Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Mayor requests Councillors to indicate whether they or a close associate have, or are likely to have a pecuniary interest (any pecuniary or pecuniary detriment) or conflict of interest in any Item of the Agenda.

Clr A Campbell 14.4 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF FEES
Clr S Bowden 14.4 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF FEES

5.0 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING

Regulation 15 (1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states that at a meeting, a council by absolute majority, or a council committee by simple majority, may close a part of the meeting to the public for a reason specified in sub-regulation (2).

As per *Regulation 15 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, this motion requires and absolute majority

Moved: Clr J Honner

Seconded: Clr J Poore

THAT pursuant to *Regulation 15 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council, by absolute majority, close the meeting to the public to consider the following matters in Closed Session:

Item Number	Matter	<i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i>
1	Confirmation of the Closed Session Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16 April 2019	Regulation 15 (2)(g) - information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential
2	Voting for LGAT GMC Committee	15 (2) (g) – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the

		condition it is kept confidential.
3	Confidential Report from General Manager	15 (2) (g) – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.
4	Land Bronte Park	Regulation 15 (2) (f) proposals for the Council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land
5	Consideration of Matters for Disclosure to the Public	Regulation 15 (8) - While in a closed meeting, the Council, or Council Committee, is to consider whether any discussions, decisions, reports or documents relating to that closed meeting are to be kept confidential or released to the public, taking into account privacy and confidentiality issues.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

Mrs Michaela Herbert left the meeting at 9.05am.

5.1 MOTION OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved: Cllr J Poore

Seconded: Cllr J Honner

THAT the Council:

- (1) Having met and dealt with its business formally move out of the closed session; and
- (2) Resolved to report that it has determined the following:

Item Number	Matter	Outcome
1	Confirmation of the Closed Session Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16 April 2019	Minutes were confirmed
2	Voting for LGAT GMC Committee	Council's voting preferences placed on Ballot Papers
3	Confidential Report from General Manager	Report was discussed and noted
4	Land Bronte Park	Matter was discussed and noted.
5	Consideration of Matters for Disclosure to the Public	Matters were considered

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC

Mayor L Triffitt opened the meeting to the public at 10.00am.

*Mrs Michaela Herbert returned to the meeting at 10.06am.
Mrs Robyn Lewis entered the meeting at 10.06am.
Deputy Mayor J Allwright returned to the meeting at 10.08am.*

Mayor L Triffitt advised Council of the provision of Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1993 regarding behaviour expected of Council:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015
Version current from 29 June 2015 to date (accessed 22 May 2019 at 14:56)

40. Suspension from meeting

- (1) The chairperson of a meeting may suspend a councillor from part or all of the meeting if the councillor –
- (a) Makes a personal reflection about another councillor or an employee of the council and refuses to apologise; or
 - (b) Interjects repeatedly; or
 - (c) Disrupts the meeting and disobeys a call to order by the chairperson.
- (2) Before deciding to suspend a councillor, the chairperson is to –
- (a) Advise the councillor that suspension is being considered and of the reasons for considering suspension; and
 - (b) Give the councillor an opportunity to argue against suspension or to apologise.
- (3) If, after considering any argument or apology from a councillor under [subregulation \(2\)](#), the chairperson suspends the councillor, the councillor –
- (a) Must leave the meeting; and
 - (b) Must not attend the meeting while suspended.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

- (4) The chairperson may request the assistance of a police officer to remove a councillor who refuses to leave a meeting as required under subregulation (3) (a).

Mr James Headlam entered the meeting at 10.12am.
Mr Justin O'Conner Entered the meeting at 10.17am.

6.0 DEPUTATIONS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 10.09am | Mrs Robyn Lewis discussed the Central Highlands Tasmania Wildlife Group and the proposal for the request of applying for grant funding. |
| 10.34am | Mr Justin O'Conner provided an overview of the proposed new hatchery and the process of the breeding/hatching of the fish. |

Mrs Robyn Lewis left the meeting at 10.33am.
Mr Adam Wilson (Deputy General Manager) entered the meeting at 10.52am.
Clr J Poore left the meeting at 10.56am
Mr Justin O'Conner and Mrs Lyn Eyles left the meeting at 10.56am
Mr James Headlam left the meeting at 10.57am.

6.1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

NIL

Clr J Poore returned to the meeting at 10.57am.

7.0 MAYORAL COMMITMENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 10 th April 2019 | Municipal Councillors Tour |
| 11 th April 2019 | Municipal Councillors Tour |
| 12 th April 2019 | Business of Council |
| 13 th April 2019 | Business of Council |
| | Great Lake Community Centre – Premiers thank you Event |
| | TV Interview |
| 15 th April 2019 | Business of Council |
| 16 th April 2019 | Council Meeting – Bothwell |
| | Meeting with the Derwent Catchment Project |

17 th April 2019	HATCH Meeting – Hamilton
24 th April 2019	Business of council re a rate payer
25 th April 2019	ANZAC Dawn Service Gretna ANZAC 11a.m.Service – Bothwell
26 th April 2019	Business of Council
28 th April 2019	Business of Council
29 th April 2019	Meeting with the General Manager
6 th May 2019	Sub Regional Meeting – Bothwell TWWHA Workshop - Bothwell
7 th May 2019	Business of Council
8 th May 2019	Business of Council
10 th May 2019	Independent Living Units Committee Meeting- Hamilton
13 th May 2019	Business of Council ABC Update
14 th May 2019	Planning Meeting – Bothwell Meeting with Clr R Cassidy

NOTED

7.1 COUNCILLOR COMMITMENTS

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

16 th April 2019	Council Meeting – Bothwell
25 th April 2019	ANZAC Day 11a.m Service – Hamilton
1 st May 2019	Meeting with the General Manager and a ratepayer
6 th May 2019	TWWHA Workshop – Bothwell
8 th May 2019	TasWater Owners Representative Meeting – Launceston
14 th May 2019	Planning Committee Meeting – Bothwell

Clr A Campbell

16 th April 2019	Council Meeting - Bothwell
17 th April 2019	Health and Wellness Workshop - Hamilton
25 th April 2019	Anzac Day Service - Bothwell
6 th May 2019	TWWHA Workshop - Bothwell

Clr R Cassidy

16 th April 2019	Council Meeting – Bothwell
25 th April 2019	ANZAC Day Dawn Service – Gretna ANZAC Day 11a.m Service – Bothwell
6 th May 2019	Placement of Grote Reber plaque at Visitor Centre, with Adam Wilson, DGM TWWHA Planning Workshop, Bothwell
14 th May 2019	Planning Committee Meeting
20 th May 2019	Budget Workshop – Hamilton

Clr J Poore

25 th April 2019	Anzac Day Service at Hamilton
2 nd May 2019	Central Highlands Visitors Centre Meeting to select position for Defibrillator
6 th May 2019	Bothwell, Workshop on Management Plan for development in World Heritage Area
8 th May 2019	Attend CWA Annual General Meeting in Bothwell
9 th May 2019	Tour with volunteers from Visitors Centre to inspect Visitors Centres in Deloraine and Evandale
10 th May 2019	Meeting with Mayor, General Manager and Deputy General Manager in Hamilton
14 th May 2019	Planning Meeting in Bothwell
20 th May 2019	Budget Workshop at Hamilton
21 st May 2019	Council Meeting at Hamilton

Clr J Honner

11 th April 2019	Capital Works Inspection
13 th April 2019	Thank You Day – Miena
16 th April 2019	Ordinary Council Meeting – Bothwell
25 th April 2019	Anzac Service – Bothwell
6 th May 2019	TWWHA workshop Bothwell

NOTED**7.2 GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMITMENTS**

16 th April 2019	Council Meeting
29 th April 2019	Meeting James John
1 st May 2019	Meeting Deputy Mayor & Ratepayer
10 th May 2019	ILU Committee Meeting
14 th May 2019	Planning Committee meeting
20 th May 2019	Council Budget Workshop
	Meeting Michal Stevens - Tas Bushfire Recovery Coordinator

NOTED**7.3 DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMITMENTS**

16 th April 2019	Council Meeting – Bothwell
17 th April 2019	Central Highlands Health and Wellbeing Plan Workshop
18 th April 2019	Recovery Site Meetings Brady's Lake and Bronte
6 th May 2019	South Central Council's Meeting
	Meeting with Councillor Cassidy Central Highlands Visitors Centre
	Local Government Shared Services Meeting
8 th May 2019	Interviews - Heavy Combination Truck Driver / Plant Operator
9 th May 2019	Bus Tour of other Visitor Information Centres
20 th May 2019	Council Workshop
	Meeting with Mayor, General Manager and Michael Stevens, Tasmanian Bushfire Recovery Coordinator
21 st May 2019	Council Meeting – Hamilton

NOTED

Mrs Lyn Eyles returned to the meeting at 10.59am.

8.0 NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS HELD

Workshop – Budget – Meeting held on the 20th May 2019

NOTED**8.1 FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

Council Budget Workshop – Friday 7th June 2019 from 10am at Hamilton

NOTED

Clr S Bowden left the meeting at 11.01am.

9.0 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor L Triffitt tabled a letter of acknowledgement on behalf of Treasurer, Peter Gutwein, regarding the Mobile Black Spot Program - Round 5. The letter stated that the letter received by Council has been forwarded on to Minister Michael Ferguson for further consideration.

10.0 MINUTES

10.1 RECEIVAL DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING

Moved: Clr J Honner

Seconded: Clr J Poore

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Open Council Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 16th April 2019 be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, , Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

10.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING

Moved: Clr A Campbell

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT the Minutes of the Open Council Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 16th April 2019 be confirmed.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

10.3 RECIEVAL DRAFT MINUTES INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Clr A Bailey

Seconded: Clr J Honner

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Independent Living Units Committee Meeting held on Friday 10th May 2019 be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

10.4 RECEIVAL DRAFT MINUTES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Clr J Poore

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

11.0 BUSINESS ARISING

- 14.1 DA 2019/11 - letter sent
- 14.2 Policy updated on website
- 14.3 Letter sent to Mr Croswell
- 14.4 Letter sent to Mr Gordon
- 14.5 Development & Environmental Services Manager to report to May Council Meeting
- 14.6 Development & Environmental Services Manager to new street signage
- 15.1 Works & Services Manager to trail gravel on Dennistoun Road
- 15.4 Letter sent to Mayor of West Tamar Council
- 15.5 Works & Services Manager to investigate matter further and report back to Council once quotes are obtained.
- 16.1 Long Term Financial Plan & Strategy amended to be CPI +1% for the 2019/20 financial year
- 16.2 Original Certificate of Title Volume 4401 Folio 92 provided to Page Seager
- 16.4 Item deferred until the May Council Meeting
- 16.5 Development & Environmental Services Manager to obtain quotes for 19/20 budget deliberations
- 16.6 Smart TV purchased, Development & Environmental Services Manager to obtain quotes for heat pump and report to May Council Meeting regarding signage
- 16.7 Correspondence sent to Salvation Army
- 16.8 Correspondence sent to The Honourable Michael Ferguson and The Honourable Peter Gutwein, meeting organised for Mayor, General Manager and Regional General Manager – Tasmania Telstra Regional Australia to discuss a mobile strategy on the 22 May
- 16.10 Correspondence sent to Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority
- 16.11 Policy updated on website
- 16.12 Item deferred until the May Council Meeting
- 16.13 Location for Grote Reber Plaque determined and Development & Environmental Services Manager to install plaque on a wall in the main area of the Central Highlands Visitor Centre.
- 16.14 Correspondence sent to Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service
- 16.15 Correspondence sent to Lord Mayor
- 16.16 Councillors attend workshop
- 16.17 Formal submission lodged with Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Review Committee
- 17.2 Correspondence sent to Mrs Callaghan

NOTED

Clr S Bowden returned to the meeting at 11.04am

12.0 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT REPORT

Moved: Clr J Poore

Seconded: Clr J Honner

THAT the Derwent Catchment Project report be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

13.0 FINANCE REPORT

Moved: Clr A Bailey

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT the Finance Report be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

Mr Graham Rogers (Manager of Development and Environmental Services) entered the meeting at 11.09am.

14.0 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

In accordance with Regulation 25(1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Mayor advises that the Council intends to act as a Planning Authority under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, to deal with the following items:

Moved: Clr J Honner

Seconded: Clr A Campbell

THAT the Development & Environmental Services Report be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

14.1 DA2019/15: SUBDIVISION – 13 LOTS AND BALANCE: ARTHURS LAKE ROAD, ARTHURS LAKE

Moved: Clr R Cassidy

Seconded: Clr A Bailey

THAT the proposal is assessed to substantially comply with the requirements of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and so in accordance with section 57 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, the Planning Authority is recommended to approve the application for subdivision of thirteen (13) lots and balance at CT171844/1 Arthurs Lake Road, Arthurs Lake, subject to the following conditions:

General

1. The subdivision layout or development must be carried out substantially in accordance with the application for planning approval, the endorsed drawings and with the conditions of this permit and must not be altered or extended without the further written approval of Council.

2. This permit shall not take effect and must not be acted on until 15 days after the date of receipt of this permit unless, as the applicant and the only person with a right of appeal, you notify Council in writing that you propose to commence the use or development before this date, in accordance with Section 53 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.

Public open space

3. As insufficient provision has been made for recreational space, and having formed the opinion that such a provision should be made in respect of the proposal, Council requires that an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the unimproved value of Lots 1-13 must be provided as cash-in-lieu of public open space in accordance with the provisions of Section 117 of the Local Government (Building & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993. The subdivider must obtain a valuation for the unimproved value of the subdivision from a registered Valuer.

Final Plan

4. A final approved plan of survey and schedule of easements as necessary, together with two (2) copies, must be submitted to Council for sealing for each stage. The final approved plan of survey must be substantially the same as the endorsed plan of subdivision and must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Recorder of Titles.
5. A fee of \$205.00, or as otherwise determined in accordance with Council's adopted fee schedule, must be paid to Council for the sealing of the final approved plan of survey for each stage.
6. All conditions of this permit must be satisfied before the Council seals the final plan. It is the subdivider's responsibility to arrange any required inspections and to advise Council in writing that the conditions of the permit have been satisfied. The final plan of survey will not be dealt with until this advice has been provided.
7. The subdivider must pay any Titles Office lodgment fees direct to the Recorder of Titles.

Easements

8. Easements must be created over all drains, pipelines, wayleaves and services in accordance with the requirements of the Council's General Manager. The cost of locating and creating the easements shall be at the subdivider's full cost.

Endorsements

9. The final plan of survey must be noted that Council cannot or will not provide a means of drainage, water or sewer services to all lots shown on the plan of survey.

Covenants

10. Covenants or other similar restrictive controls that conflict with any provisions or seek to prohibit any use provided within the planning scheme must not be included or otherwise imposed on the titles to the lots created by this permit, either by transfer, inclusion of such covenants in a Schedule of Easements or registration of any instrument creating such covenants with the Recorder of Titles, unless such covenants or controls are expressly authorised by the terms of this permit or the consent in writing of the Council's General Manager.

Agreements

11. Agreements made pursuant to Part 5 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* must be prepared by the applicant on a blank instrument form to the satisfaction of the Council and registered with the Recorder of Titles. The subdivider must meet all costs associated with the preparation and registration of the Part 5 Agreement.

Weed management

12. Prior to the carrying out of any works approved or required by this approval, the subdivider must provide a weed management plan detailing measures to be adopted to limit the spread of weeds listed in the Weed Management Act 1999 through imported soil or land disturbance by appropriate water management and machinery and vehicular hygiene to the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer and of the Regional Weed Management Officer, Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment.

Engineering

13. The subdivision must be carried out in accordance with the *Central Highlands Council Subdivision Guidelines 2012* (attached).
14. Engineering design drawings to the satisfaction of the Council's Municipal Engineer must be submitted to and approved by Council before development of the land commences.
15. Engineering design drawings are to be prepared by a qualified and experienced civil engineer, or other person approved by Council's General Manager, and must show -

- (a) all existing and proposed services required by this permit;
- (b) all existing and proposed roadwork required by this permit;
- (c) measures to be taken to provide sight distance in accordance with the relevant standards of the planning scheme;
- (d) measures to be taken to limit or control erosion and sedimentation;
- (e) any other work required by this permit.

16. Approved engineering design drawings will remain valid for a period of 2 years from the date of approval of the engineering drawings.
17. The developer shall appoint a qualified and experienced Supervising Engineer (or company registered to provide civil engineering consultancy services) who will be required to certify completion of subdivision construction works. The appointed Supervising Engineer shall be the primary contact person on matters concerning the subdivision.

Property Services

18. Property services must be contained wholly within each lots served or an easement to the satisfaction of the Council's General Manager or responsible authority.

Existing services

19. The Subdivider must pay the cost of any alterations and/or reinstatement to existing services, Council infrastructure or private property incurred as a result of the proposed subdivision works. Any work required is to be specified or undertaken by the authority concerned.

Telecommunications and electrical reticulation

20. Where electrical and telecommunications services are to be provided they are to be in accordance with the requirements of the responsible authority and the satisfaction of Council's General Manager.

Roadworks

21. A vehicle access must be provided from the road carriageway to each lot. Accesses must be located and constructed in accordance with the IPWE Aust. (Tasmania Division) standard drawings, the approved Bushfire Hazard management Report and to the satisfaction of Council's General Manager.

Survey pegs

22. Survey pegs are to be stamped with lot numbers and marked for ease of identification.
23. Prior to the works being taken over by Council, evidence must be provided from a registered surveyor that the subdivision has been re-pegged following completion of substantial subdivision construction work. The cost of the re-peg survey must be included in the value of any security.

Defects Liability Period

24. The subdivision must be placed onto a 12 month maintenance and defects liability period following the completion of the works in accordance with the approved engineering plans and permit conditions.

Construction amenity

25. The development must only be carried out between the following hours unless otherwise approved by the Council's Manager Environment and Development Services:
- Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 - Saturday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 - Sunday and State-wide public holidays 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
26. All subdivision works associated with the development of the land must be carried out in such a manner so as not to unreasonably cause injury to, or unreasonably prejudice or affect the amenity, function and safety of any adjoining or adjacent land, and of any person therein or in the vicinity thereof, by reason of -
- (a) Emission from activities or equipment related to the use or development, including noise and vibration, which can be detected by a person at the boundary with another property.
 - (b) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land.
 - (c) Appearance of any building, works or materials.
27. Any accumulation of vegetation, building debris or other unwanted material must be disposed of by removal from the site in an approved manner. No burning of such materials on site will be permitted unless approved in writing by the Council's Municipal Engineer.

28. Public roadways or footpaths must not be used for the storage of any construction materials or wastes, for the loading/unloading of any vehicle or equipment; or for the carrying out of any work, process or tasks associated with the project during the construction period.

THE FOLLOWING ADVICE APPLIES TO THIS PERMIT: -

- A. This permit does not imply that any other approval required under any other legislation or by-law has been granted.
- B. This planning approval shall lapse at the expiration of two (2) years from the date of the commencement of planning approval unless the development for which the approval was given has been substantially commenced or extension of time has been granted. Where a planning approval for a development has lapsed, an application for renewal of a planning approval for that development may be treated as a new application.
- C. This permit shall not take effect and must not be acted on until 15 days after the date of receipt of this permit unless, as the applicant and the only person with a right of appeal, you notify Council in writing that you propose to commence the use or development before this date, in accordance with Section 53 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

*Cllr A Campbell left the meeting at 11.23am and returned at 11.25am.
Mr Adam Wilson left the meeting at 11.34am and returned at 11.36am.*

RESOLVED THAT Council move to item 14.3 DOG REGISTRATION SCHEDULE OF FEES.

14.3 DOG REGISTRATION SCHEDULE OF FEES

Moved: Cllr J Poore

Seconded: Cllr J Honner

THAT Council adopt the following Dog Registration Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2019/2020 period:

Description	Proposed 2019/2020	
	Paid by 31 July 2019	Paid after 31 July 2019
Domestic Dog (De-sexed)	\$22.00	\$42.00
Domestic Dog (not De-sexed)	\$42.00	\$72.00
Pensioner (1 st dog only)	\$12.00	\$22.00
Working Dog (used for the purpose of working farm stock)	\$12.00	\$22.00
Hunting Dog (used to flush game)	\$12.00	\$22.00
Greyhound (TGRA registered)	\$12.00	\$22.00
Registered Breeding Dog (TCA Registered & Dog Owner holding current membership of the TCA)	\$12.00	\$22.00
Special Assistance Dog (Guide Dog / Hearing Dog)	Nil	Nil
Declared Dangerous Dog	\$1000.00	\$1500.00
Kennel Licence Application Fee	\$52.00	
Kennel Licence Renewal Fee	\$32.00	
Impounding Reclaim Fee (First Offence)	\$22.00	
Impounding Reclaim Fee (Subsequent Offences)	\$42.00	
Pound Maintenance Fee	\$12.00 per day	
Replacement Tag (Metal Lifetime Tag)	\$6.00	
Dog Surrender Fee	\$100.00	
Formal Notice of Complaint Fee	\$50.00 (Refundable)	

CARRIED 6 / 3

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Bailey, Clr A Campbell, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

AGAINST the Motion:

Clr A Archer, Clr S Bowden, Clr R Cassidy

Clr S Bowden and Clr A Campbell declared an interest and left the meeting at 11.41am.

14.4 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF FEES

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Clr J Poore

THAT Epuron be advised that Council have agreed to introduce a capped fee for planning applications that this fee also be applied to this application.

CARRIED 4 / 3

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

AGAINST the Motion:

Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey and Clr R Cassidy.

Clr S Bowden and Clr A Campbell returned to the meeting at 11.45am.

RESOLVED THAT Council move back to item 14.2 DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES REGISTER REVIEW

14.2 DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES REGISTER REVIEW

The annual review of fees and charges associated with building, plumbing, environmental health and planning services has been undertaken.

The fees and charges schedule below provides all current items previously adopted by Council with recommendations as to whether they should be retained, deleted or modified.

Council officers endeavoured to set fees that are comparable with other Councils, based on the level of assessment required, whilst also ensuring that they are affordable to end users and will not act as deterrence for people obtaining permits, which ultimately lead people to undertake work without permits, and therefore requiring Council to undertake enforcement action.

It is being proposed the planning, building, plumbing permit and environmental health fees be increased by CPI in most areas.

An amendment is being proposed to the planning fees with regards to setting a maximum fee for planning applications where the fees are calculated on the value of works. It is being proposed to have the fee capped at \$30,000 which would equate to the value of works being approximately 27 million. Over the past 10 years only two projects have exceeded this value and on both occasions Council have agreed to charge a reduced fee.

Description	Current 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020
Building		
Building Permit (Class 1) *	\$205.00	\$210.00
Building Permit (Class 10) *	\$155.00	\$160.00
Building Permit Commercial (Classes 2 – 9) *	\$205.00	\$210.00
Notifiable Building Work (Class 1) *	\$155.00	\$160.00
Notifiable Building Work (Class 10) *	\$80.00	\$85.00
Notifiable Building Work (Class 2-9) *	\$155.00	\$160.00
Building Permit (Demolition Only) - All Building Classes * (As prescribed by Part 13 of the Building Act 2016)	\$155.00	\$160.00
Staged Building Permit *	\$105.00 / Stage in addition to Permit Authority Fee	\$110.00 / Stage in addition to Permit Authority Fee
Permit of Substantial Compliance - All Building Classes *	\$205.00	Applicable Building Permit Fee (by Class) plus 100%
Building Permit (Extension of Time) – 1 st year	\$155.00	\$160.00
Building Permit (Extension of Time) – each year after 1 st extension	\$305.00	\$310.00
Building Permit (Amendment to Permit)	\$125.00	\$130.00
Building Plan - Search / Copy Fee	\$20.00	\$25.00
Description	Current 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020
Plumbing		
Plumbing Permit (Class 1 building not including onsite wastewater) Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificate	\$355.00	\$360.00
Plumbing Permit (Class 10 building not including onsite wastewater) Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificate	\$305.00	\$310.00
Plumbing Permit (New Dwelling / Outbuilding with Sanitary Fixtures inc onsite wastewater) <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificate</i>	\$505.00	\$510.00
Plumbing Permit (Installation of onsite wastewater management system or upgrade of existing onsite wastewater management system) Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificates	\$455.00	\$460.00
Plumbing Permit (Class 10) – stormwater only	\$155.00	\$160.00
Plumbing Permit Commercial (Classes 2 – 9 not including onsite wastewater) Application fee, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificate	\$510.00	\$515.00
Plumbing Permit Commercial (Classes 2-9) – including onsite wastewater Application fee, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificate	\$660.00	\$665.00
Additional inspection required as a result of a Plumbing Inspection Direction	\$105.00	\$110.00
Retrospective Plumbing Permit – illegal plumbing work inc installation of onsite wastewater management system	Applicable Plumbing Permit fee (by Class) plus 50%	Applicable Plumbing Permit fee (by Class) plus 100%
Notifiable Plumbing work as prescribed by Part 9 of the Building Act 2016 <i>Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of completion certificate</i>	\$300.00	\$305.00
Amendment to special plumbing permit issued in accordance with the Building Act 2000 or a Plumbing Permit issued in accordance with the Building Act 2000 or Building Act 2016	\$110.00	\$115.00

Description	Current 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020
Building Surveying		
Certificate of Likely Compliance (Class 1) – New Building <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of Occupancy & Final Inspection Certificates</i>	\$585.00	\$590.00
Certificate of Likely Compliance (Class 1) – Extension / Alteration <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of Occupancy & Final Inspection Certificates</i>	\$465.00	\$470.00
Certificate of Likely Compliance (Class 10) – New Building <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of Final Inspection Certificate</i>	\$355.00	\$360.00
Certificate of Likely Compliance (Class 10) – Extension / Alteration <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of Final Inspection Certificate</i>	\$305.00	\$310.00
Certificate of Likely Compliance (Class 1) – Notifiable Work <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of Certificate of Final Inspection</i>	\$465.00	\$470.00
Certificate of Likely Compliance (Class 10) – Notifiable Work <i>Application fee, Certificate of Likely Compliance, assessment, compliance inspections & issuing of Certificate of Final Inspection</i>	\$305.00	\$310.00
Supplementary Inspection Fee (re-inspection)	\$205.00 per inspection	\$210.00 per inspection

*** For building work with a value of work greater than \$20,000 the TBCITB Training Levy (0.2% of the value of work) and Building Administration Levy (0.1% of the value of work) is applicable in addition to Council fees.**

Description	Current 2018-2019	Proposed 2019-2020
Planning		
Permitted Development		
All Permitted Development	\$115.00 min & \$1.10 per \$1000 where value of works > \$10,000	\$120.00 min & \$1.10 per \$1000 where value of works > \$10,000 with a maximum of \$30,000
No Permit Required Compliance Fee		
Planning Certification (where developer wants formal assessment of no permit required works or exempt)	\$85.00	\$90.00
Discretionary Development		
Discretionary Development	\$190.00 min & \$1.10 per \$1000 where value of works > \$10,000	\$195.00 min & \$1.10 per \$1000 where value of works > \$10,000 with a maximum of \$30,000
Application for Level 2 Activities	Currently charged Discretionary Development Fee	\$600.00 min & 1.10 per \$1000 where value of works > \$10,000 with a maximum of \$30,000
Statutory Advertising	\$310.00	\$310.00
Subdivision		
Application for Subdivision or Boundary Adjustment	\$55/lot (minimum fee \$430.00)	\$55/lot (minimum fee \$435.00)
Statutory Advertising	\$310.00	\$310.00
Final Plans		
Sealing Final Plans & Stratum	\$40/lot (minimum fee \$205.00)	\$40/lot (minimum fee \$210.00)
Amendments to Sealed Plans	\$215.00 Plus \$510 if a hearing is required	\$220.00 Plus \$600 if a hearing is required
Other		

Amendments to Permits	\$160.00	\$165.00
Extension of time to Permits	\$105.00	\$110.00
Application for Adhesion Order	\$210.00	\$215.00
Engineering Drawing Assessment Fee	\$255 minimum & 1% value of works	\$320 minimum & 1% value of works
Engineering Inspections	\$130/hour	\$130/hour
Amendments to Planning Scheme		
Assessment of Applicant's Submission	\$800/ minor amendment or \$1600 / all others plus applicable DA/SUB assessment fee for s.43A combined applications	\$805/ minor amendment or \$1605 / all others plus applicable DA/SUB assessment fee for s.43A combined applications
Statutory Advertising & Notification	\$815 per advertisement (2 advertisements required)	\$820 per advertisement (2 advertisements required)
Tasmanian Planning Commission Fee	Current fee as set by the TPC	Current fee as set by the TPC

Description	Current 2018-2019	Proposed 2019-2020
Environmental Health		
Registration & Licence Fees		
Food Premises application or annual renewal fee		
• Low Risk Premises P3 [1]	\$160.00	\$165.00
• Medium Risk Premises P2 [2]	\$280.00	\$285.00
• High Risk Premises P1 [3]	\$525.00	\$530.00
• Community Organisation	\$25.00	\$30.00
Transfer of Food Business Licence	\$160.00	\$165.00
Mobile Food Van – Annual Fee		\$305.00
• Low Risk Premises	\$205.00	Remove Risk Class
• Medium Risk Premises	\$255.00	Remove Risk Class
• High Risk Premises	\$305.00	Remove Risk Class
Temporary Food Licence –(Commercial) Per Day	\$40.00	\$50.00
Temporary Food Licence –(Community) Flat Fee	\$25.00	\$30.00
Food Sampling (Analysis Extra)	\$120.00	\$125.00
Non-Compliance Follow up Inspection	\$110.00	\$115.00
Water, Wastewater, Environmental		
Private Water Supply Licence & Water Carrier Licence	\$160.00	\$165.00
Non-Compliance Follow up Inspection	\$155.00	\$160.00
Water Sampling Charges (analysis are extra)	\$130.00	\$135.00
Environmental Protection Notices (for updating permits or to abate environmental harm)	\$230.00	\$235.00
Public Health		
Place of Assembly Licence (Temporary Event)	\$120.00	\$125.00
Place of Assembly Licence (Community Organisations)	\$25.00	\$30.00
Registration of Premises for Public Health Risk Activity (E.g. Skin Penetration)	\$130.00	\$135.00
Registration of a Regulated System (E.g. Cooling Towers)	\$130.00	\$135.00
Hawkers Licence, Includes Kerb Side Vendors (residents)	\$70.00	\$75.00
Hawkers Licence (non - residents)	\$95.00	\$100.00
Caravans (per van per annum)	\$160.00	\$165.00
Non-Compliance Follow up Inspection	\$105.00	\$110.00

Notes

- 1 Premises are ranked in accordance with a Risk Classification system, low risk include B&B and cafes with no cooking.
- 2 Premises are ranked in accordance with a Risk Classification System, med risk include restaurants.
- 3 Premises are ranked in accordance with a Risk Classification System, high risk include nursing homes; there are no high risk food premises in CHC and if a premises performs well then it may move down a category.

Moved: Cllr J Poore**Seconded:** Cllr J Honner

THAT pursuant to Section 205 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council resolve to adopt the revised Development and Environmental Services fees and charges register and for it to take effect commencing 1 July 2019.

CARRIED 6 / 3**FOR the Motion:**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

AGAINST the Motion:

Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, and Cllr R Cassidy.

14.5 CONTRACT FOR SERVICES: WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS – CLEANSING OF SITES AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES

Moved: Clr A Bailey

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT Council:

- a) Approve the extension of the Recycling Collection service with Thorp Recycling for a further 1 year to 30th June 2020 with an option to extend to 2022.
- b) Approve the CPI increase of 3.0 % for the 2019-2020 period, this being 3% which equates to an increase of \$1123.20 for a total of \$38563.20 for the 2019-2020 year. Total including extra allowance for recycling costs \$40563.20.
- c) Approve the amendments to the contract, namely the remuneration clause and the extension clause.
- d) Approve the addition of approximately \$2000 to the waste budget under recycling for the extra charges until 30th June 2020.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

14.6 KERBSIDE DOMESTIC GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE AGREEMENT REMUNERATION INCREASE

Moved: Clr A Bailey

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT Council approve the CPI increase of 3.0 % for the 2019-2020 period which increases the cost by \$4,181.17 to \$14,3571.88 for the financial year.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

*Clr A Archer left the meeting at 11.55am and returned at 11.59am.
Mr Adam Wilson left the meeting at 11.57am.*

14.7 SIGNAGE AT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS VISITOR CENTRE

Moved: Clr J Allwright

Seconded: Clr A Bailey

THAT Council:

- a) Approve the design of the new sign with the addition of the wording "Old School House" including dates and "Market Place"; and
- b) Remit the Planning Application Fee of \$500.00.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

14.8 FEASIBILITY STUDY INTO A STATEWIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

Moved: Clr J Honner

Seconded: Clr S Bowden

THAT the Chair of the Waste Management Committee and the Development & Environmental Service Manager attend a stakeholder consultation meeting for Council and report back to the June Council Meeting.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

Mr Adam Wilson returned to the meeting at 12.02pm.

14.9 DES BRIEFING REPORT

PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

The following planning permits have been issued under delegation during the past month.

NO PERMIT REQUIRED

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2019 / 00026	Protek Building Surveying Pty Ltd	43 Dolerite Crescent, Flintstone	Shed

PERMITTED USE

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2019 / 00022	J R Allwright	460 Jones River Road, Ellendale	Dwelling Addition
2019 / 00021	P Krause	3759 Highland Lakes Road, Bothwell	Farm Shed

DISCRETIONARY USE

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2019 / 00019	E R A Planning	"Christian Marsh" 5057 Highland Lakes Road, Steppes	Meteorological Mast
2019 / 00020	All Urban Planning Pty Ltd	(Part Of) 56 & 90 Woodmoor Road, Ouse	Pump Station & Irrigation
2019 / 00024	J Hannagan	55 Robertson Road & CT 130056/1 Highland Lakes Road, Miena	Outbuilding

NOTED

*Mr Graham Rogers left the meeting at 12.03pm.
Mr Jason Branch (Manager of Works & Services) entered the meeting at 12.03pm.*

15.0 WORKS & SERVICES

Moved: Clr J Honner

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT the Works & Services Report be received.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

15.1 WALKING AND CYCLING FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

RESOLVED THAT the Works and Services Manager pass comments from Councillors onto James Beach regarding cyclists travelling on roads in the Central Highlands municipality.

Deputy Mayor J Allwright left the meeting at 12.07pm

15.2 MACCLESFIELD ROAD MAINTENANCE

Moved: Clr A Bailey

Seconded: Clr J Honner

THAT Council:

- a) Allow Goldwind Australia to install an automatic gate at the current location of the Macclesfield Road; and
- b) Goldwind Australia undertake any maintenance requirements or defects that may occur on Macclesfield Road to LGAT Standard Drawings or the requirements of Councils Engineer, Works Manager or General Manager for the life time of the Windfarm 25 years

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

Deputy Mayor J Allwright returned to the meeting at 12.12pm.

15.3 CLYDE RIVER BOTHWELL

RESOLVED THAT Councillor Archer draft a letter to be sent to the State Government regarding concerns about the condition of the Clyde River.

*Mr Jason Branch left the meeting at 12.24pm
The meeting was adjourned at 12.24pm for lunch and resumed at 1.06pm.*

16.0 ADMINISTRATION

Mayor L Triffitt tabled a letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Tasmania Police regarding the service of Senior Constable Paul Cooper in the Central Highlands Municipality.

16.1 STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2024

RESOLVED THAT Mayor L Triffitt and Cllr A Campbell review the Central Highlands Strategic Plan.

16.2 POLICY NO. 2013-05 USE OF COUNCIL VEHICLES

Moved: Cllr J Honner

Seconded: Cllr A Bailey

THAT Council adopt Policy No 2013-05 Use of Council Vehicles

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

16.3 CORRESPONDENCE FROM PROFESSOR TULLY REGARDING SERVICES AT BRONTE PARK

NOTED

16.4 PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN BOTHWELL

NOTED

16.5 2019 LGAT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Moved: Cllr A Bailey

Seconded: Cllr R Cassidy

THAT the Conference Registration, meals and accommodation be paid for Mayor Loueen Triffitt and General Manager Lyn Eyles.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

16.6 HOUSING TASMANIA MUNICIPAL RATES 2019-2020

Moved: Cllr A Campbell

Seconded: Cllr R Cassidy

THAT Council advise Housing Tasmania that it does not offer a discount for early payment of rates.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner and Cllr J Poore.

16.7 PURCHASE OR LEASE OF LAND AT GRACE NICHOLAS PARK IN OUSE

Moved: Clr J Poore

Seconded: Clr A Bailey

THAT Council advise Mrs Onslow that Council will not lease or sell this land as Council would like to leave this space available for future developments.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

16.8 BLUE FARMER HIGHLAND LAKES ROAD BOTHWELL

RESOLVED THAT Council arrange for signage to be installed to inform interested parties of what the blue farmer is and the wording on the sign be "Blue Farmer, Looking out for each other in times of depression. Designed by Grietje Van Randen and completed with the help of Bothwell School Students and Local Community".

16.9 BOTHWELL TOWNSHIP SIGNS

RESOLVED THAT Council apply for grant funding to support "Welcome"" and "Thank You for Visiting" sign to the main entrances of all municipal towns.

16.10 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS VISITORS CENTRE

Moved: Clr J Poore

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT Council allocate a \$2,000.00 float to purchase items for sale for the Visitors Centre.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

Clr J Poore did note vote on this item due to him making the Stable Doors.

16.11 BOTHWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Moved: Clr

Seconded: Clr

THAT Council:

- a) Meet with Leanne Datlen regarding the Bothwell Anglers Club
- b) Give approval to install free-standing stable doors to each viewing room
- c) Purchase two portable office partitions to provide flexibility and better use of space in the front room to display historical items; and
- d) That a staff member be made available to help give administration assistance.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy and Clr J Honner.

*Clr J Poore left the meeting at 1.59pm and returned at 2.00pm.
Clr J Poore left the meeting at 2.08pm.*

16.12 DEFIBRILLATORS IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Moved: Clr A Archer

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT Council purchase 6 Defibrillators Cabinets to be placed around towns to provide defibrillators 24/7 to the municipality.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy and Clr J Honner.

16.13 2019 BUSHFIRES DRAFT FINAL RECOVERY PLAN

Moved: Clr A Archer

Seconded: Clr J Honner

THAT any feedback on the 2019 Bushfire Draft Recovery Plan be provided to the General Manager by Wednesday the 22 May 2019 so the General Manager can provide comments to the State Recovery Coordinator.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy and Clr J Honner.

Clr J Poore returned to the meeting at 2.13pm.

16.14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS

RESOLVED THAT Council apply for grant funding for the following projects:

- Defibrillators and cabinets in the municipality
- Bronte Park BBQ Area / Recreation Area
- Playground equipment for Hamilton, Gretna and Bronte Park; and
- Town Signage.

Clr A Archer left the meeting at 2.18pm.

16.15 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TASMANIA WILDLIFE GROUP REQUEST SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLVED THAT Council write to Mrs Lewis supporting the concept that is proposed, however, suggests that Central Highlands Tasmania Wildlife group writes to Parks and Wildlife to see if they are able to obtain the use of the Rangers station at Liaweenee.

16.16 SOUTHERN REGION - SOCIAL RECOVERY COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Moved: Clr R Cassidy

Seconded: Clr J Honner

THAT any feedback on the Southern Region - Social Recovery Committee Management Report be provided to the Development and Environmental Services Manager by Friday the 31 May 2019 so the Development and Environmental Services Manager can lodge the submission.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

16.17 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING GRANTS

Moved: Clr S Bowden

Seconded: Clr J Poore

THAT Council write a letter of support to Electric Highway Tasmania Pty Ltd to have a site at Derwent Bridge subject to approval of Crown Land Services and that it is at no cost to Council.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

16.18 REQUEST FOR DONATION

Moved: Clr R Cassidy

Seconded: Clr S Bowden

THAT Council write to Reptile Rescue Inc. requesting that they submit a community grant application to Council.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

17.0 SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS

Moved: Clr A Campbell

Seconded: Clr J Honner

THAT Council consider the matters on the Supplementary Agenda.

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

Clr A Bailey left the meeting at 2.51pm

17.1 HATCH - CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FOOD CONNECT PROJECT BUDGET PROPOSAL 2019/20

Moved: Clr J Poore

Seconded: Clr R Cassidy

THAT Council:

- a) Allow the Meal Delivery program access to the community car at no charge until the end of the financial year 2020;
- b) Provide in-kind admin support of up to 3 hours per week until the end of 2020 Financial Year from the Council offices in Hamilton; and
- c) Ensure that any future Food Connect Projects are advertised across the municipality, for all members of the community to attend.

CARRIED

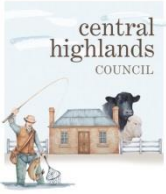
FOR the Motion:

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner and Clr J Poore.

Clr A Bailey returned to the meeting at 2.54pm

18.0 CLOSURE

Mayor L Triffitt closed the meeting at 3.00pm



Central Highlands Council

DRAFT MINUTES AUDIT PANEL MEETING – 3 JUNE 2019

Draft Minutes of the Central Highlands Audit Panel Meeting held at Hamilton Council Chambers, on Monday 3 June 2019 commencing 9.10am.

1.0 OPENING

Ian McMichael (Chair) opened the meeting at 9.10am

2.0 PRESENT

Ian McMichael (Chair), Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr J Poore, Lyn Eyles (General Manager), David Doyle (Accountant), Casey Bryant (Minute Secretary)

3.0 APOLOGIES

NIL

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded Clr J Poore

THAT minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25th February 2019 be confirmed

Carried

For the motion: I V McMichael (Chair), Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr J Poore

5.0 PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

In accordance with Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Chair requests Members to indicate whether they or a close associate have, or are likely to have a pecuniary interest (any pecuniary or pecuniary detriment) or conflict of interest in any Item of the Agenda.

NIL

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING

NIL

7.0 STANDING ITEMS

- Statutory Financial Requirements Report - **Noted**
- Financial Reports - **Noted**
- Risk Management Register – **Deputy General Manager to review**

- Policy Review – A new Cyber Security Policy needs to be developed

Recommendation:

Moved Cllr J Poore

Seconded Deputy Mayor J Allwright

THAT the Deputy General Manager creates a new Cyber Security Policy

Carried

For the motion: I V McMichael (Chair), Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr J Poore

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL AUDIT APPROACH FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Noted

8.2 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN APRIL 2019

Noted

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

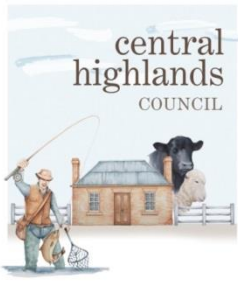
Financial Statements need to be submitted to the Audit Office by 14th August 2019

10.0 NEXT MEETING

It was **resolved** that the next meeting will be held at 9am on Monday 21st October 2019 at the Hamilton Council Chambers

11.0 CLOSURE

I V McMichael (Chair) closed the meeting at 10.06am



**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL HELD
IN THE BOTHWELL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AT 9.00AM ON TUESDAY 11th JUNE 2019**

Under the Meeting Procedures Regulations 2015 if the Chairperson is absent from a Committee Meeting, the councillors present who are members of that Council Committee are to elect one of their members present to be chairperson of that meeting.

1.0 PRESENT

Mayor Triffitt, Clr Allwright (Chairperson), Clr Poore

IN ATTENDANCE

Clr Campbell, Clr Archer Mr G Rogers (Manager DES), Ms J Tyson (Planning Officer), Mrs J Housego (Minutes Secretary), J Headlam, N Billett, L McIndoe, B Mellar, D Meidecke, A Williamson, F Brooks, B Gleeson.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Clr Cassidy & Clr Bailey

3.0 PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

In accordance with Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Chairman requests Councillors to indicate whether they or a close associate have, or are likely to have a pecuniary interest (any pecuniary or pecuniary detriment) in any item of the Agenda.

There were no pecuniary interest's declared.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved **Clr Poore**

Seconded **Mayor Triffitt**

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 to be confirmed.

Carried

For the Motion: Mayor Triffitt, Clr Allwright, Clr Poore & Clr Bailey

5.0 QUESTION TIME & DEPUTATIONS

Clr Allwright advised this Agenda Item will follow Agenda Item 6.0.

6.0 DA2019/27: REALIGNMENT OF ROAD AND ADJUSTMENT OF TITLE BOUNDARIES, 4244A WADDAMANA ROAD, STEPPES

Report by

Jacqui Tyson (Senior Planning Officer)

Applicant

TN Woolford & Associates

Owner

James Glover & Sons Pty Ltd

Discretions

26.5.2 (A1) Reorganisation of boundaries

Proposal

The proposal involves the realignment of an approximately 1.2km section of Waddamana Road to bypass the Wihareja homestead at 4244A Waddamana Road and the reorganisation of existing titles to account for the road adjustment.

The proposal includes the construction of the new road and the rearrangement of the titles to create a road reservation. Waddamana Road is a gravel rural road maintained by Central Highlands Council.

A new road parcel will be created over the realigned road and the redundant road reservation is to be adhered to the existing title. A right of way will be designated over the south western section of the existing road to provide legal access to the dwelling on CT26206/1 which would otherwise become landlocked.

The historic Wihareja homestead is located very close to the current alignment of Waddamana Road. The concept of realigning the road was raised by the owner when the road improvements for the Cattle Hill windfarm were proposed.

A preliminary design report and plans prepared by Ross Cumming were submitted with the application and the proposal has been assessed by the contract engineering officer.

The proposal is discretionary owing to being a subdivision and is assessed against the subdivision standards for the Rural Resource Zone pursuant to section 26.0 of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015.

Subject site and Locality.

The subject land is part of a large rural property with multiple titles owned by the Glover family. The Wihajera homestead is located on the southern side of Waddamana Road, around 1.5km west of the northern intersection with Highland Lakes Road.

The locality is largely characterised by a mix of rural grazing land and highland forest and vegetation. The site and surrounding land is zoned Rural Resource.

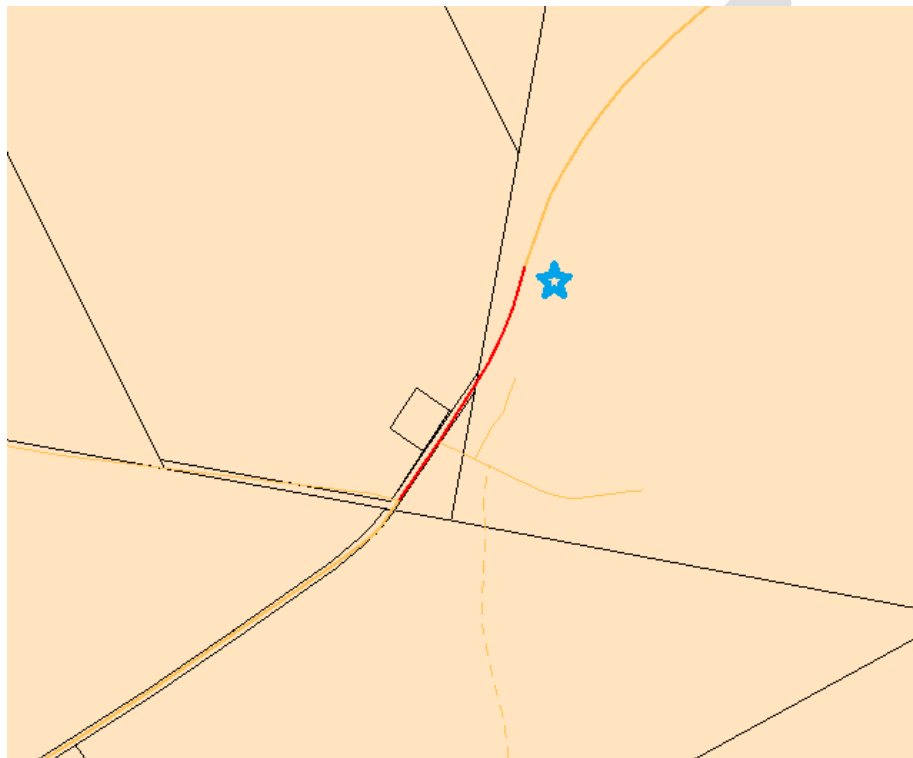


Fig 1. Location and zoning of the subject property (Wihajera homestead marked by blue star) in the Rural Resource zone (Cream) (Source: LISTmap).



Fig 2. Aerial photo of the subject land and surrounding area, Wihareja homestead marked by blue star
(Source: LISTmap)

Exemptions

Nil

Special Provisions

Nil

Use standards

There are no applicable use standards for subdivision.

Rural Resource Zone - Development standards for subdivision

The subject land is in the Rural Resource Zone. The proposal must satisfy the requirements of the following development standards, relevant to subdivisions:

26.5.2 Reorganisation of Boundaries To promote the consolidation of rural resource land and to allow for the rearrangement of existing titles, where appropriate, to provide for a better division of land.		
Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	OFFICER COMMENT
A1 A lot is for public open space, a riparian or littoral reserve or utilities.	P1 The reorganisation of boundaries must satisfy all of the following: (a)	The proposal must be assessed against the Performance Criteria P1 as the lots are not for public open space, a riparian or littoral reserve or utilities.

	<p>all existing lots are adjoining or separated only by a road;</p> <p>(b) no existing lot was formally a crown reserved road or other reserved land;</p> <p>(c) provide for the sustainable commercial operation of the land by either:</p> <p>(i) encompassing all or most of the agricultural land and key agricultural infrastructure (including the primary dwelling) in one lot, the 'primary agricultural lot', as demonstrated by a whole farm management plan,</p> <p>(ii) encompassing an existing or proposed non-agricultural rural resource use in one lot;</p> <p>(d) if a lot contains an existing dwelling, setbacks to new boundaries satisfy clause 26.4.2;</p> <p>(e) if containing a dwelling, other than the primary dwelling, the dwelling is surplus to rural resource requirements of the primary agricultural lot;</p> <p>(f) a new vacant lot must:</p> <p>(i) contain land surplus to rural resource requirements of the primary agricultural lot;</p> <p>(ii) contain a building area capable of accommodating residential development satisfying clauses 26.4.2 and 26.4.3.</p> <p>(iii) not result in a significant increase in demand for public infrastructure or services;</p> <p>(g) all new lots must comply the</p>	<p>The proposal will create a new road reserve for the realignment of the road and absorb the existing road reserve into the surrounding farm title. The operation of the farm will not be changed by the proposal.</p> <p>The setback to the existing dwellings will be increased and their general amenity will be improved by the relocation of the road.</p>
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	<p>following:</p> <p>(i) be no less than 1ha in size;</p> <p>(ii) have a frontage of no less than 6m;</p> <p>(iii) be serviced by safe vehicular access arrangements;</p> <p>(h) be consistent with any Local Area Objectives or Desired Future Character Statements provided for the area.</p>	
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Representations

The proposal was advertised for the statutory 14 days period from 7 May 2019 until 21 May 2019.

No representations were received.

Conclusion

The proposal for realignment of a section of Waddamana Road to bypass the Wihareja homestead at 4244A Waddamana Road and the reorganisation of existing road casement titles is assessed to comply with the applicable standards of the Rural Resource Zone and the relevant codes of the *Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015* as outlined in the body of this report.

The proposal was advertised for public comment and no representations were received.

It is recommended that the proposal be approved subject to conditions. The conditions have been formed with assistance from the contract Engineering Officer and Works Manager.

Recommendation

Moved **Clr Poore**

Seconded **Mayor Triffitt**

THAT the proposal is assessed to substantially comply with the requirements of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and so in accordance with section 57 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, the Planning Authority is recommended to approve the application for Realignment of Road and Associated Adjustment at 4244A Waddamana Road, Steppes, subject to the following conditions:

General

1. The subdivision layout or development must be carried out substantially in accordance with the application for planning approval, the endorsed drawings and with the conditions of this permit and must not be altered or extended without the further written approval of Council.

Road Widening

2. Land within 9.00 metres of the centre line of the existing sections of Waddamana Road to be retained through the subject titles must be provided for the widening or deviation of the existing highway in accordance with Sections 85(d)(viii) and 108 of the Local Government (Building & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 and the satisfaction of the Council's General Manager.

Transfer of reserves

3. All roads or footways must be shown as "Road" or "Footway" on the Final Plan of Survey and transferred to the Council by Memorandum of Transfer submitted with the Final Plan of Survey.

Easements

4. Easements must be created over all drains, pipelines, wayleaves and services in accordance with the requirements of the Council's General Manager. The cost of locating and creating the easements shall be at the subdivider's full cost.

Final plan

5. A final approved plan of survey and schedule of easements as necessary, together with two (2) copies, must be submitted to Council for sealing for each stage. The final approved plan of survey must be substantially the same as the endorsed plan of subdivision and must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Recorder of Titles.
6. All conditions of this permit, including either the completion of all works and maintenance or payment of security in accordance with this permit, must be satisfied before the Council seals the final plan of survey. It is the developer's responsibility to notify Council in writing that the conditions of the permit have been satisfied.
7. The subdivider must pay any Titles Office lodgement fees direct to the Recorder of Titles.

Engineering

8. The subdivision must be carried out in accordance with the Central Highlands Council Subdivision Guidelines 2015 (attached).
9. Engineering design drawings to the satisfaction of the Council's General Manager must be submitted to and approved by Council before development of the land commences.
10. Engineering design drawings are to be prepared by a qualified and experienced civil engineer, or other person approved by Council's General Manager, and must show -
 - (a) all existing and proposed services required by this permit;
 - (b) all existing and proposed roadwork required by this permit;
 - (c) measures to be taken to provide sight distance in accordance with the relevant standards of the planning scheme;
 - (d) measures to be taken to limit or control erosion and sedimentation;
 - (e) any other work required by this permit.
11. Approved engineering design drawings will remain valid for a period of 2 years from the date of approval of the engineering drawings.
12. The developer shall appoint a qualified and experienced Supervising Engineer (or company registered to provide civil engineering consultancy services) who will be required to certify completion of subdivision construction works. The appointed

Supervising Engineer shall be the primary contact person on matters concerning the subdivision.

Existing services

13. The developer must pay the cost of any alterations and/or reinstatement to existing services, Council infrastructure or private property incurred as a result of the proposed works. Any work required is to be specified or undertaken by the authority concerned.

Roads and Access

14. Roadworks and drainage must be constructed in accordance with the standard drawings prepared by the IPWE Aust. (Tasmania Division) and to the requirements of Council's General Manager.
15. The new section of Waddamana Road must be designed and constructed to include:
 - (a) minimum road reservation width of 20.0m;
 - (b) all-weather pavement;
 - (c) minimum carriageway width of 7.0m (inc. shoulders);
 - (d) minimum design speed of 60km/h;
 - (e) roadside table drains, cut off drains and culverts.

Soil and Water Management

16. A soil and water management plan (here referred to as a 'SWMP') prepared in accordance with the guidelines Soil and Water Management on Building and Construction Sites, by the Derwent Estuary Programme and NRM South, must be approved by Council's General Manager before development of the land commences.
17. Temporary run-off, erosion and sediment controls must be installed in accordance with the approved SWMP and must be maintained at full operational capacity to the satisfaction of Council's General Manager until the land is effectively rehabilitated and stabilised after completion of the development.
18. The topsoil on any areas required to be disturbed must be stripped and stockpiled in an approved location shown on the detailed soil and water management plan for reuse in the rehabilitation of the site. Topsoil must not be removed from the site until the completion of all works unless approved otherwise by the Council's General Manager.
19. All disturbed surfaces on the land, except those set aside for roadways, footways and driveways, must be covered with top soil and, where appropriate, re-vegetated and stabilised to the satisfaction of the Council's General Manager.

Construction

20. The developer must provide not less than forty eight (48) hours written notice to Council's General Manager before commencing construction works on-site or within a council roadway.
21. The developer must provide not less than forty eight (48) hours written notice to Council's General Manager before reaching any stage of works requiring inspection by Council unless otherwise agreed by the Council's General Manager.

Construction Amenity

22. The development must only be carried out between the following hours unless otherwise approved by the Council's General Manager
 - Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 - Saturday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 - Sunday and State-wide public holidays 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

23. All subdivision works associated with the development of the land must be carried out in such a manner so as not to unreasonably cause injury to, or unreasonably prejudice or affect the amenity, function and safety of any adjoining or adjacent land, and of any person therein or in the vicinity thereof, by reason of -
- (a) emission from activities or equipment related to the use or development, including noise and vibration, which can be detected by a person at the boundary with another property; and/or
 - (b) transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land; and/or
 - (c) appearance of any building, works or materials.
24. Any accumulation of vegetation, building debris or other unwanted material must be disposed of by removal from the land in an approved manner. No burning of such materials on-site will be permitted unless approved in writing by the Council's General Manager.
25. Public roadways or footpaths must not be used for the storage of any construction materials or wastes, for the loading/unloading of any vehicle or equipment; or for the carrying out of any work, process or tasks associated with the subdivision during the construction period.

Maintenance and Defects Liability Period

26. Works required by this permit must be placed onto a twelve (12) month maintenance and defects liability period in accordance with Council Policy following the completion of the works in accordance with the approved engineering plans and permit conditions.
27. A bond clearly in excess of 5% of the value of works and no less than \$5000.00, must be submitted to Council at the commencement of the defect liability period or prior to sealing the final plan or survey, whichever is earliest. The bond will be returned at the expiration of the defect liability period if all works are maintained and repaired as necessary to the satisfaction of Council's General Manager.

The following advice applies to this permit:

- A. This permit does not imply that any other approval required under any other legislation or by-law has been granted.
- B. This permit does not take effect until all other approvals required for the use or development to which the permit relates have been granted.
- C. The owner is advised that an engineering plan assessment and inspection fee must be paid to Council in accordance with Council's fee schedule.
- D. All approved engineering design drawings will form part of this permit on and from the date of approval.

Carried

For the Motion: Mayor Triffitt, Cllr Allwright, Cllr Poore

6.0 QUESTION TIME & DEPUTATIONS

Cllr Allwright advised the gallery of Council's Policy 2017-49 – Public Comment on Planning Agenda Items at Committee Meetings.

J Headlam made a deputation towards Agenda Item 6.1.

N Billet made a deputation towards Agenda Item 6.1.

B Mellor made a deputation towards Agenda Item 6.1

**6.1 DA2019/25 : SUBDIVISION – REORGANISATION OF BOUNDARIES (3 TITLES):
56 & 90 WOODMOOR ROAD, OUSE**

Recommendation

Moved **Clr Poore**

Seconded **Mayor Triffitt**

THAT the Planning Committee defer making a decision on Agenda Item 6.1 DA 2019/25: Subdivision – Reorganisation of Boundaries (3 Titles) : 56 & 90 Woodmoor Road, Ouse, and that a decision be made by Council at the Council Meeting on the 18th June 2019.

Carried

For the Motion: Mayor Triffitt, Clr Allwright, Clr Poore

8.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50am



Central Highlands Council

Draft Minutes Independent Living Units Committee

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Independent Living Units Committee held at the Council Chambers Hamilton on Thursday, 13th June 2019 commencing at 10.00am.

1.0 OPENING

The Meeting opened at 10.00am

2.0 PRESENT

Mayor Lou Triffitt, Clr Tony Bailey, Mr Andy Beasant,

3.0 APOLOGIES

Moved Mr Andy Beasant

Seconded Clr Tony Bailey

THAT an apology be accepted for Mrs Cynthia Cooper

Carried

For the Motion: Mayor Lou Triffitt, Clr Tony Bailey, Mr Andy Beasant

4.0 IN ATTENDANCE

General Manger, Lyn Eyles and Sharee Nichols

5.0 MINUTES

Moved Mr Andy Beasant

Seconded Clr Tony Bailey

THAT The Minutes of the Independent Living Units Committee meeting held on 10th May, 2019 having been circulated to all members be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

For the Motion: : Mayor Lou Triffitt, Clr Tony Bailey, Mr Andy Beasant



Central Highlands Council

Draft Minutes Independent Living Units Committee

6.0 ILU UNIT 4 OUSE TENANCY LETTER

Letter received from **Ms Sandra Reeve** seeking permission from the committee for her brother, Mr Kerry Desmond Reeve, to reside with her in the ILU Unit 4 Ouse but this is not on a permanent basis.

Moved Mr Andy Beasant

Seconded Cllr Tony Bailey

THAT:

- (a) Approval be granted for Ms Sandra Reeve's brother Mr Kerry Desmond Reeve to stay with her in the unit;
- (b) Approval will be reviewed on the (10 August, 2019)
- (c) Rent will increase to the couple's rate of \$308.00 per fortnight effective from the 20th June 2019 if Kerry is still residing at the unit with Sandra.
- (d) For all stays over 7 days a couple's rate will be charged.

Moved Cllr Tony Bailey

Seconded Mr Andy Beasant

Carried

For the Motion: Mayor Lou Triffitt, Cllr Tony Bailey, Mr Andy Beasant

7.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.10am.

central highlands COUNCIL



**ANNUAL PLAN
2019/2020**

Current Councillors as at 30 June 2019



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Scott Bowden
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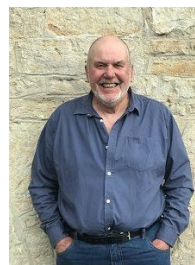
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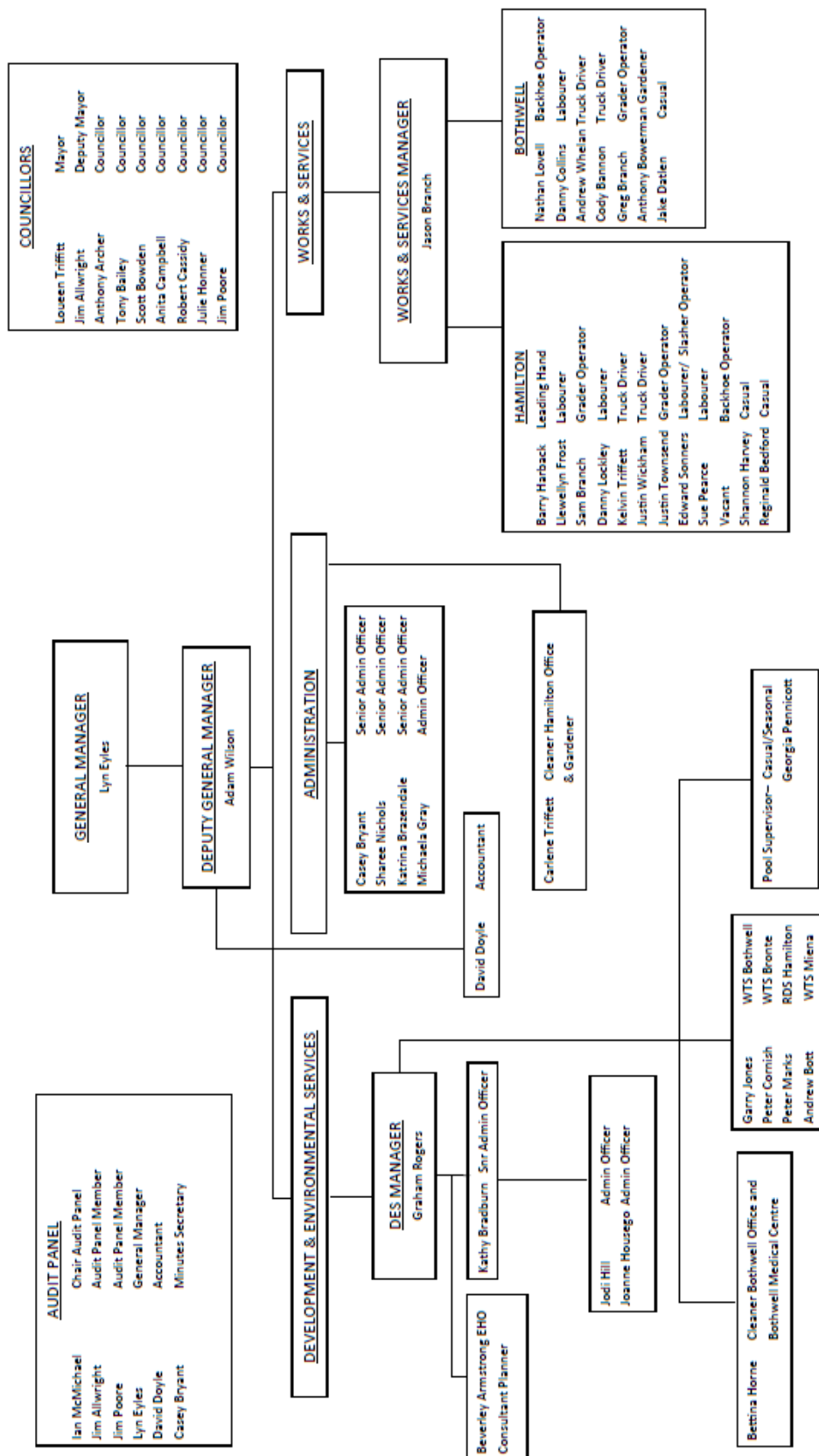


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Central Highlands Council – Staffing Structure



PREFACE

The 2019/2020 Annual Plan for the Central Highlands Council has been prepared and adopted by Council in accordance with Section 71 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Plan outlines Council's strategic goals and objectives for the coming year.

Council adopted its 2019/2020 Budget at the Council Meeting held at Bothwell on Tuesday, 18th June, 2019.

Council has budgeted for a 3.1% increase overall in the General Rate. 50% of the total General Rate has been spread evenly over all ratepayers (\$382.29 each) and the remaining 50% General Rate calculated at 3.4038 cents per dollar of the AAV (Assessed Annual Value).

Water and Sewerage services are provided by TasWater.

All properties within the Central Highlands will contribute towards Council's solid waste costs with a solid waste charge and/or garbage charge being placed on all properties. As an offset, all ratepayers and residents will have free access to the Hamilton Refuse Disposal Site and Council Waste Transfer Stations.

Pensioners may be eligible for a remission. Conditions apply as follows:

- You must be in receipt of one of the following concessions as of the 1st July 2019:
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC), Health Care Card (HCC), Repatriation Health Card (i.e. Gold Card endorsed Total or Permanent Injury (TPI) or War Widow/Widower DVA.)
- You must have owned the property or be the eligible ratepayer listed on the property on or before the 1st July 2019.
- You must occupy the property as your principal place of residence on or before the 1st July 2019.

If you have already applied for a pensioner rate remission please check that the remission is printed on your rates notice. If it does not appear on this notice then please contact Council.

If you have not applied for a pensioner rate remission and the property is your principal place of residence then please read the eligibility criteria above. If you believe that you are eligible to receive this remission then you will need to fill out an application form by visiting the Council Office in Bothwell or Hamilton. Alternatively, you can contact Council and request a form to be sent to you or access this form from Council's website. However, applicants will need to provide a photocopy of their card along with their completed application form.

The Department of Treasury and Finance confirms your eligibility. They also set a maximum amount that can be claimed each year and this is dependent on whether or not you also receive a remission on your water and sewage charges with TasWater.

All applications for a pensioner rate remission for the 2019/2020 financial year will need to be completed on or before the **31st March 2020**.

A revaluation of the whole municipal area was provided by the Valuer General during 2014/2015 with valuations for rating purposes to take effect from 1 July 2015

OUR VISION

To provide residents and visitors opportunities to participate in and enjoy a vibrant local economy, rewarding community life, cultural heritage and a natural environment that is world class.

OUR MISSION

Provide leadership to ensure that local government and other services are provided to satisfy the social, economic and environmental needs of the present day community, whilst endeavouring to ensure the best possible outcomes for future generations.

OUR GOALS

1. Community Building – Build capacity to enhance community spirit and sense of wellbeing
2. Infrastructure and Facilities – Manage Council's physical assets in an efficient and effective manner
3. Financial Sustainability – Manage Council's finances and assets to ensure the long term viability and sustainability of Council
4. Natural Environment – Encourage responsible management of the natural resources and assets in the Central Highlands
5. Economic Development – Encourage economic viability within the municipal area
6. Governance and Leadership – Provide governance and leadership in an open, transparent, accountable and responsible manner in the best interests of the community

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS

The Central Highlands Council is a body corporate established under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993. Council's formal policy setting and decision making role is vested in its nine elected Councillors who meet every month in open Council. The Mayor, who is Council's Chairperson and principal spokesperson.

Under Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1993

(1) A councillor, in the capacity of an individual councillor, has the following functions:

- (a) to represent the community;
- (b) to act in the best interest of the community;
- (c) to facilitate communication by the council with the community;
- (d) to participate in the activities of council;
- (e) to undertake duties and responsibilities as authorised by council.

(2) The councillors of a council collectively have the following functions:

- (a) to develop and monitor the implementation of strategic plans and budgets;
- (b) to determine and monitor the application of policies, plans and programs for –
 - (i) the efficient and effective provision of services and facilities; and
 - (ii) the efficient and effective management of assets; and
 - (iii) the fair and equitable treatment of employees of the council;
- (c) to facilitate and encourage the planning and development of the municipal area in the best interests of the community;
- (d) to appoint and monitor the performance of the general manager;
- (e) to determine and review the council's resource allocation and expenditure activities;

- (f) to monitor the manner in which the services are provided by the council.
- (3) In performing any function under this Act or any other Act, a councillor must not:
 - (a) direct or attempt to direct an employee of the council in relation to the discharge of the employee's duties; or
 - (b) perform any function of the mayor without the approval of the mayor.
- (4) A councillor is to represent accurately the policies and decisions of the council in performing the functions of councillor.

COUNCIL REVENUES

Council's principal funding is derived from the levying of rates, user pay charges and government grants. Rates are levied upon properties in relation to their assessed annual value (AAV). The AAV is provided to Council by the Valuer-General.

The General Rate will be levied upon all rateable properties to provide the resources for all Council's activities, except for those services funded directly by a Service Charge. A charge of \$263 will be levied on each household that has available the Garbage and Recycling Collection Service and applicable businesses will be charged \$496.

To help offset the cost of providing waste management to the Central Highlands by way of waste transfer stations, roadside domestic bins and the Hamilton Refuse Disposal Site, a Solid Waste Charge of \$160 per annum applies to all non-vacant properties that are not on Council's Door-to-Door Garbage and Recycling Service with a charge of \$84 for vacant properties and a charge of \$472 for commercial properties.

Council has budgeted for a 3.1% increase overall in the General Rate with 50% of the total General Rate Revenue being spread evenly over all ratepayers (\$382.20 each) and the remaining 50% General Rate has been calculated at 3.4038 cents per dollar of the AAV. Ratepayers have the opportunity to pay by four instalments but should note that a penalty of 10% is applied on the amount of each instalment unpaid by the due date.

Ratepayers may also make more frequent payments. Payment options have been expanded and include payments by telephone, BPay and Internet facilities. Eftpos, cash and cheque facilities are available at both the Hamilton and Bothwell offices. Payment can also be made at Post Offices and over the phone to Service Tasmania Shops.

Council collects the Fire Levy on behalf of the State Government. A minimum Fire Levy of \$41 will apply to all rateable properties.

Upon application and prior to the 31st March, 2020, eligible pensioners or Health Care Card Holders will be granted a remission on the rates payable on their principal residence. The remission is funded by the State Government.

KEY FOCUS AREAS AND SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES FOR 2019/2020

Goal 1 Community Building

Build Capacity to enhance community spirit and sense of wellbeing

Strategies

- 1.1 Continue to upgrade existing public open spaces and sporting facilities and encourage community use
- 1.2 Advocate for improved health, education, transport and other government and non-government services within the Central Highlands
- 1.3 Continue to strengthen partnerships with all tiers of government
- 1.4 Support and encourage social and community events within the Central Highlands
- 1.5 Provide support to community organisations and groups
- 1.6 Foster and develop an inclusive and engaged community with a strong sense of ownership of its area
- 1.7 Foster and support youth activities in the Central Highlands

2019-2020 Initiatives

- Continue support of local organisations and groups
- Continue support of community groups and clubs through in-kind assistance as well as through Council's Community Grants Program
- Continue the annual allocation of funds to schools to assist with their programs for school children
- Provide annual bursaries for a child at each school continuing further education and annual citizenship awards
- Provide assistance to continue the home day care facility at Bothwell
- Continue to allocate funds and support for the provision of medical services to Ouse and Bothwell
- Support programs and activities that promote the health and wellbeing of our community
- Continue to support regional groups of benefit to Central Highlands residents

- Advocate on behalf of our community on regional, state and national issues
- Continue review of the New residents Kit to ensure that the information is still relevant and accurate
- Prepare and adopt the Central Highlands Health & Wellbeing Plan
- Upgrade the play equipment at Hamilton

Goal 2 Infrastructure and Facilities

Manage Council's physical assets in an efficient and effective manner

Strategies

- 2.1 Develop and implement a 10 year asset management Plan for all classes of assets
- 2.2 Continue to work at regional and state levels to improve transport and infrastructure
- 2.3 Seek external funding to assist with upgrading of existing infrastructure and funding of new infrastructure and facilities
- 2.4 Ensure that the standard of existing assets and services are maintained in a cost effective manner

2019-2020 Initiatives

- Allocated funds to ensure that existing services and assets are maintained
- Review the 10 year asset management plan to include all classes of assets
- Underpin Dawsons Road Bridge
- Replace the Nive River Bridge at Gowan Brae
- Prepare a design to form the basis of work to be undertaken to provide water and power to grassed area at Bothwell Caravan Park, new signage and BBQ
- Complete the construction of the new public conveniences at Ouse Park
- Purchase dog trailer, water cart and replace 3 vehicles

- Replace the Hamilton CAT Loader
- Undertake works on the facia and gutters Bothwell Town Hall
- Provide a DrumMuster shed at the Bothwell Waste Transfer Station
- Stabilise and seal patches of Flintstone Drive
- Reseal 3 Kms. of Hollow Tree Road
- Reseal 1 km. Wayatinah Road
- Undertake Stage 1 of the stormwater upgrade at Bothwell
- Construct and seal 1 km of Pelham Road
- Complete sealing of new constructed road Pelham Road
- Replace part of footpath, Lyell Highway Ouse
- Close off kitchen area in the Bothwell Football Club & Community Centre
- Update solar heating at the Bothwell Swimming Pool
- Install liner at the Hamilton Refuse Site
- Replacement of older play equipment at Hamilton Park
- Undertake drainage works on Victoria Valley Road
- Complete maintenance works of assets and facilities within budget allocations

Goal 3 Financial Sustainability

Manage Council's finances and assets to ensure long term viability and sustainability of Council

Strategies

- 3.1 Manage Finances and assets in a transparent way to allow the maximization of resources to provide efficient and consistent delivery of services
- 3.2 Review annually, Councils Long Term Financial Management Plan and Council's Long Term Asset Management Plan

- 3.3 Where efficiency gains can be identified, resource share services with other local government councils
- 3.4 Increase the level of grant income
- 3.5 Encourage development to expand Council's rate base
- 3.6 Identify revenue streams that could complement/substitute for existing Resources
- 3.7 Develop and maintain sound risk management processes

2019-2020 Initiatives

- Identify appropriate grant funding to leverage Council funding for projects
- Continually review and update policies and Council's risk register
- Continue participation in the Local Government Shared Services and South Central Sub-Region Group and identify other services that can be resource shared
- Provide financial management reports to Council monthly
- Ensure Annual Financial Statements are completed within the statutory timeframe
- Ensure that staff are provided with continual training in Council's financial software and records management systems

Goal 4 Natural Environment

Encourage responsible management of the natural resources and assets in the Central Highlands.

Strategies

- 4.1 Continue to fund and support the Derwent Catchment Project
- 4.2 Continue with existing waste minimisation and recycling opportunities
- 4.3 Promote the reduce, reuse, recycle, recover message

- 4.4 Continue the program of weed reduction in the Central Highlands
- 4.5 Ensure the Central Highlands Emergency Management Plan is reviewed regularly to enable preparedness for natural events and emergencies
- 4.6 Strive to provide a clean and healthy environment
- 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment

2019-2020 Initiatives

- Allocated funds to continue our support of the Derwent Catchment Project to implement on ground projects and provide a link between Council and the community on natural resource management issues
- Work with other stakeholders, land managers and government agencies to ensure strategic weed control
- Monitor the usage of Council waste transfer stations and refuse site to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of our ratepayers and are maintained at an acceptable standard
- Provide education and encouragement of recycling within the Municipality to extend the life of the Hamilton Refuse Site
- Facilitate regular meetings of the Central Highlands Emergency Management Committee and ensure that the Central Highlands Emergency Management Plan is reviewed and remains current
- Continue as a member of the Southern Waste Strategy Committee

Goal 5 Economic Development

Encourage economic viability within the municipality

Strategies

- 5.1 Encourage expansion in the business sector and opening of new market opportunities
- 5.2 Support the implementation of the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme

- 5.3 Continue with the Highlands Tasmania branding
- 5.4 Encourage the establishment of alternative industries to support job creation and increase permanent residents
- 5.5 Promote our area's tourism opportunities, destinations and events
- 5.6 Support existing businesses to continue to grow and prosper
- 5.7 Develop partnerships with State Government, industry and regional bodies to promote economic and employment opportunities
- 5.8 Work with the community to further develop tourism in the area

2019-2020 Initiatives

- Continue as a member of Destination Southern Tasmania
- Continue as a member of STCA and LGAT
- Complete the installation of toilets at Ouse Park
- Continue with Highlands Bushfest to showcase the Central Highlands
- Continue with providing the tourism brochure through the Brochure Exchange facility, Brooke Street Pier, Spirit of Tasmania and other visitor centres
- Continue the roll out of the Highlands Tasmania Touring Map
- Engage and strengthen the community by supporting community events and local initiatives that enhance visitation to the Central Highlands
- Promotion of Central Highlands through production of material and via Council's website and Council's Facebook page
- Continue support of the Highlands Digest to enable it to provide community information to residents and visitors
- Continue to support local events that encourage visitation to the Central Highlands
- Continue to support the Central Highlands Visitor Management Committee to optimise the use of the Centre and the dispersement of information to tourists and visitors to the Central Highlands, and provide funding for the purchase of goods for sale that promote the Central Highlands

Goal 6 Governance and Leadership

Provide governance and leadership in an open, transparent, accountable and responsible manner in the best interests of our community as a whole

Strategies

- 6.1 Ensure Council fulfills its legislative and governance responsibilities and its decision making, supported by sustainable policies and procedures
- 6.2 Ensure that Council members have the resources and skills development opportunities to effectively fulfill their responsibilities
- 6.3 Ensure appropriate management of risk associated with Council's operations and activities
- 6.4 Provide a supportive culture that promotes the well-being of staff and encourages staff development and continuous learning
- 6.5 Provide advocacy on behalf of the community and actively engage government and other organisations in the pursuit of community priorities
- 6.6 Consider Council's strategic direction in relation to resource sharing with neighbouring councils and opportunities for mutual benefit
- 6.7 Support and encourage community participation and engagement
- 6.8 Ensure that customers receive quality responses that are prompt, accurate and fair
- 6.9 Council decision making will be always made in open council except where legislative or legal requirements determine otherwise.

2019-2020 Initiatives

- Annually review Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Strategy and Long Term Asset Management Plans
- Continually monitor and review Council's financial situation and report findings to Council in a clear and transparent format on a monthly basis
- Encourage staff to undertake training to further develop their skills

- Support Elected Members to take advantage of seminars, training and workshops that assist them in their position as a Councillor and their duty to engage in ongoing professional development
- Review the Risk register at each Audit Panel Meeting
- Ensure ongoing compliance with all legislation, regulations and codes of practice which impact upon Council
- Continue to provide the Central Highlands Newsletter to all ratepayers

Public Health

Council will:

- Conduct immunisation sessions as required and promote the need for immunisation
- Ensure proper provision of on-site effluent disposal in compliance with the current regulatory framework, codes, standards and best environmental practice
- Undertake routine inspection of places of public assembly, food premises, public health risk activities and water carters to ensure compliance with relevant legislation
- Promptly investigate environmental health complaints
- Maintain an effective analysis program for food, recreational waters and general complaints.
- Continue to promote safe food handling through the provision of the I'M ALERT free online food safety training program

Comprehensive Income Statement Estimates

		Budget 2018-2019	Estimated Actual	Budget 2019-2020
Revenues From Continuing Activities				
Rates Charges		\$3,606,569	\$3,617,576	\$3,729,984
User Fees		\$238,500	\$360,362	\$257,500
Grants - Operating		\$2,318,505	\$1,213,617	\$2,428,040
Other Revenue		\$492,034	\$526,957	\$512,034
FAG's in advance			\$1,191,097	
Total Revenues		\$6,655,608	\$6,909,609	\$6,927,558
Expenditure				
Employee Benefits		\$1,787,851	\$1,883,004	\$1,949,709
Materials and Services		\$1,375,766	\$1,425,875	\$1,418,866
Other Expenses		\$1,375,773	\$1,342,643	\$1,551,987
Total Expenditure		\$4,539,390	\$4,651,522	\$4,920,562
Profit/(Loss) before Depreciation		\$2,116,218	\$2,258,087	\$2,006,996
Depreciation and Amortisation		\$2,116,000	\$2,116,000	\$2,112,000
Operating Surplus(Loss)		218	142,087	(105,004)
Capital Grants & Other		\$209,198	\$208,048	\$694,000
Surplus(Loss)		209,416	350,135	588,996
Capital Expenditure		\$2,680,712	\$2,113,996	\$3,124,000

Revenue

	Project	Budget	Estimated actual	Budget
Administration		2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020
Rates Certificates	ASEH	35,000	47,377	35,000
FAG Grants	GRANT	2,318,505	1,213,617	2,428,040
Rates Penalties and Interest	ASEH	26,000	37,515	26,000
Other Grants - Capex	GRANT	-	-	-
Other Operating Grants	GRANT	-	-	-
Roads to Recovery	GRANT	198,212	198,212	590,000
Interest	INT	150,000	191,408	170,000
Miscellaneous Income	ONCOST	6,000	36,153	6,000
Miscellaneous Reimbursements	ONCOST	73,000	60,000	73,000
Sale plant	PLANT	7,350	6,200	20,000
Rates	RATES	2,792,800	2,800,564	2,886,391
Fire Levy	RATES	216,208	217,477	223,837
Garbage Collection	RATES	597,561	599,536	619,756
Bushfest	CDR	18,000	34,950	25,000
Total Administration Revenue		6,438,636	5,443,008	7,103,024
	Project	Budget	Estimated actual	Budget
Development Services		2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020
Dog Licences	AC	12,000	18,791	16,000
Licences/Fees	DEV	500	(750)	500
Planning/Subdivision	DEV	35,000	57,546	40,000
Building Fees	DEV	10,000	18,942	10,000
Swimming Pool	POOL	2,000	2,036	2,000
Septic Tanks/Special Con. Fees	DRAIN	8,000	16,387	8,000
Building Inspection/Surveyor Fees	BPC	7,000	10,595	7,000
Tip Fees	TIPS	500	505	500
W.T.S. Contributions	WTS	2,000	6,240	2,000
Total Development Services		77,000	130,292	86,000
	Project	Budget	Estimated actual	Budget
Works		2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020
Cemetery	CEM	7,000	8,730	7,000
Camping Grounds	CPARK	15,000	23,318	18,000
Hall Hire	HALL	1,500	1,002	1,500
Independent Living Units ILU	HOU	65,000	77,699	65,000
H D Units	HOU	10,000	-	10,000
Rental Library	LIB	3,500	-	3,500
Private Works	PW	115,000	110,000	115,000
Rec/Reserves	REC	500	840	500
T/Toll & Heavy Vehicle Reg.	ROAD	26,034	26,034	26,034
SES	SES	-	-	-
TasWater	WATER	102,000	102,000	102,000
SES vehicle grant		-		
Capital Grants		3,636	3,636	84,000
Total Works and Services		349,170	353,260	432,534
Total Revenue				
Total Administration Revenue		6,438,636	5,443,008	7,103,024
Total Development Services		77,000	130,292	86,000
Total Works and Services		349,170	353,260	432,534
Total Consolidated Revenue		6,864,806	5,926,560	7,621,558

Operating Expenditure

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	BUDGET 2018/2019	Forecast Update 30/06/2019	Actual to 31/3/19	BUDGET 2019/2020
ADMIN. STAFF COSTS(ASCH)	544,250	541,031	372,459	569,056
ADMIN BUILDING EXPEND(ABCH)	34,474	31,448	25,529	35,966
OFFICE EXPENSES(AOEH)	134,000	133,488	100,116	139,500
MEMBERS EXPENSES(AMEH)	206,379	174,724	133,595	193,410
OTHER ADMIN. EXPENDITURE(ASEH + RATES)	301,840	276,769	197,711	318,166
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	142,857	118,024	52,428	128,000
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	39,600	29,057	19,371	39,600
ONCOSTS (ACTUAL)(ONCOSTS)	446,543	444,064	300,198	493,952
ONCOSTS RECOVERED	(420,000)	(424,972)	(342,286)	(430,000)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	190,850	204,131	131,989	211,150
GOVERNMENT LEVIES(GLEVY)	246,208	246,208	130,732	253,837
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE - Administration	1,867,000	1,773,973	1,121,843	1,952,637
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	BUDGET 2018/2019	Forecast Update 30/06/2019	Actual to 31/3/19	BUDGET 2019/2020
ADMIN STAFF COSTS - DES (ASCB)	164,093	147,895	113,608	170,263
ADMIN BUILDING EXPEND - DES(ABCB)	17,860	15,872	12,388	18,737
OFFICE EXPENSES - DES (AOEB)	52,000	50,248	41,661	57,000
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	31,568	21,801	16,975	32,384
ANIMAL CONTROL(Animal Control)(AC)	16,500	13,188	9,153	18,570
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	121,539	109,452	80,495	125,212
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	39,667	39,476	38,253	40,591
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	75,000	86,585	61,989	185,000
DOOR TO DOOR GARBAGE & RECYCLING (DD)	144,300	126,292	84,771	146,118
ROADSIDE BINS COLLECTION (DRB)	110,000	110,000	66,000	110,000
WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS (WTS)	188,864	180,294	125,300	192,252
TIP MAINTENANCE (TIPS)	71,798	74,307	46,622	65,379
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	2,500	1,518	1,466	2,718
RECYCLING (RECY)	37,500	31,376	23,532	40,600
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE DES	1,073,190	1,008,304	722,212	1,204,823
WORKS & SERVICES	BUDGET 2018/2019	Forecast Update 30/06/2019	Actual to 31/3/19	BUDGET 2019/2020
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	95,200	116,067	92,061	123,875
CEMETERY (CEM)	20,734	19,953	16,409	21,180
HALLS (HALL)	46,460	42,199	35,686	45,069
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	72,694	87,587	67,263	75,622
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	70,076	69,567	56,806	74,290
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	120,000	121,992	121,566	125,000
FIRE PROTECTION (FIRE)	1,000	-	-	1,000
HOUSING (HOU)	48,972	42,972	34,974	51,800
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	7,300	9,316	8,572	12,000
LIBRARY (LIB)	500	578	528	545
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	762,000	784,910	596,336	788,370
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	5,500	4,902	3,758	5,640
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	22,716	13,895	10,468	22,891
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	85,000	221,870	167,973	85,000
SUPER. & VD OVERHEADS (SUPER)	309,106	320,718	246,350	347,608
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(48,000)	(40,176)	(81,500)	(48,000)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	118,546	138,648	103,648	129,546
SES (SES)	2,000	2,277	1,708	2,000
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	451,150	521,079	367,299	477,348
PLANT INCOME	(662,000)	(682,261)	(511,696)	(650,000)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	23,000	13,597	10,395	23,000
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	22,745	26,008	21,925	23,118
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	24,500	33,548	25,660	26,200
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE - Works and Services	1,599,200	1,869,245	1,396,187	1,763,102
CORPORATE SERVICES	BUDGET 2018/2019	Forecast Update 30/06/2019	Actual to 31/3/19	BUDGET 2019/2020
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE - Administration	1,867,000	1,773,973	1,121,843	1,952,637
DEV. & ENVIRONMENTAL SERV.	1,073,190	1,008,304	722,212	1,204,823
WORKS & SERVICES	1,599,200	1,869,245	1,396,187	1,763,102
GRAND TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS	4,539,390	4,651,522	3,240,243	4,920,562

	Budget 2018/19	Forecast Actual 2018/19	Estimates 2019/20
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
RECEIPTS			
Operating Receipts	6,655,608	5,711,162	6,927,558
PAYMENTS			
Operating payments	4,539,390	4,651,522	4,920,562
NET CASH FROM OPERATING	2,116,218	1,059,640	2,006,996
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
RECEIPTS			
Proceeds from sale of Plant & Equipment	7,350	7,350	85,000
PAYMENTS			
Payment for property, plant and equipment	2,680,712	2,113,996	3,124,000
NET CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(2,673,362)	(2,106,646)	(3,039,000)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
RECEIPTS			
Capital Grants	194,198	208,048	590,000
PAYMENTS			
Nil		-	
NET CASH FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	194,198	208,048	590,000
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(362,946)	(838,958)	(442,004)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	10,099,069	10,099,069	9,260,111
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	9,736,123	9,260,111	8,818,107

CAPITAL WORKS

	\$
Computer Purchases and Software	16,500
Printer / Photocopier Hamilton	10,000
A3 Printer Bothwell	5,000
Heat Pumps Headmasters House	3,500
2 x Defibs & 6 cabinets	8,000
Town Signs	12,000
Solar Heating & Pool Cover Winch	37,000
Slabs for Bins - Waste Transfer Stations	15,000
Bothwell Hall Facia & Guttering	10,000
Display Cabinets – Visitor Centre	5,000
Re-roof Hamilton Office	100,000
Repair Cracks & Paint Hamilton Office	5,000
Repoint sandstone – Hamilton Heritage Building	10,000
NRM / Hamilton School	10,000
Broad River Bridge Underpinning	120,000
Gowan Brae Bridge Replacement	300,000
Hunterston Bridge	112,000
Plant Purchases	424,000
Bothwell Caravan Park Upgrade	50,000
Ouse Park Toilets	40,000
Bronte Toilets	30,000
Capital Roadworks	1,280,000
Victoria Valley Drainage	30,000
Bothwell Football Club & Community Centre	10,000
Hamilton Park Play Equipment	60,000
Hamilton Rose Garden Table & Chair	3,000
Stormwater Bothwell Stage 1	350,000
Drum Muster Shed Bothwell WTS	10,000
Hamilton Refuse Site Liner	33,000
UHF Radio Tower Table Mountain	5,000
Ouse Footpath	20,000
	3,124,000



Discussion Paper:

Statutory Review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*

May 2019

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

GPO Box 44 Hobart TASMANIA 7001

www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

27 May 2019

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Overview

Tasmania has been home to Aboriginal people for more than 40,000 years and spanning two ice ages. Throughout that time, Tasmania's Aboriginal people have led rich cultural lives with deep connections to the land and sea-scapes around them. Today, Tasmania's Aboriginal people continue to live rich cultural lives and their cultural heritage and traditional cultural practices continue as one of the oldest continuing living cultures in the world. Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage is ancient and unique and is immensely important to Tasmanian Aboriginal people – past, present and future. Not only that, our Aboriginal heritage has great significance for the broader Tasmanian community, as well as having significant value at national and international levels.

Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage is the legacy of Tasmania's First people – those places, objects and traditions that have been passed down through thousands of generations. It also includes intangible values where there may be no physical evidence of past cultural activities, for example, places of spiritual or ceremonial significance or travel routes where trade relations took place.

From shell middens, rock markings, hut depressions and stone artefacts that are some of the finest examples in Australia, through to whole landscapes and ecosystems that have been carefully and sustainably managed and sculpted by many thousands of years of Aboriginal activity including hunting, trading and cultural burning – Tasmania's landscape today carries the evidence of its First people. The importance of understanding, respecting and protecting this ancient and living culture cannot be overstated.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (the Act) is a stand-alone piece of Tasmanian legislation which defines what Aboriginal heritage is and sets out how that heritage must be managed.

The Act was amended in 2017 for the first time since it was created in 1975. The amendments served to address some of the most outdated and problematic parts of the Act, and were seen as a positive step. However, aside from the amended provisions, the Act as a whole remains largely outdated and continues to reflect the thinking and attitude of a predominantly white bureaucracy from a period close to half a century ago.

The 2017 amendments were also an interim step with a requirement added to the Act requiring a full review of the legislation within three years.

The review will consider the design and operation of the current legislation through broad consideration of:

- the views and aspirations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- the views of non-Aboriginal stakeholders.
- approaches to Aboriginal heritage legislation in other Australian jurisdictions; and
- the interface between Aboriginal heritage management legislation and other legislative processes (primarily relating to resource management and planning processes).

Purpose of the Discussion Paper

The Government of Tasmania is seeking the input of all Tasmanians, and from Tasmanian Aboriginal people in particular, to understand issues with the operation of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

Multiple opportunities will be provided throughout 2019 and 2020 for people to contribute to the review.

The first opportunity to contribute to the review is a 16 week comment period on the information and questions presented in this Discussion Paper.

Your response to this first stage of consultation is an important step in the review process. It is where you get your first opportunity to have your say and let us know your thoughts, ideas and concerns. Your comments will be considered and further explored through consultation in a second stage of the review.

The Discussion Paper is structured around the following key topics relating to the management of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania:

1. What is the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* trying to achieve?
2. What is Aboriginal heritage?
3. Ownership of Aboriginal heritage.
4. Making decisions about what happens to Aboriginal heritage.
5. The Aboriginal Heritage Council – what it is and what it does.
6. Offences under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* and penalties for doing the wrong thing.
7. When can Aboriginal heritage be interfered with?
8. Enforcement of the legislation.
9. Other ways the legislation protects Aboriginal heritage; and
10. Other matters covered by the legislation.

The Discussion Paper presents information on how the Act works in relation to each of the key topics and then asks some questions in relation to each topic to help prompt discussion.

Not every section of the Act is discussed in detail, however you are invited to provide comment on the structure and operation of any part of the Act.

The Discussion Paper also provides an opportunity to comment on any other matters relating to the management of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania.

How you can contribute

Each section of the Discussion Paper concludes with a series of questions. These questions are designed as prompts only. Written submissions need not address these questions specifically.

All written submissions must be received by the end of Saturday 21 September 2019.

Written submissions can be forwarded to:

Email: aboriginalheritageact@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Mail: Aboriginal Heritage Act Review
GPO Box 44
Hobart TAS 7001

A number of face-to-face meetings with Aboriginal groups and key non-Aboriginal stakeholders will also be held around Tasmania.

If you would like to request a special information session for yourself or your organisation, please contact the DPIPWE Review Team at Email: aboriginalheritageact@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Submissions will be treated as public information and will be published on the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment website at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/aboriginalheritageact following the closing of the consultation period, unless you request otherwise.

Further information on how your submission will be handled can be found at the end of this Discussion Paper.

Next steps

- ⇒ A Consultation Report summarising all the feedback received through the first stage of consultation will be prepared and made available to the public. It is envisaged that the Consultation Report will be released before the end of 2019.
- ⇒ Feedback received through the first stage of consultation will be used to inform a second Stage of the Review, where further discussions with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal stakeholders will be held to explore views on specific issues in more detail, and identify pathways to resolve stakeholder concerns/suggestions. The second stage of consultation will take place in 2020.
- ⇒ Following the second Stage of consultation, a Review Report will be prepared presenting the findings of the Review and recommendations relating to options for change. The Review Report will be provided to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in August 2020 and is expected to be tabled in each House of Parliament before the end of the Parliamentary year in 2020.

1. What is the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* trying to achieve?

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* provides the current legislative framework for managing and protecting Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage.

In summary, the Act:

- defines what Aboriginal heritage is.
- establishes, as a principle, that Aboriginal heritage must not be damaged, destroyed, defaced, concealed or otherwise interfered with, unless otherwise authorised under the Act.
- sets out actions that may be taken to protect Aboriginal heritage that is at risk of being harmed;
- specifies what a person must do if they discover Aboriginal heritage.
- prescribes penalties that may be applied if the 'rules' of the Act are broken.
- identifies circumstances where Aboriginal heritage may be destroyed, damaged, defaced, concealed or otherwise interfered with; and
- establishes a Council of Aboriginal people to provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (the Director), on matters relating to Aboriginal heritage.

Some legislation incorporates clearly stated objectives which provide additional guidance and clarity around what the Act has been established to deliver, and must be taken into account by anyone making decisions in relation to the Act. The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* does not contain any specific information or overarching principles clarifying the objectives of the Act.

Questions:

- ⇒ How clear is the Act regarding what it is trying to achieve?

⇒ Could this be improved, and if so, how?

2. What is Aboriginal heritage?

Under the Act, anything that is considered to be Aboriginal heritage is described as a 'relic'. The definition of a relic is provided in Section 3 of the Act and includes:

- any artefact, painting, carving, engraving, arrangement of stones, midden, or other object, made or created by any of the original inhabitants of Australia or the descendants of any such inhabitants.
- any object, site, or place that bears signs of the activities of any such original inhabitants or their descendants; and
- the remains of the body of such an original inhabitant or of a descendant of such an inhabitant that are not interred in a cemetery or marked grave.

An important amendment to the Act in 2017 was the removal of references to 1876 as the cut-off date for creation of Aboriginal heritage (or a 'relic'). This change recognises that Tasmania's Aboriginal culture is a living culture which continues to create Aboriginal heritage to this day, and which will continue to create Aboriginal heritage into the future.

Tasmania's Aboriginal people consider the term 'relic' to be outdated and not relevant to the way they view their heritage. The term suggests something that is ancient and a thing of the past, and does not acknowledge or capture the part of their heritage that is contemporary and living. While the title of the Act was changed in 2017 from the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* in recognition of this view, the use of the term relic to define Aboriginal heritage has remained in the Act.

A further important amendment in 2017 was the introduction of additional criteria for a relic as having to be of significance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, with the significance 'test' being further qualified as being in accordance with Tasmanian Aboriginal history and tradition.

An issue that has been raised by Aboriginal people and other indigenous experts in recent years is how to define and protect that part of Aboriginal heritage, culture and tradition that may not have a physical form or evidence – that is intangible.

Under Victorian legislation, intangible heritage is recognised and includes ceremony, stories, traditional skills and practices, language and dance. In the Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural context, use of the term intangible has tended to extend to including the spiritual essence of a place or broader landscape where Aboriginal people once lived, hunted and practiced culture.

The current definition of Aboriginal heritage in the Act does not attempt to recognise or manage intangible Aboriginal heritage. It is noted, however, that intangible values, and the potential for those values to be impacted, can be difficult to define and manage.

Questions:

- ⇒ How well does the Act define Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Could this be improved, and how?
- ⇒ Does the definition of a ‘relic’, adequately capture all elements of Aboriginal heritage that should be protected and managed?
- ⇒ Should use of the term ‘relic’, and the way Aboriginal heritage is recognised and defined, be changed?

3. Ownership of Aboriginal heritage

The Act has several provisions relating to ownership of relics:

- Section 10 of the Act required persons owning or holding relics at the time the Act commenced to report that fact to the authorities.
- Section 11 of the Act provides that relics on Crown lands are owned by the Crown; and
- Section 12 of the Act contains provisions for the compulsory acquisition of relics by the Minister, if the Minister determines that the relic is required by the Crown.

The Act is silent on ownership of relics on lands other than Crown lands (e.g. privately owned land).

Although the Act is largely silent on ownership of relics by people other than the Crown, it is clear from Sections 10 and 12 that the Act recognises that circumstances exist where a person, other than the Crown, can own a relic.

It is noted that the concept of ownership does not fit with how Aboriginal people view Aboriginal heritage. While it is without doubt that Aboriginal people consider it their heritage, they view themselves as custodians rather than owners of their heritage.

Irrespective of who may be considered under the Act to be the owner of a relic, it is clear that all the provisions in the Act, including those relating to the protection and management of relics, apply to everyone – including the ‘owner’. As such, it has been argued that the matter of ownership, while somewhat undefined in the Act, does not alter the level of protection that is provided to a relic.

The more complicated question around ownership is not just who should own or be the custodian of Aboriginal heritage, but also what decisions about how that heritage is managed, the owner or custodian of the Aboriginal heritage should be able to make.

Questions:

- ⇒ How clearly does the Act describe ownership of Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Are provisions in the Act providing for ownership reasonable?
- ⇒ Who should own Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Is the concept of 'ownership' the right way to think about who is responsible for Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Should the 'rules' in the Act apply to everyone in every situation?
- ⇒ Should land tenure on which Aboriginal heritage exists make any difference to who owns/how the heritage is to be managed?

4. Making decisions about what happens to Aboriginal heritage

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is the primary decision maker under the Act and makes decisions in relation to:

- Issuing permits to interfere¹ with Aboriginal heritage.
- Declaring 'protected sites'.
- Compulsory acquisition of relics; and
- Issuing Guidelines.

Issuing Guidelines and declaring 'protected sites' are discussed further, at protected Section 7 and 9 respectively.

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife has a limited decision making role in relation to managing 'protected sites' and issuing permits to interfere with relics and infrastructure on those sites.

In making decisions, the Minister and the Director are largely not bound to seek advice or recommendation from any person, other than the Director of National Parks and Wildlife in the case of the Minister. However, in practice, the Minister and the Director routinely seek advice from the Aboriginal Heritage Council. While this intention was clearly outlined as the expectation when the 2017 amendments establishing the statutory Council were developed, it is not a requirement of the Act.

Under very limited circumstances relating to disposal of relics owned by the Crown, the Minister must seek and consider a recommendation from the Aboriginal Heritage Council.

Under the Act, only the Aboriginal Heritage Council is recognised as being in a position to provide advice or recommendations. No person or entity other than the Minister or the Director has any statutory decision making powers in relation to managing Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage.

The approach the Act takes to decision making has been highlighted as a longstanding issue for Aboriginal people and a number of other people with an interest in Aboriginal heritage. Aboriginal people consider themselves the rights-holders and custodians of their heritage and have a strong desire to continue to be responsible for managing their heritage. It is important to also note that private land owners want to be able to continue to make their own decisions to practice certain use rights associated with their land.

Tasmania's Aboriginal people have advocated that an Aboriginal body, such as the Aboriginal Heritage Council, should have decision making powers. If this were to be the case, it may be necessary to include provisions providing rights to review or appeal of decisions, consistent with other legislation that provides for independent decision making powers.

¹ Use of the term 'interfere' in this Discussion Paper refers to a full description in the Act of what a person must not do to a relic (see Section 14(1) of the Act), and includes destroy, damage, deface, conceal, remove, sell, search for or otherwise interfere with a relic.

Questions:

- ⇒ Is the way the Act describes who makes decisions, and how decisions must be made, adequate and reasonable?
- ⇒ How can decision making be improved?
- ⇒ Who should make decisions under the Act?
- ⇒ Are there circumstances where different people, or parties, should make decisions about how to manage Aboriginal heritage? How should decisions be made?

5. The Aboriginal Heritage Council – what it is and what it does

The Act establishes the Aboriginal Heritage Council as an independent statutory body which provides advice and makes recommendations to the Minister and the Director. The inclusion of provisions to establish the Aboriginal Heritage Council, comprising Aboriginal people, was an important component of the amendments made to the Act in 2017.

The scope of the matters that the Council can provide advice on is confined to matters that are covered by the Act. This is set out in detail in Section 3 of the Act, and includes matters on which the Minister and the Director make decisions under the Act.

As discussed in Section 4 of this Paper, the Minister and the Director are not bound under the Act to seek advice from the Council, however the Council can provide advice regardless of whether it has been sought. The Minister and the Director are not bound under the Act to adopt advice and recommendations received from the Council.

In preparing advice and recommendations, the Act specifies that the Council itself is to seek advice from any person or body the Council believes, on reasonable grounds, to have expertise in relation to the matters concerned. The Act also provides for the Council, in performing its role, to consult with Tasmanian Aboriginal people where it is appropriate and practicable to do so.

The Act specifies that the Council can have up to 10 members, who must be Aboriginal persons. Members of the Council are appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister. Other than being Aboriginal persons, the Act does not specify any additional criteria for Council membership (e.g. skills or representation) or how members are selected. However Government policy requires gender balance and regional representation as far as is practicable.

Questions:

- ⇒ How should members for the Aboriginal Heritage Council be chosen?
- ⇒ Should the Act specify criteria for Council membership, and what criteria should apply?
- ⇒ How clearly does the Act describe the role and function of the Aboriginal Heritage Council?
- ⇒ Is the role of the Aboriginal Heritage Council adequate and appropriate?
- ⇒ Could this be improved, and if so, how?

6. Offences under the Act and penalties for doing the wrong thing

The Act specifies a range of actions affecting Aboriginal heritage that are against the law. These offences include:

- Interfering with a relic.
- Interfering with a 'protected object' or a 'protected site'.
- Failing to advise the appropriate authority of a relic being discovered; and
- Failing to comply with requests from authorised officers (discussed further in Section 8)

By far the most important, and in practice the part of the Act under which most of the administrative work is undertaken is Section 14(1) which says that relics must not be interfered with unless in accordance with the terms of a permit granted by the Minister. It is under this section that the Minister grants permits to interfere with relics and under which most compliance action occurs.

In each case where an offence is specified in the Act, a corresponding maximum penalty is also specified.

The penalties in the Act were significantly increased when the Act was amended in 2017. The maximum penalties in the Act are now among the highest of any other Aboriginal heritage legislation in the country, and in line with similar offences for damaging European heritage.

Penalties are described in terms of the maximum number of 'penalty units' that can be applied.

Each penalty unit has a monetary value that is set each year. The current value of a penalty unit in Tasmania is \$163.

Penalties in the Act are scaled to differentiate between individual persons (or small business entities) and body corporates – with penalties being significantly greater for body corporates.

Penalties in the Act are also scaled to differentiate between offences that a person has knowingly committed and offences that a person has committed unwittingly through negligence or recklessness on their part – with persons knowingly or deliberately doing the wrong thing attracting significantly higher penalties.

The highest maximum penalty prescribed in the Act applies to circumstances where a body corporate knowingly interferes with a relic. This equates to a maximum of \$1.63 million.

By way of example:

- 1,000 penalty units = \$163,000 (maximum penalty for an individual recklessly or negligently interfering with Aboriginal heritage).
- 2,000 penalty units = \$326,000 (maximum penalty for a body corporate, other than a small business entity recklessly or negligently interfering with Aboriginal heritage).
- 5,000 penalty units = \$815,000 (maximum penalty for an individual knowingly interfering with Aboriginal heritage).
- 10,000 penalty units = \$1,630,000 (maximum penalty for a body corporate knowingly interfering with Aboriginal heritage).

Only a magistrate can determine whether an offence has been committed and decide what level of penalty to apply.

There is concern among Aboriginal people that broader society has not yet placed an equal value on Aboriginal heritage relative to European heritage. A criticism of the current offence provisions has been a lack of understanding of the value of Aboriginal heritage and therefore failure to impose appropriate (large enough) penalties.

While the maximum penalties in Tasmania may now be in line with those for damaging European heritage, there have been no prosecutions under the amended Act to date, therefore the new, harsher penalties have not been tested. There are signs that the importance, and therefore the value, of Aboriginal heritage is becoming better understood, however ongoing efforts to educate and create awareness and understanding across the broader community will be a critical part of the ongoing protection and management of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania.

As previously discussed in this Paper, the offence provisions in the Act apply to everyone. However, it could be argued that under the Act, Tasmanian Aboriginal people practicing culture at their cultural sites may in fact be interfering with Aboriginal heritage and, if doing so without a permit, they would be breaking the law. While a person's circumstances would be taken into account when determining a penalty, these circumstances would generally not be able to be considered in determining if an offence has been committed.

Questions:

- ⇒ How well does the Act describe and manage offences?
- ⇒ Are the penalties adequate?
- ⇒ Could the offences and penalties provisions in the Act be improved, and if so, how?
- ⇒ Are there circumstances where the 'rules' of the Act should apply differently to different people?

7. When can Aboriginal heritage be interfered with?

The Act provides for circumstances where a person can be provided with a legal authority to interfere with a relic. The Act also provides for circumstances where a person's failure to comply with the Act can be justified, or 'defended' legally. Generally, the offence provisions in the Act apply to every person and every circumstance, however a number of circumstances are specified in the Act where either a legal authority or a legal defence can exist. They are where:

- A person is acting in accordance with a permit granted by the Minister or Director (see also Section 4);
- A person is acting in accordance with Guidelines issued by the Minister, or relying on another person's compliance with the Guidelines; or
- A person is carrying out emergency works.

There is little guidance in the Act for the process which must be followed for seeking a permit to interfere with a relic. However, in practice the Director, through their oversight of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, has established a longstanding and robust policy-based process for assessing the merit of every application for a permit. This is set out in the *Aboriginal Heritage Standards and Procedures* published by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. The process entails a desktop assessment to determine if Aboriginal heritage is at risk. Where a risk is determined, and depending on the nature of the risk, further information is obtained including:

- Specialist surveys.
- Site visits.
- Advice from the Aboriginal Heritage Council; and
- Consideration of the broader social, economic and environmental implications.

A permit to interfere – usually to conceal or relocate, but sometimes to destroy a relic – may then be granted by the Minister on the recommendation of the Director.

Section 21A of the Act specifies that the Minister must issue 'Guidelines'. The intention of the 'Guidelines' is to set out the things that a person must do to ensure they have undertaken all reasonable precautions to minimise the risk that the activity they are proposing to undertake will result in impacting Aboriginal heritage.

Measures in the current Guidelines include:

- Contacting the 'Dial Before You Dig' service.
- Conducting a search through the Aboriginal Heritage Property Search tool administered by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.
- Acting in accordance with the standards and procedures which have been adopted by the guidelines. These are:
 - Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania's *Aboriginal Heritage Standards and Procedures*;
 - *Procedures for Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage when Preparing Forest Practices Plans*; and
 - *Mineral Exploration Code of Practice*.
- Contacting Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania directly; and
- Acting in accordance with any advice received from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, including in relation to unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal heritage.

Emergency works are specified in the Act as being works undertaken in accordance with Section 5 of the *Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995*, or any work that is necessary and proportionate to save lives, prevent injury and prevent damage or loss of property. An example of this would be the clearing of fire breaks to control a fire or to prepare for an impending fire. Emergency management teams routinely inform their decisions with information about the natural and cultural values of an area, and wherever practical they take steps to minimise impacts on those known values as they deliver their emergency services.

Questions:

- ⇒ Are the defence provisions in the Act adequate and reasonable?
- ⇒ Could the defence provisions be improved, and if so, how?
- ⇒ Do the Guidelines provide adequate protection for Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Could the Guidelines be improved, and if so, how?

8. Enforcement of the legislation

The provisions in the Act are legal requirements and must be complied with. As discussed in Section 6 of this Paper, a magistrate determines whether a person has committed an offence, and will decide the proportion of the maximum relevant penalty that will be imposed.

An important amendment to the Act in 2017 was an extension of a statutory limit on the amount of time within which a prosecution must be initiated – from within six months of an offence being committed, to within two years of discovery of evidence of an offence having been committed. This change recognised that breaches of the Act were sometimes reported long after alleged offences were committed (eg, vandalism of rock art in remote areas) and the considerable length of time required to conduct robust investigations prior to decisions being made to proceed with prosecution.

The Act also provides for people to be 'authorised' under the Act to make certain types of decisions and take certain actions such as:

- Requiring a person to provide their name and address.
- Requiring a person to leave a 'protected site'.
- Requiring a person to disclose the location of a relic.
- Seizing objects (relics and property); and
- Obtaining a warrant to search a premises.

Police officers are automatically authorised officers. Any State Service employee may also be authorised as a warden on a case-by-case basis. The practice is for State Service employees to undergo relevant training, to ensure their competence and safety prior to them being authorised. Honorary wardens with lesser powers, and who are not required to be State Service employees, can also be appointed.

Unlike most other legislation that regulates development activity/works, the Act does not provide for the issue of stop-work notices. The key issue here is that a determination of an offence and penalty by a magistrate necessarily takes some time (often years) and there are no mechanisms in the Act to legally require a person (e.g. a contractor or a developer) to stop what they are doing and to not start again until further notice, thereby exposing Aboriginal heritage to ongoing risk of potential damage. A number of other Acts, including Tasmania's *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*, do have this type of provision.

A number of Acts governing the protection of natural and cultural values also have infringement notice provisions which allow for an immediate judgement and on-the-spot fine, where an authorised officer has determined that a breach of the relevant Act has occurred. Infringement notices can be an efficient and immediate means of issuing a penalty. They are usually issued in relation to actions which are considered to constitute breaches that are less serious or minor in nature, and the associated penalties tend to be a small fraction of the (potentially maximum) penalties that might be applied by a magistrate for serious offences.

Questions:

- ⇒ How well does the Act provide for enforcement of its provisions?
- ⇒ Could this be improved, and if so, how?
- ⇒ Should the Act include stop-work provisions?
- ⇒ Should the Act include provision for infringement notices and associated on-the-spot fines?
- ⇒ Should offences in the Act be further scaled to distinguish between minor and non-minor offences?

9. Other ways the legislation protects Aboriginal heritage

The Act provides a number of other mechanisms which are intended to provide further protection for Aboriginal heritage, in addition to the general provisions already discussed in this Discussion Paper.

The first mechanism (which has been mentioned earlier in this Discussion Paper) is the ability for the Minister to declare a site to be a 'protected site' where the Minister is satisfied that steps should be taken to protect or preserve a relic at that site. In principle, the provisions in the Act provide for a greater level of management attention, aimed at protecting relics, than may otherwise be available.

This mechanism has rarely been used and only three 'protected sites' have been declared, one of which was revoked when that land was formally returned to the Aboriginal community under the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*. In practice, it has been more useful and effective to administer such sites under the broader reserve and Crown land management systems administered by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

The second mechanism is a provision for the Governor to make Regulations under Section 25 of the Act which provide additional prescriptions relating to the care, control and management of 'protected sites'. Regulations were initially made in 1978, however these Regulations lapsed in 2000 and Regulations have not existed since that time.

Questions:

- ⇒ How well does the Act protect and manage Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Could this be improved, and if so, how?
- ⇒ Are 'protected sites' a useful mechanism for protecting Aboriginal heritage?
- ⇒ Is the provision for the making of Regulations useful?

10. Other matters covered by the legislation

The Act also has a number of miscellaneous provisions that while relatively minor are important.

Section 22 specifies that any monies received under the Act, primarily as a result of fines being imposed, will be paid to the Government's consolidated fund. The section also specifies that the Tasmanian Government will pay any expenses incurred through administration of the Act.

Section 23 specifies that the Act must be reviewed within three years of the 2017 amendments.

Section 24 specifies that the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* does not affect the operation of certain other acts, namely Section 139 of the *Criminal Code Act 1924* and the *Coroners Act 1995*.

Other considerations

The focus of the review of the Act, and therefore this Discussion Paper, is around the design and operation of the current Act. There are, however, some additional aspects relating to the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage that are not directly or indirectly referenced in the Act, and are important to acknowledge.

There are multiple elements to the effective management of Aboriginal values. Legislation and subordinate or subsidiary statutory instruments and processes are a key part, however there are an array of non-statutory mechanisms that may have the potential to support and significantly strengthen the whole system. Central to concerns that have been expressed by Tasmania's Aboriginal people in previous consultation is the importance of educating broader society to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the value and importance of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage.

A great deal of resources are directed to protecting, managing and promoting Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage. Examples include work on understanding and presenting the Aboriginal values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, developing and supporting joint management arrangements, as well as the Parks and Wildlife Service's Aboriginal Trainee Ranger Program, and support of Aboriginal tourism.

A key issue with the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania continues to be a lack of understanding and clarity for people who are planning activities which have the potential to impact on Aboriginal heritage. Currently there are a range of key administrative processes that aren't prescribed in detail in the Act – notably specific steps and timeframes to be followed and adhered to when seeking advice on whether a permit for an activity is required, and when making a decision in relation to granting of such a permit. There is also no provision in the current Act for a decision to be appealed, should a party be unsatisfied with how the Act is administered. A theme that emerged from land use and development stakeholders and industries through the consultation for the 2017 amendments was that tighter prescriptions and stronger penalties were not opposed, provided there was clarity and certainty in the requirements and operation of the Act. Some noted a desire to see statutory processes and timeframes for the handling of enquiries regarding whether Aboriginal heritage permits were required and for decisions to be made in relation to applications for permits.

A further but related matter for consideration is how the Act should relate to other Tasmanian planning legislation. Unlike the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*, the Act is not part of Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) and there are no triggers in, nor alignment with Tasmania's core planning Act (the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*). Integration of Aboriginal heritage legislation with the RMPS would necessarily increase the complexity of the Act.

Questions:

- ⇒ Is there anything else you would like to see included in Aboriginal heritage legislation in Tasmania?
- ⇒ Are there any other comments that you would like to make with regard to Aboriginal heritage management in Tasmania?

Important information regarding your submission

Publication of submissions

Your submission will be published in accordance with the Tasmanian Government's *Public Submission Policy*, which requires that Government departments publish online all written submissions made in response to broad public consultation on major policy matters.

Confidentiality

Your name (or the name of the organisation) will be published unless you request otherwise.

In the absence of a clear indication that a submission is intended to be treated as confidential (or parts of the submission), the Department will treat the submission as public.

If you would like your submission treated as confidential, whether in whole or in part, please indicate this in writing at the time of making your submission. Clearly identify the parts of your submission you want to remain confidential. In this case, your submission will not be published to the extent of that request.

Personal information protection

Personal information collected from you will be used by DPIPWE for the purpose of acknowledging your submission. Your submission may be published, unless it is marked "confidential". Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*.

Accessibility of submissions

The Government recognises that not all individuals or groups are equally placed to access and understand information. We are therefore committed to ensuring Government information is accessible and easily understood by people with diverse communication needs. Where possible, please consider typing your submission in plain English and provide it in a format such as Microsoft Word or equivalent. The Government cannot, however, take responsibility for the accessibility of documents provided by third parties.

Copyright

Copyright on submissions remains with the author(s), not with the Tasmanian Government.

Defamatory material

DPIPWE will not publish, in whole or in part, submissions containing defamatory or offensive material. If your submission includes material that could enable identification of other individuals then either all or parts of the submission will not be published.

Right to Information Act 2009

Information provided to the Government may be released to an applicant under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI). If you have indicated that you wish for all or part of your submission to be treated as confidential, your statement detailing the reasons may be taken into account in determining whether or not to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure. You may also be contacted to provide any further comment.

Useful links

- [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975](#)
- [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 - Statutory Guidelines](#)
- [Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania](#)
- [Aboriginal Heritage Council](#)



West Point midden – West Coast of Tasmania.



Tasmanian
Government

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Email: aboriginalheritageact@dpiw.tas.gov.au

Web: www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/aboriginalheritageact



General Meeting

Minutes

29 March 2019

**The Paranple Convention Centre
145 - 151 Rooke Street
Devonport**

326 Macquarie Street,
GPO Box 1521, Hobart, Tas 7000
Phone: (03) 6233 5966
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) 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.

Table of Contents

1. GOVERNANCE	5
1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *	6
1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *	6
1.3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA	6
1.4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *	7
1.5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT	7
1.6 CEO REPORT	8
1.7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*	9
1.8 COUNCIL ROUND UPS	9
2. ITEMS FOR DECISION	10
2.1 LGAT RULE CHANGE	10
2.2 21 ST CENTURY COUNCILS *	11
2.3 MOTION – RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIA DAY *	13
2.4 MOTION – CHARITABLE EXEMPTION – RATES *	15
3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	17
3.1 COUNCILS ROLE AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY *	17
3.2 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX ABUSE * ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.	
4. ITEMS FOR NOTING	19
4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW *	19
4.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT	21
4.3 PLANNING REFORM	23
4.4 LOW COST AND FREE PUBLIC CAMPING	24
4.5 ROADS AND JETTIES ACT 1935	25
4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER TRAINING.	27
4.7 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY	28
4.8 FINANCIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT	31
4.9 POLICY UPDATE	32
A. FIRE SERVICES ACT	32
B. MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	32
C. PRICING ADVOCACY	33
D. PROCUREMENT	33
E. CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS	33
F. RECYCLING	33
4.10 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX ABUSE	34
4.11 NATIONAL UPDATE	35
4.12 COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING UPDATE	36
4.13 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE *	39

5. Other Business & Close 39

RESULTS OF ELECTRONIC VOTING ON DECISION ITEMS ARE ATTACHED AT END OF THIS DOCUMENT

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

9.30	Coffee on arrival
10.00	Meeting Commences
	Council Round Up
	Mayor Kristie Johnston
	Glenorchy City Council
11.30	Morning Tea
11.45	Kathleen Priestly
	David Adams
	Festival of Learning – A Statewide Approach
12.00	Mr Garry Bailey
	Chair
	Road Safety Advisory Council
1.30 approx	Lunch

1. GOVERNANCE

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, welcomed Members and declared the Meeting open at 10.00am.

Apologies were received from –

Mayor Mick Tucker	Break O'Day Council
Mr John Brown	Break O'Day Council
Mayor Tim Wilson	Kentish Council
Mr Shane Power	George Town Council
Mayor Annie Revie	Flinders Island Council
Mr Brian Boehm	Flinders Island Council
Mayor Tony Foster	Brighton Council
Mr Ron Sanderson	Brighton Council
Mr Michael Stretton	Launceston City Council
Mr Tim Kirkwood	Southern Midlands Council
Ms Kim Hossack	Tasman Council
Mr Gerald Monson	Latrobe/Kentish Councils
Mayor Julie Arnold	King Island Council
Ms Kate Mauric	King Island Council
Mr Scott Riley	Circular Head Council
Mayor Bec Enders	Huon Valley Council
Mrs Lyn Eyles	Central Highlands Council
Mayor Steve Kons	Burnie City Council
Mayor Kerry Vincent	Sorell Council
Mr Robert Higgins	Sorell Council
Mr Andrew Paul	Clarence City Council
Mayor Bridget Archer	George Town Council
Clr Teeny Brumby	Burnie City Council

NOTING That while Central Highlands Council representatives were not in attendance at the Meeting, Mayor Christina Holmdahl, West Tamar Council was nominated as the Voting Delegate for Central Highlands Council.

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2018, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 December 2018, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City 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

Circular Head Council/Clarence City 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 *

Circular Head Council/Clarence City 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

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the report on the President's activity from 30 November 2018 to 15 March 2019.

Carried

Media and Events

- Council of the Ageing Tasmania (COTA) Embracing the Future Launch
- Inaugural tri-sector International Women's Day Awards Luncheon
- LGAT Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- Media – Tassie Future Survey
- Pulse, LG Focus articles

Meetings

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting
- ALGA Strategic Planning
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Dr Rachel Bacon – Federal Deputy Secretary Regional Development and Local Government and Elizabeth Bennet Director Regional Development Australia
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT General Management Committee (GMC) Meetings (Dec and Feb)
- Premier's Local Government Council Meeting

1.6 CEO REPORT

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the report on CEO activity from 30 November 2018 to 15 March 2019

Carried

Policy, Projects and Presentations

- Teleconference with LGAT Peer Advisors – mid program check in
- Produced additional resource on asset management for website
- Significant input into Review of the Local Government Act review discussion paper
- International Women's Day Event – working group and Judging panel (Awards for Excellence)
- Planning/preparation for General Manager's workshop
- Planning for Mayor's Workshop
- Planning/preparation for General Meeting
- Planning/preparation for Elected Member Weekend

Media

- Container deposits
- Caravans
- Rating
- Cats

Meetings, Training and Events

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Dr Rachel Bacon – Federal Deputy Secretary Regional Development and Local Government and Elizabeth Bennet Director Regional Development Australia
- International Women's Day Award Luncheon – MC
- International Women's Day Event - Working Group Meetings
- Kate Huntington re partnerships with UTAS
- LG Professional President - follow up from joint workshop
- LGAT General Management Committee (GMC) Meetings (Dec and Feb)
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee (monthly) and out of session work on discussion paper and reference group
- Local Government Professionals Board Meeting (teleconference)
- Mayors' Workshop (November 2018)
- Mike Blake regarding Fire Service Act Review
- Monthly Catch Ups with the Local Government Division
- Presented at the Break O'Day Councillor Induction
- Presented to Kingborough Council Workshop
- President and of EO Men's Sheds re opportunities to work together

- Road Safety Advisory Council
- Rosalie Woodruff (Greens) re LGAT Budget Submission
- Teleconference with Crime Stoppers re their strategic plan
- Tom Middleton (ALP) re LGAT Budget Submission
- Wayne Davy CEO Tasplan re new developments
- Women's Honor Roll Luncheon (as judge)

Operational

- Commenced recruitment/ undertook interview processes to replace Policy Officer/Project Officer
- Executive Assistant and Strategic Communications Director Annual Performance Review
- Organised and participated in combined Conference Workshop with LG Professionals (Refer Agenda Item 2.7)
- Budget preparation activities
- Preparation for Performance Review
- Review of new draft IR Policies for LGAT
- Demonstration SharePoint Records Management
- Update of LGAT Governance Framework

1.7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the reports for December 2018, January and February 2019.

Carried

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

Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

That Members determined there will not be a briefing at the July General Meeting.

Carried

Background comment:

Glenorchy City 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 LGAT RULE CHANGE

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Circular Head Council/City of Hobart

That the Meeting agree in principle to a change to the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins, with the change to be ratified at the LGAT AGM.

Carried

Background

At the December 2018 GMC meeting there was discussion around how to enable free participation at the LGAT AGM while still charging, as appropriate for participation at the adjacent General Meeting which comes at some considerable cost to LGAT (room hire, AV, catering). The cost of General Meetings has always been borne by Members on an attendance basis.

One of the difficulties of having the AGM at a set time is that in an election year, the AGM is held after the General Meeting as under the LGAT Rules the incoming President takes up the role at the conclusion of the AGM. It would be unfair to expect a new President to chair the biggest meeting of the year as their first duty.

Section 27 of the LGAT Rules (as adopted July 2018) is as follows:

- a. Subject to Rule 27(d), the President shall take up office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting following his or her election and shall hold office for a two year term concluding at the end of the relevant Annual General Meeting.*

Note that 27(d) relates to an election where the President has vacated office for whatever reason.

The rule could be amended as follows:

- a. Subject to Rule 27(d), The President shall take up office at the conclusion of the combined Annual General Meeting and General Meeting which immediately precede the LGAT Conference and*

Changing the rules to allow for chairing both meetings means that the AGM could be held first at a clearly advertised time with attendance at no cost (and no significant impact on costs/catering). Subsequently, those who have not registered and paid for the July General

Meeting could be asked to leave at the conclusion of the AGM. It makes the AGM more accessible but not at a cost borne by delegates attending the General Meeting/Conference.

While technically the rule could not be changed until the AGM, by securing agreement in principle, this minimises any risk of foreshadowing the change in the conference registration forms.

Budget Impact

There is a small budgetary risk related to delegates not differentiating between the AGM and General Meeting. This means some delegates may not register for the General Meeting believing it is also free to attend, or some may not leave after the AGM despite not being registered (impacting on catering etc). This can be managed through clear messaging in the lead up to the AGM/Conference as well as advice on the day.

Current Policy

Currently attendance at the AGM is captured as part of the paid registration for the General Meeting.

2.2 21ST CENTURY COUNCILS *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Central Coast Council/Latrobe Council

That Members endorse the following methodology for progressing the discussion on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government Sector.

Carried

Background

At the July General Meeting, Members noted the outcomes from the State Government funded feasibility studies into voluntary mergers and resource sharing and the continued public debate about the structure and number of councils.

As a result, the following question was posed:

Are Tasmanian councils best orientated¹ to service the needs of modern Tasmanian Communities?

In order to begin to address this question, at the December General Meeting LGAT staff facilitated a qualitative session (“kitchen table”) focussing on three key questions:

1. What are the current issues/weaknesses in how we deliver Local Government services?
2. How could we address these?
3. How should we progress the conversation about the future with the sector more broadly?

¹ Or structured, aligned, organised, arranged

The results of this kitchen table session have been analysed independently by two LGAT staff, with the key themes and ideas documented. The paper at **Attachment to Item 2.2**, provides a discussion on the results and is split into three parts.

Part 1:

A summary of the themes and some general suggestions for action. The themes are broadly categorised into four areas resources, services/facilities, standards and identity.

Part 2:

A framework to support critical thinking and analysis around the future of Local Government. This consists of two suggested actions:

- A. A summary paper - This is an important step in bringing all Local Government stakeholders up to speed on the history, context and drivers of discussions to date – we are not all at the same starting point; and
- B. A stakeholder interest/outcomes paper – Reform is not an outcome, it is a process. There is significant interest in “Local Government reform” but what outcomes are different stakeholders actually seeking.

In order to develop strategies and a process to address needs and support the sector through change, there is a need to have a sound understanding of the varying interests and desired outcomes. It is important to have a clear understanding of the diverse interests of key stakeholders comprising Local Government staff and elected members, residents, various industry organisations and other levels of Government.

Part 3:

A series of pilot projects to test change ideas that fit with the issues raised in the kitchen table exercise and the ideas and issues emerging out of the Part 2 investigations.

Prior to scoping any pilot projects, there is a need to consider those matters considered important by the various stakeholders, including the benefits and risks of different options (Part 2). In order to progress any work on the future of our sector to successful outcomes requires small incremental steps with involvement of stakeholders at each point.

Budget Impact

Parts 1 and 2 can be undertaken within current resources, however Part 3 would require dedicated further investment to ensure the pilot projects are designed and implemented effectively.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

2.3 MOTION – RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIA DAY *

City of Hobart/Kingborough Council

That LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day.

Lost

LGAT Comment

At it's 23 October 2017 Meeting the City of Hobart Council resolved that-

- 1) The Council officially support a change of date for Australia Day, to be held on a day other than 26 January, advocated by
- 2) Submitting the following motion to the next Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General/Meeting "that LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day".

At that time, it was less than twelve months since a similar motion had been considered by LGAT Members (put forward by City of Hobart at the July 2017 General Meeting) and which had been LOST.

Under 12c of the LGAT Rules:

"the General Management Committee may negotiate with a Member regarding the inclusion, or not, on the agenda of a subject matter seeking to be discussed at, or included in the Agenda of, a General meeting

If the subject matter or item:

- (i) Does not advance or concern the objects of the Association;*
- (ii) Has been considered at a General Meeting held in the period 12 months before the date of the notice from the Member;*
- (iii) Is considered by the General Management Committee not to concern a Sector Matter; or*
- (iv) Requires consideration by the Tasmanian Government and should be considered at the General Meeting to be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting.*

Hobart City Council had written seeking advice from LGAT with respect to progressing this matter and following feedback from GMC agreed to hold the item over so it was not debated again within 12 months. GMC also suggested that Council re-test the matter after Local Government Elections prior to resubmitting to LGAT was agreed.

LGAT Comment

At the July 2017 General Meeting the following motion was debated and narrowly lost (26 for, 27 against, 5 abstained) –

That LGAT, the 29 Councils and any individual Elected Members be requested to lobby the Federal Government to commence a conversation with the Australian public regarding the date of recognition of Australia Day.

A copy of the original motion and background is at **Attachment to Item 2.3**.

At the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (NGA) June 2017, a resolution was passed calling on the Assembly to encourage Australian councils to consider efforts they could take to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.

The Board of ALGA met subsequently to the NGA to consider this and other Assembly resolutions and determine Board Actions. While the ALGA Board noted the level of debate and the closeness of the result of the debate it was determined that it was not a priority for ALGA at that time.

In more recent times ALGA has responded to the Federal Government's commentary around Australia Day and Citizenship ceremonies. For example see **Attachment to Item 2.3** or the ALGA submission on Citizenship Ceremonies at <https://alga.asn.au/alga-submission-on-review-of-the-australian-citizenship-ceremonies-code/>

That submission notes:

"it is the responsibility of councils to be responsive to the views of their local communities. It appears that a very small number of councils that have moved their Australia Day celebrations and associated ceremonies away from 26 January are, in the spirit of Australian democracy, reflecting the desires of their communities. It may be uncomfortable to acknowledge the fact that some Australians identify 26 January as a day of mourning but this should not stop councils from trying to find a way to accommodate legitimate community views whilst celebrating everything that is great about our wonderful country. I do note that according to the Australia Day National Council, since Federation in 1901, Australia day has only been consistently celebrated on 26 January since 1988. It was previously celebrated on 30 July, 28 July and a variety of other dates".

2.4 MOTION – CHARITABLE EXEMPTION – RATES *

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

That LGAT ask the State Government to immediately amend the *Local Government Act, Section 87, Exemption from rates*, to provide rate certainty and social equity. In particular rates should be applicable on all self-contained residential properties regardless of who owns the property.

Amendment Motion

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.

That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act, with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes.

Carried

Background

Currently there are issues with certainty and social equity around exactly who is exempt from rates under the *Local Government Act*. Councils and rate payers have recently relied on the courts to assist in certainty and in some cases resulting in social equity issues. The recent Full Court decision handed down in the Supreme Court in Hobart on 12 November supported retirement villages owned by charitable organisations to be exempt from rates, yet retirement villages owned privately are not exempt. Even the term charitable is not clear when applied to an organisation.

Another example includes where currently Housing Tasmania properties are subject to rates, yet uncertainty exists if rates are exempt where ownership of that same property is transferred to a not for profit entity to manage.

Clearly if more properties are now exempt from rates then the rate burden will fall greater on the remainder that are left to pay rates.

LGAT Comment

This matter was discussed at the December 2018 General Meeting, refer **Attachment to Item 2.4.**

The High Court has since dismissed the special leave applications made by Kingborough/Clarence/Hobart/Meander Valley in relation to Southern Cross Care's rating and those councils have been ordered to pay costs.

The decision will have broader implications for rates paid by other similar entities throughout Tasmania. Since the Full Court decision is now the law on the correct interpretation of this exemption, it will extend to other ratepayers which are in similar circumstances. Since that time LGAT has raised the issue for discussion at the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) and in meetings with the Director of Local Government. We have pressed the need to provide legislative clarity as soon as possible, rather than wait for the outcomes for the Review of Local Government Legislation and/or High Court proceedings.

Pending the outcome of this Agenda Item, LGAT will formally write to the Minister to seek an urgent review, and in the meantime is building an understanding of how charitable exemptions are dealt with legislatively in other States.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 COUNCILS ROLE AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Circular Head Council/Devonport City Council

That Members note the feedback from the recent regional Planning Authority training workshops and initial consultation as part of the review of the Local Government Act and discuss the long-term future of councils role as a Planning Authority.

Carried

Follow general discussion it was determined that councillors had an important and influencing role when acting as a Planning Authority that should be maintained and that no further action or follow up was required in relation to this matter.

Background

LGAT has recently completed regional training sessions with (predominantly) new elected representatives covering the Tasmanian Planning System and councils' role as a Planning Authority. These sessions were attended by over 70 people. At each of these sessions there was considerable discussion on the issues and benefits of councils role as a Planning Authority. The central point discussed was the limitations imposed on elected representatives when acting as a Planning Authority, in essence a tension between wishing to represent their community's view and making decisions strictly in accordance with the planning scheme. This is a common feature of feedback from newly elected councillors after each Local Government election.

In parallel, LGAT attended each of the regional consultation sessions on the review of the Local Government legislative framework. A number of themes emerged from these discussions but one common theme across each of the regions was again questioning councils role as a Planning Authority under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

As members would appreciate, when a council is acting as a Planning Authority it must make decisions only in accordance with the planning scheme, and also limited to the discretions triggered by a particular application. The Planning Authority can only consider community views (via representations) as they relate to the particular discretion(s) exercised in each case. There are numerous cases of councils determining applications on the basis of community feedback that does not relate to the discretions and these decisions being overturned by the Appeal Tribunal, often resulting in significant costs being awarded against the council.

It is important to note that the feedback from the processes discussed above indicated a strong desire to retain the development of planning policy, should there be any change to council's role. Strategic planning, local area planning etc, planning scheme development and amendments would remain a council function with only the statutory planning (development applications) considered as a part of any discussions.

Should there be an appetite from the sector to explore options around removing the role of Planning Authority from councils, then there are examples of a number of different models already operating in other jurisdictions that we can draw on. **Attachment to Item 3.1** was prepared in 2015 and provides a brief summary (correct at the time of writing) on the models in place interstate (Development Assessment Panels in particular).

It is worth noting that the current State Government planning reform agenda has created a negative public perception of our planning system, which by association includes Local Government's performance in delivering it.

Local Government has also had to be reactive to the various reforms, both from a resource and communication perspective and has meant that some of the critical aspects of the planning system, that many argue require reform, have been ignored to date.

While LGAT Members have had similar discussions over the last decade and determined not to press for change, the significant turnover in councillors, the public debate on planning matters and the extended planning reform agenda means that it is timely to once again test this matter.

Planning reform will be a significant and ongoing part of the State Government agenda for many years. As a sector we need to decide whether we wish to wait to see what further changes are proposed by State Government and react accordingly, or whether we get on the front foot and clearly articulate what we believe are the important reforms and lead the discussion accordingly.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW *

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the report on progress on the review of the Local Government Act.

Carried

Background

In June 2018 the Minister for Local Government announced a ‘roots and branches’ review of Tasmania’s Local Government legislation framework. Comment was sought on the Terms of Reference which were finalised in November 2018. There are a number of matters out of scope of this review including council amalgamations and Code of Conduct provisions.

A governance structure was finalised at the end of 2018. The Review is being governed by a Steering Committee. Local Government representatives on that Committee are the LGAT CEO Katrena Stephenson, former Tasman Mayor, Roseanne Heyward and former Meander Valley General Manager (and Chair of the Local Government Board) Greg Preece. The Steering Committee meets monthly.

The Steering Committee will be supported by a Reference Group comprising membership from a broad range of backgrounds including Local Government and Industry. Appointments to the Reference Group have now been announced. They are:

- Doug Chipman Mayor, Clarence City Council
- Peter Freshney Mayor, Latrobe Council
- Kerry Vincent Mayor, Sorell Council
- Cheryl Arnol Councillor, Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council
- Claire Smith Director Organisational Performance, Waratah Wynyard Council
- Lynette While Director Community & Development Services, Meander Valley Council
- John Brown General Manager, Break O'Day Council
- Andrew Paul General Manager, Clarence City Council
- Karen Abey Solicitor, Simmons Wolfhagen
- Margaret Taylor Community member
- Pamela Allan Adjunct Professor, School of Technology, Environment & Design, UTAS
- Craig Perkins CEO, Regional Development Australia, Tasmania

- Rhonda Skelton Board Member, Northern Midlands Business Association
- Kym Goodes CEO, Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCoss)
- Luke Martin CEO, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania
- Brian Wightman Executive Director, Property Council of Australia, Tasmania Division
- Michael Bailey CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)

The Refence Group will be independently facilitated with each meeting to focus on a particular subject matter. Reference Group meetings commence in March. Steering Committee Members will not be attending the Reference Group Meetings.

The Premier's Local Government Council will have ongoing oversight of the project and following release of a Government Directions Paper, technical working groups will be formed to support the development of appropriate legislative responses.

A discussion paper was released in late 2018 inviting submissions until 1 March 2019. The paper is seeking only broad input on principles and represents Phase 1 of consultation. A number of forums were held regionally to allow for public, sector and industry input into the paper as well as through a survey or written submission. The Paper canvassed a range of questions around governance and powers, democracy and engagement, revenue and expenditure, performance transparency and accountability as well as seeking feedback on any other matters. Over 370 submissions were received. LGAT's submission, the draft of which was tested with Members, is at **Attachment to Item 4.1**. All submissions, as well as a summary, are now available on the Local Government Division website.

There will be further opportunity for broad sector input into the process in Phase 2 (June to August 2019) with the release of the Directions Paper and in Phase 3 (March-May 2020) with the release of a draft Bill.

The Project Team are releasing a regular newsletter. Anyone can subscribe through the Local Government Division website.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Focus Area Facilitating Change

Priority Area 2 Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

4.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

Improved waste and resource management has been an on-going and sustained area of LGAT advocacy for many years now, with recent activity including the commencement of the LGAT Statewide Waste Arrangements Feasibility Study (the Study). The Study is looking at how existing or new arrangements would potentially cover the planning, co-ordination and delivery of waste policies, strategies, programs and services to support better waste management across the state of Tasmania. In the latter part of 2018 LGAT was successful in securing a 50% funding contribution from the State Government for this work, reducing council contributions to \$45,000.

In late 2018 tenders were sought from a range of providers to undertake the Study. There were four very high-quality submissions, with Victoria based firm Urban EP selected to undertake the work.

The project is being delivered in two parts:

- Part A:** Collate evidence and present findings on the needs for and benefits of a Statewide Waste Management Arrangement.
- Part B:** Develop the purpose, role, functions and governance of this statewide arrangement as necessary to deliver on its agreed functions and support local and regional initiatives.

In delivering on Part A, engagement with core stakeholders was seen as integral to building the evidence base for a statewide arrangement. Further, engagement will build legitimacy in the study's findings and help bring councils together in prosecuting the case for a statewide arrangement (pending the project's outcomes and recommendations).

Workshops were held from 13 to 22 February 2019. The table below summarises the organisations that participated in each two-hour workshop, with attendance facilitated through invitations and reminders sent by LGAT & regional waste authorities.

Date & locatio	Targeted participants	Representation achieved
13 Feb 2019 Hobart	Waste Strategy South Member council staff Member council elected representatives	12 participants spanning: Hobart Council Huon Valley Council Kingborough Council Brighton Council Derwent Valley Council Glenorchy Council

15 Feb 2019 Burnie	Cradle Coast Waste Management Group Member council staff Member council elected representatives	14 participants spanning: Devonport Council Latrobe Council Kentish Council Waratah-Wynyard Council Circular Head Council Burnie Council Central Coast Council
20 Feb 2019 Hobart	Tasmanian Government representatives (officers and managers)	6 participants spanning: EPA Tasmania Department of State Growth
20 Feb 2019 Hobart	Resource recovery industry representatives	3 participants spanning: Veolia Waste Management Glenorchy Recovery Shop
22 Feb 2019 Launceston	North Tasmania Waste Management Group Member council staff Member council elected representatives	12 participants spanning: Launceston Council West Tamar Council George Town Council North Midlands Council Break O'Day Council Meander Valley Council

The workshops each involved an introduction and background to the project and two exercises with participants.

Exercise 1 involved having participants share their views on the successes and challenges in waste management at statewide, regional and local levels. This activity yielded a range of thematic areas that could then be delved into during Exercise 2 and provided an indication of the areas of demand to which a statewide arrangement could potentially respond.

The purpose of **Exercise 2** was to unpack up to three priority themes where it was felt (across the workshop) that current outcomes in waste management could be improved, potentially via the introduction of additional functions at a statewide level.

Based on this exploration of themes during the workshops, the Part A report will focus its analysis on the case for a statewide arrangement that carries functions associated with the following priorities, while retaining scope to adapt to emerging concerns:

- Organics resource recovery;
- Package waste recycling and minimisation;
- Addressing barriers to services and infrastructure; and
- Managing end of life tyres and dealing with illegal dumping.

For the Part A report, which will be completed by early April, a comparison with other jurisdictions will examine how these themes are dealt with in those locations, as well as investigating how state, regional and local entities work together to deliver better waste management outcomes across those various scales.

At the completion of the Part A report, the Project Reference Group will make a recommendation for General Management Committee endorsement if the Study moves to Part B. This will be based on Part A demonstrating a need and benefits from additional or amended Statewide Waste Management Arrangements in Tasmania.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.3 PLANNING REFORM

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

The State Government's number one planning reform priority is to establish the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which they accept can best be achieved by supporting councils in the preparation of their Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs). The Government has indicated that the other key areas of reform, being the development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies, update of the regional land use strategies, review of the residential provisions and improvements to subdivision legislation, will only commence once all councils have submitted their LPSs to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC).

Councils are currently preparing their LPSs, with a number having been submitted to the TPC in draft form and Meander Valley Council advertising their LPS in the latter part of last year, with hearings expected in the next few months. The Minister for Planning has set a target date for the submission of all LPSs to the TPC by the middle of 2019. To support this target the Government has established a specialised project team within the TPC, to assist the councils. The team is currently working with council planners to identify what further assistance might be required. Council visits are also underway by the TPC Commissioner, John Ramsay, to provide councillors with an update and outline important aspects of the process.

In addition, LGAT facilitated a statewide meeting of Local Government Strategic Planners in late 2018 to discuss issues and concerns and to share information on beneficial approaches. At this meeting the online platform that Meander Valley Council used for public exhibition of their LPS was discussed and generally recognised as useful. LGAT has collated a list of councils interested in utilising it and has secured a commitment from the State Government to contribute towards a whole of sector licence, to reduce the cost for interested councils, which will be hosted by LGAT. We are currently awaiting further details from the State Government.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.4 LOW COST AND FREE PUBLIC CAMPING

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

At the December 2017 Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting, the State Government agreed to establish a stakeholder group to provide advice to Government on the practical application of competitive neutrality principles to council-owned RV parking and camping facilities. This was in response to Local Government concerns on the interpretation and application of National Competition Policy principles.

This review has been overseen 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 was established with representatives from LGAT and Local Government generally, caravan park operators and RV tourists and camping facility consumers. The stakeholder group met on three occasions, the first to outline issues and concerns and the second and third to provide feedback on draft options papers developed by Treasury.

The Final Policy Statement for the application of Competitive Neutrality Principles has now been approved by the Minister for Local Government and is available on the Department of Treasury and Finance's website at:

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/public-camping-competitive-neutrality-policy>.

The Final Policy predominantly provides a codification of the general approach that the Economic Regulator has been applying to all the recent complaints. Although there are some useful improvements that have been made. These include confirming a threshold of 10% within a 60km drive for determining significant business activity and also allowing councils to get a Ministerial Statement confirming a public benefit to not applying full cost attribution.

Pages six and seven of the policy provide a useful summary and the two attachments will be useful for their relevant applications.

The release of the policy generated significant public interest, with a number of external stakeholders contacting LGAT with concerns. LGAT has maintained our initial position that updating the competitive neutrality policy for public camping was not addressing a number of the key causes of the issue, being a lack of understanding around the demand and supply of low cost (and commercial) camping in Tasmania. Since the release of the policy we have continued our advocacy for this work to occur.

While this is a Final Policy statement, LGAT has written to all General Manager's to invite feedback on the practical application of the Policy over the next twelve months, to inform future advocacy efforts.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.5 ROADS AND JETTIES ACT 1935

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

At the March 2018 General Meeting, LGAT Members considered and approved a motion (Item 2.5) for LGAT to advocate to the Tasmanian Government to amend section 11 of the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*. The aim was to improve the way this section delineated road maintenance responsibilities between State and Local Government.

LGAT has been successful in its advocacy and the Tasmanian Government has passed amendments to section 11 of the Act, which now reads:

11. Maintenance of State highways, &c., in cities, &c.

- (1) Subject to [subsection \(2\)](#), where in a city, town or village there is a footpath on one side or both of a State highway or subsidiary road –

- (a) *the Minister is required to maintain and reconstruct –*
 - (i) *the carriageways and the surface lying between them, in the case of 2 paved carriageways divided by a median strip;*
 - (ii) *the carriageway and the overtaking lane, in the case of a single paved carriageway incorporating an overtaking lane;*
 - (iii) *a paved carriageway not exceeding 7.4 metres in width, in the case of a single undivided paved carriageway;*
 - (iv) *a paved carriageway not exceeding 4.3 metres in width, in the case of a carriageway providing a traffic lane to a traffic interchange; and*
 - (iva) *in the case of a State highway comprising more than one lane in a single direction, the carriageway; and***
 - (v) *the culverts and bridges over which the State highway or subsidiary road runs; and*
 - (b) *the remainder of the State highway or subsidiary road, including drainage and shoulders but not culverts and bridges, shall be maintained and reconstructed by the local authority.*
- (2) *The Minister, with the agreement of the relevant council, may maintain or reconstruct a State highway or a subsidiary road otherwise than in accordance with [subsection \(1\)](#) .***

Councils may now negotiate an alternative maintenance arrangement with the Tasmanian Government through agreement with the Minister for this Act, currently the Minister for Infrastructure², Jeremy Rockliff MP.

Although this amendment provides more and better options for councils in delineating road maintenance responsibilities, the change opens up the potential for varying and inconsistent arrangements and delineations across the state. Therefore, councils may want to consider liaising with their neighbouring councils when proposing road maintenance arrangements with the State. Furthermore, early discussions with Department of State Growth personnel are recommended prior to formal proposals being presented to the Minister.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability

² See *Administrative Arrangements Order 2019*:
<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sr-2019-006#JS1@HS14@EN>

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER TRAINING. Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following update on training and workforce development for Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).

Carried

Background

At the July 2018 General Meeting, members supported a motion for LGAT to lobby the University of Tasmania (UTAS) for the continuation of the Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) or similar tertiary degree that is eligible for the Environmental Health University Course Accreditation with Environmental Health Australia.

UTAS' Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) was a professionally accredited program designed to produce graduates who could work as EHO's in State and Local Government and specialised allied health fields. In January 2017 the University announced the course was in teach out mode (that is to be phased out).

LGAT, the Department of Health, EPA and Environmental Health Australia (EHA Tas) have had a number of discussions with UTAS for a replacement course. The University's School of Medicine has agreed to progress with collective planning and mapping for a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health course, with a course commencement in 2020, subject to UTAS approving the course governance and business planning processes.

As part of this training course, the need for student placements within Tasmanian councils was raised as an issue that would need to be addressed.

The likely replacement course for EHOs in Tasmania will go some way to addressing the workforce shortage, however there are a number of other factors that must also be addressed. To investigate these factors and also support the development of the Graduate Diploma, LGAT is lobbying the Department of Health, UTAS and the EPA to support a project that would result in a workforce development plan for EHOs. If successful, the plan will:

- Document the legislative and desirable tasks required of an EHO in Tasmania;
- Determine the factors influencing the recruitment and retention of EHOs in Local Government; and
- Determine strategies to support training for a Tasmanian environmental health workforce.

If completed the workforce development report would inform the course development process of UTAS, but also help to characterise and address the other challenges to establishing a sustainable EHO workforce in Tasmania. At this stage there is strong support for the concept

from the key stakeholders but a final agreement has not been reached on level of contribution.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.7 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Contact Officer – Deb Leisser

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report and indicate to LGAT their interest in being involved in the community satisfaction at the local council level by 30th April.

Carried

LGAT State-wide Survey

The Community Satisfaction Survey, being conducted by Metropolis Research, is close to completion. To date around 1000 of the 1200 surveys have been completed and some preliminary key results (State-wide) are below.

Rating Scale

<i>Excellent</i>	Scores of 7.75 and above are categorised as excellent
<i>Very good</i>	Scores of 7.25 to less than 7.75 are categorised as very good
<i>Good</i>	Scores of 6.5 to less than 7.25 are categorised as good
<i>Solid</i>	Scores of 6 to less than 6.5 are categorised as solid
<i>Poor</i>	Scores of 5.5 to less than 6 are categorised as poor
<i>Very Poor</i>	Scores of 5 to less than 5.5 are categorised as very poor
<i>Extremely Poor</i>	Scores of less than 5 are categorised as extremely poor

Satisfaction with Council's Overall Performance

Overall satisfaction with council is 6.92 out of ten, which is “good”, it’s notably lower in the City regions (Burnie, Clarence, Devonport, Glenorchy and Launceston) at 6.5 and notably higher in the Urban regions (Brighton, Central Coast, Kingborough, Meander Valley and West Tamar) at 7.46.

The previous satisfaction survey in 2015 reported average satisfaction of 70, which equates to 7.00 on the scale used for this survey. Metropolis Research advises that it is too early to report change over time with significant certainty, however the preliminary judgement is that satisfaction has effectively remained the same.

Satisfaction with Services and Facilities

Average satisfaction with services and facilities was 7.2 out of ten or “good”. Highest satisfaction was for the regular garbage collection service (8.11) or “excellent” and the lowest satisfaction was for Council planning and building (5.61) or “poor”.

Satisfaction with Governance and Leadership

Satisfaction with aspects of governance and leadership were marginally lower than overall satisfaction (which is as expected) but all have satisfaction scores in the “good” range.

The fact that satisfaction with governance and leadership is lower than overall satisfaction reflects that satisfaction with services and facilities tends to be a significant factor underpinning the higher overall satisfaction result.

Customer service

A little more than one-quarter of respondents had contacted Council in the last twelve months. Most contacts were via telephone (52%) and visits in person (32%). Overall satisfaction with the customer service experience was 6.83 “good”.

Most Important Issues to Address in the Local Area

The most important issues that respondents believe should be addressed in their local area were roads maintenance and repairs, traffic management and planning and development issues.

The Image of Local Government

The image of Local Government more broadly was rated at only 6.11 or “solid”, a result that is measurably lower than satisfaction with Council’s overall performance (6.92). This is an interesting result and will be explored further in the final report.

Population Growth

Satisfaction with the change in population over the last four years was 6.64 “good” and, satisfaction with planning for population growth was 5.99 “poor”.

Housing

Average satisfaction with the availability of housing that meets community needs was 5.02 out of ten “very poor” and satisfaction with the affordability of housing was almost identical at 5.08 “very poor”.

These housing related results are very low and suggest significant community concern around housing availability and affordability. They are clearly correlated with the satisfaction with population growth results.

Perception of Safety

The average perception of safety during the day was very high at 8.62, with just 3.2% of respondents feeling unsafe (rating 0 to 4). Safety at night was lower than during the day at 7.72, with 10.2% of respondents feeling unsafe in public areas at night.

The surveying will continue until 1200 surveys are completed. The final report will provide data analysis at the City, Urban and Rural and South, North and North East and Northwest and West area levels.

Community Satisfaction at the Local Council Level

Individual council surveys will follow and LGAT will work with interested councils and Metropolis Research to develop and run these surveys that will provide accurate and reliable information at the local level and compare local area level performance with region and state performance.

So far Glenorchy City, Northern Midlands, Break O'Day, City of Launceston, Central Coast, City of Hobart and Sorell have expressed early interest in working with LGAT and Metropolis Research to complete Local Government area level surveys. Other interested councils are requested to let Deborah Leisser (Deborah.Leisser@lgat.tas.gov.au) know by Tuesday 30 April.

Budget Implications

The State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey is already funded through council contributions to LGAT.

Facilitation and coordination of Community Satisfaction Surveys at the individual council level by LGAT (in consultation with councils) is not currently funded and will be costed on a fee for service basis, with the cost to be determined once the final number of interested councils is known.

Current Policy

Strategic plan:

- Building Local Government's Reputation
- Developing Capacity and Capability to Deliver

Priority Area 8

Deliver a refreshed statewide community satisfaction survey.

4.8 FINANCIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background

LGAT is continuing to support councils in asset management. To do this, LGAT is collaborating with Local Government asset management professionals and supporting council-led initiatives.

One outcome of the statewide asset management meeting in October was a desire from professionals for improved communication with and guidance from the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO). Consequently, LGAT met with the TAO Deputy Auditor-General, Ric De Santi, who was very willing to contribute to the continuing professional development of the sector through attendance and presentations at our state-wide meetings, responding to sector questions and issues, providing input into the production and upkeep of LGAT's asset management resources, and other options. The next statewide meeting is in April and will include participation from the TAO and also the Local Government Division.

Amongst the resources hosted on the LGAT Extranet is a set of twenty-one Financial and Asset Management Practice Summaries, a copy can be found for reference at <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=623>.

These Practice Summaries provide guidance for asset managers on a range of topics, specific to the Tasmanian context and legislation. These resources are now four years old, so LGAT is liaising with IPWEA members and the Tasmanian Asset Management Group to scope a project to update the practice notes (reflecting updates to legislation and accounting standards) and to identify useful additions or improvements to the set. The TAO has given an early indication of willingness to assist in technical review.

LGAT will continue to support the collaboration between councils' asset management professionals and find ways to promote the initiatives that arise from it.

Budget Impact

Asset Management Practice Summary Update project work is currently being scoped, but as the original Financial and Asset Management Project retains some residual funding, the update work is intended to be fully funded within that residual amount.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

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

4.9 POLICY UPDATE

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the Policy Update which provides a brief overview on a range of matters.

Carried

Emergency Management

Fire Services Act

The State Government is currently reviewing the *Fire Services Act 1979* and all subordinate legislation. An issues paper was released in June last year with several councils and LGAT providing submissions. The Independent Chair of the Steering committee, Mr Michael Harris, resigned from his position on 30 January 2019 and has been replaced by Mr Michael Blake.

Mr Michael Blake met with LGAT in February to discuss the LGAT submission and Local Government issues. It is expected that a further discussion paper with a range of options will be released to stakeholders for consultation in the next couple of months.

Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines

LGAT and the State Emergency Service were successful in receiving grant funding to update the Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines to support Municipal Emergency Management Committees in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. The Guidelines will incorporate the plethora of changes to the emergency management arrangements since 2010, including changes to the Act, risk assessment, and relief and recovery arrangements among other things.

Andrea Heath has been engaged as the consultant to manage the project and consultation. The project plan has been completed and consultation commenced.

Energy

Pricing Advocacy

LGAT has been active in its advocacy role around the TasNetworks network and distribution pricing reset, particularly in relation to street lighting. LGAT has provided two submissions to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in relation to the TasNetworks pricing reset. The revised TasNetworks proposal included some savings to councils for street lighting but it is hoped that when the AER hands down its final decision in April further savings will be included.

Procurement

In 2014 non-metred public lighting energy became contestable. As a result, LGAT facilitated two rounds of competitive procurement processes for the sector, which to date has resulted in significant savings (approximately \$500K- \$800K per annum) for the sector. The latest contract is coming to an end on 30 June 2019 and LGAT will run a similar combined competitive procurement process for non-metered public lighting for the sector. A request for quotation is currently being put together for a consultant to coordinate the tender process.

Climate Change Projects

LGAT is continuing to support councils on climate change related issues through coordinating with the Tasmanian Government and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) on several projects.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office's (TCCO) *Coastal Hazards Management for Existing Settlements and Values Project* is at its final stage, with the report understood to be complete. LGAT assisted in an advisory capacity and document review. The Tasmanian Government is now beginning the process of considering the findings and how to take them to the next stage. The report may be released to stakeholders or the public in the future.

The TCCO's Climate Resilient Councils project is temporarily on hold as the Office undergoes some reorganisation.

LGAT is also collaborating with the STCA Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) in two projects, a Regional Coastal Hazards Strategy and a combined Regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Template. Although necessarily focused on STCA councils, LGAT's involvement represents an opportunity to both support southern councils and share lessons from the projects with north and north-west councils in pursuing their own regional responses and strategies or informing state wide initiatives involving Local Government.

Recycling

Many of you would have seen the media reports on the temporary closure of a couple of SKM's facilities in Victoria (Laverton and Coolaroo).

In mid February, SKM voluntarily shut down its Geelong site in order to prevent a level of stockpiling that would attract a further notice from EPA. It seems likely that most of the affected councils (approx. 30 Victorian councils) will have little choice but to start sending recyclables to landfill.

The following has been taken from a recent report from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV):

Victoria's recycling industry is in crisis, with four sites of one of the major recyclers, SKM, unable to receive recycling material due to significant non-compliance issues of concern to the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) at two of those sites. Another recycler, Polytrade has also been served with a non-compliance notice on one of its sites. As a result, many councils have had no option but to redirect their kerbside recycling to landfill. The stockpiling of recyclable materials is causing EPA and others significant concern with an EPA taskforce set up to regularly inspect high risk sites they have identified across the state.

For Southern Tasmania, our understanding is that to date there has been no impact on services as the majority of recyclables processed at Derwent Park are sent direct to markets both within Australia and Internationally. The only product that is sent to Victoria's SKM facilities are some bulk grades of paper, and SKM is looking to move these deliveries direct to market from Derwent Park, rather than to Victorian Materials Recovery Facilities.

LGAT is monitoring the situation closely.

4.10 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX ABUSE **Contac Officer – Dion Lester**

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) has been completed and the recommendations handed down.

On 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish a National Redress Scheme for individuals who experienced institutional sexual abuse as

Children. In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government committed to joining the National Scheme.

Each State Government has been asked to engage with Local Government by the Scheme Operator (the Commonwealth Department of Social Services) to provide information which may assist your sector to consider whether to participate in the National Redress Scheme and how that may occur. Staff from the Tasmanian Royal Commission Response Unit in the Department of Justice are currently meeting with councils to progress this discussion.

Attachment to Item 3.2 provides a Fact Sheet on the National Redress Scheme in Tasmania.

In addition, there is also a project underway by the State Archivist to implement the recordkeeping recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission. The additional **Attachment to Item 3.2** provides a briefing note for General Managers and Mayors on this project.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration

4.11 NATIONAL UPDATE

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the report on activity being undertaken by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Carried

Background

In February this year, the ALGA Board undertook a facilitated strategic planning meeting to consider a variety of corporate and strategic issues. Matters discussed included waste and recycling, population, settlement, housing and planning, community services, Local Government workforce issues, regional tourism and arts and culture. The Board Members also had the opportunity to meet with the Federal Minister for Local Government, Bridget McKenzie and the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Stephen Jones.

Participants considered outcomes against the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan as part of the broad review and generally agreed that the priorities were still current with one revision to be considered at the 14 March Board meeting relating to preparation and response to disasters.

Also to be considered is the draft Action Plan, developed to reflect the Board's detailed discussions on strategy and priority areas for action over the next year.

Additional items for discussion at the forthcoming Board Meeting include:

- Federal election advocacy;
- 'State of the Assets' reporting;
- The National Waste Policy Action Plan; and
- The upcoming National General Assembly (16-19 June)

A further verbal update will be provided at the LGAT General Meeting.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Focus Areas

Building Local Government's Reputation, Fostering Collaboration.

4.12 COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That Members note the following update regarding LGAT's communications, events and training.

Carried

Communications

LGAT's monthly e-newsletter, the Pulse, brings you information regarding Local Government activities, policies, legislation and LGAT's advocacy activities as well as upcoming LGAT events and training for members. The Pulse includes links to the LG Noticeboard and our Better Councils Better Communities page. Sign up [here](#).

Also keep an eye out for the next edition of LGTas, due to be released in April 2019. LG Tas is a bi-annual online magazine style publication to promote the Local Government sector with a focus on Member's achievements and activities.

Overview of Activities

Proactive communications activities since the last General Meeting in addition to media queries include:

- LGAT President feature article on Tasmanian Local Government Sector in LG Focus February edition;

- Articles promoting the LG Tas sector submitted to Australian LG Handbook and LOIS Magazine;
- Letter to the editor Advocate 11 March 2019 correcting and providing context on rates capping; and
- The Pulse February edition.

Since the last General Meeting LGAT has facilitated key events and training activities including:

- Mayors' Professional Development Day;
- Break O'Day Councillor induction;
- Fire abatements training;
- LGAT Stakeholder Event;
- Engaging Champions Workshop;
- Cross Sectoral International Women's Day Awards Luncheon;
- Audit Panel Training; and
- Planning Authority Training in the north-west, north and south

International Women's Day Awards Luncheon

This inaugural event, held on 8 March attracted over 270 attendees. The Awards represent a partnership between LGAT, TasCoss and the State Government with sponsorship by Tasplan. The event was designed to inspire and recognise excellence being achieved by women in the Local Government Sector, the Community Service Industry and the State Public Service in Tasmania. Attendees were addressed by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, Minister for Women the Honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP and Kat Henry (NIDA Corporate) over lunch. The event was live-streamed to Devonport.

Local Government Award Winners were Mayor Bec Enders (Huon Valley Council) and Erica Lowry, Community Services Project Officer (Break O'Day Council).

See the latest edition of The Pulse for more <https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=a3fb6b694cc457805027bda84&id=8d06564b9e>

Upcoming Events and Training

The LGAT Events Calendar can be found on our website [here](#)

Upcoming Training and Development opportunities include:

March 2019	Date	Location	Information
Elected Members Professional Development Weekend	23-24 March	Launceston	Click here
April 2019			

Engaging Champions Leadership Program Session 3	1 April		
General Managers' Workshop	3-4 April		
May 2019			
LGAT Regional Breakfasts	8,9, 16 May		
Mayors' Professional Development Day	30 May		
June 2019			
2IC Workshop	5 June		

LGAT Annual Conference

The 2019 LGAT Annual Conference will be held from 3-5 July at Wrest Point, Hobart. Planning for the Conference, themed "Finding Your Voice" is well under way. The Sponsorship Prospectus has been launched with many sponsors and trade exhibitors already coming on board.

Program development is almost complete including the following Plenary Speakers:

- Heather Rose, Award winning Tasmanian Author;
- Mayor Tim Shadbolt, New Zealand's longest serving Mayor;
- Penny Terry, ABC radio presenter and Creative Director of Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd;
- Matt Pinnegar, CEO LGA South Australia; and
- David O'Loughlin, President ALGA.

We will also be bringing back the Panel discussion by popular demand, featuring our federal elected representatives following the federal election.

Based on feedback from Members, the workshop series will be refreshed, with a greater focus on showcasing Tasmanian councils' achievements as learning opportunities. In addition, there will be greater opportunity for members' networking and direct contribution through a revised structure incorporating symposium style shorter presentations and collaborative working. Registration will be available very soon!

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan:

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

4.13 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Clarence City Council/Northern Midlands Council

That the Members note the following report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

Carried

Background

At **Attachment to Item 4.12** is a report against the LGAT Annual Plan for consideration.

Budget Implications.

Within current budget.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the President declared the Meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Item 2.1 LGAT Rule Change

Total Responses: 51

Item 2.1 LGAT Rule Change

Circular Head Council/City of Hobart

That the Meeting agree in principle to a change to the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins, with the change to be ratified at the LGAT AGM.

1. For ☒ 51
 2. Against ☐
 3. Abstain ☐



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	[No Response]	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 2.2 21st Century Councils

Total Responses: 51

Item 2.2 21st Century Councils

Central Coast Council/Latrobe Council

That Members endorse the following methodology for progressing the discussion on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government Sector.

1. For 47
2. Against 4
3. Abstain 0

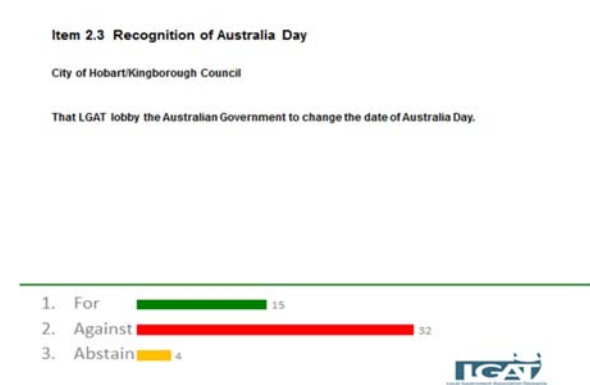


Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1

Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	Against	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	[No Response]	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 2.3 Recognition of Australia Day

Total Responses: 51



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	Against	2

Central Coast Council 4	Against	3
Central Highlands Council 5	Against	1
Circular Head Council 6	Against	1
Clarence City Council 7	Against	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	Against	2
Devonport City Council 9	Against	3
Dorset Council 10	Against	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	Against	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	Against	2
Launceston City Council 21	Abstain	4
Meander Valley Council 22	Against	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	Against	2
Sorell Council 24	[No Response]	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	Against	1
Tasman Council 26	Against	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	Against	2
West Coast Council 28	Against	1
West Tamar Council 29	Against	3

Item 2.4 Charitable Exemption – Rates

Total Responses: 49

Item 2.4 Charitable Exemption - Rates

Foreshadowed Amendment

Brighton Council/Clarence City Council

That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.

That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act; with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes.

1. For 49
2. Against 0
3. Abstain 0



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	[No Response]	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	[No Response]	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	[No Response]	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	[No Response]	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	[No Response]	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2

Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	[No Response]	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

	General Meeting 29 March 2019	
Item No		
2	Items for Decision	
2.1	LGAT Rule Change	Refer AGM Agenda Item 6
2.2	21st Century Councils	Refer Item 9.4
2.3	Recognition of Australia Day	No Further Action
2.4	Charitable Exemption - Rates	Refer Item 9.1
3	Items for Discussion	
3.1	Councils Role as a Planning Authority	No Further Action
4	Items for Noting	
4.1	Local Government Act Review	Refer Item 9.2
4.2	Waste Management	Refer Item 9.3
4.3	Planning Reform	Refer Item 9.5
4.4	Low Cost and Free Public Camping	Completed
4.5	Roads and Jetties Act 1935	Completed
4.6	Environmental Health Officer Training	Refer Item 9.11
4.7	Community Satisfaction Survey	Refer Item 9.6
4.8	Financial Asset Management	Ongoing
4.10	Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sex Abuse	Refer Item 8.1
4.11	National Update	No Further Action
4.12	Communications , Events and Training Update	Refer Item 9.19
4.13	LGAT Annual Plan Update	Refer AGM Agenda Item 7

FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS REPORT

Report to the General Meeting

This report details motions where LGAT is still pursuing an outcome

Local Government Legislation

That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.

That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act, with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes

Passed: March 2019

Notes: A Steering Committee and Working Group have been established and a communications firm engaged to support progression of an amendment to restore equity in the rating of independent living units. A range of other matters related to charitable rating exemptions have been identified for consideration within the broader Local Government legislation review. See item this meeting agenda for further information.

Environment

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the State Government to introduce container deposit legislation for the state; and

That Tasmanian Councils, through LGAT, support a container deposit scheme within Tasmania and call on the State Government to investigate the best model for implementation within the State.

Passed: July 2017 and July 2018

Notes: The State Government has released a consultant's report on a model framework for the implementation of a Container Refund Scheme (CRS), however is yet to commit to implementing a CRS in Tasmania.

LGAT continues to advocate for the introduction of a CRS in Tasmania.

That Members reaffirm their commitment to improving waste management and raise with the State Government -

- The importance of Waste Management, in particular plastics;
- Our disappointment in the lack of progress of the waste strategy; and
- The need for additional resourcing to be implemented.

Passed: November 2017

Notes: The State Government is currently preparing the draft State Waste Action Plan. LGAT is actively lobbying the State Government for this Action Plan to contain the actions highlighted in the LGAT Waste and Resource Management Strategy, endorsed by the sector in 2017 as well as more recent sectoral motions related to waste. The draft Waste Action Plan is expected to be released in June 2019.

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the State Government for the introduction of legislation to phase out the provision of petroleum-based single-use take-away food packaging currently used to enable prepared food or beverages to be carried from the retailer's premises.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

See agenda item this meeting.

That LGAT urgently consider through its appropriate body a response to the recent increase in costs of recycling to Local Government as a consequence of changes to the Chinese government's policies and consider development of a range of responses, including collective negotiations between the Federal and State Governments and other stakeholders, to prompt a market response for recycling opportunities in Tasmania.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

Following the near collapse of the recycling industry in Australia's, LGAT wrote to the Tasmanian Minister for Environment seeking urgent action.

In response the Minister hosted a roundtable on waste and recycling with Local Government and key industry stakeholders seeking to identify challenges, barriers and opportunities for managing waste and recycling in Tasmania. At the round table the Government again committed to the release of a State Waste Action Plan.

Beyond this, the State Government's response has been disappointing. Despite this, LGAT is continuing to strongly and regularly advocate for action from the State Government, while also supporting councils in acting locally and will continue to do so.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

That LGAT lobby all councils to adopt the use of reusable and compostable items for use in council sponsored events.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has written to all GMs seeking that they adopt a recycling waste diversion policy for council events. To support councils in the transition, LGAT is also preparing a package of support material.

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting

That Local Government Consult with Fruit Growers Tasmania and the State Government re the bio security risk with roadside fruit trees on state and local roads.

Passed: July 2018

Notes: Advice has been sought from Fruit Growers Tasmania and the State Government.

The Fruit Growers Tasmania did not consider there was a significant risk from roadside fruit trees. Similarly, DPIPWE noted that roadside fruit trees do not pose a threat to spreading fruit fly in Tasmania as the pest is not present in the State. While the fruit on trees and fallen fruit could present a risk during an outbreak, we have never experienced a widespread or high intensity outbreaks. For example, in the 2017 outbreak there were a very small number of flies involved in discrete locations.

If roadside trees were to be considered a biosecurity, then so would all fruit trees including those in home gardens and poorly managed orchards and abandoned orchards.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

That LGAT lobby the State Government to take greater responsibility for the management of streams.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has recently raised this through the Premier's Local Government Council Officials meeting and are waiting for feedback.

Planning and Building

That LGAT seek from the State Government a strategic commitment to developing and implementing in the new state-wide planning scheme provisions to allow the as of right development of existing small titles of land in the rural production zone that does not compromise or fetter agricultural production capacity and provides opportunities to diversify and reinvigorate local economic prosperity and community wellbeing.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT wrote to the Planning Policy Unit (PPU) in the Department of Justice and they indicated that: "a blanket 'as of right' status cannot be provided for the variety of situations that may arise."

They further noted that while the impending development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies will consider the policy underpinning a range of planning mechanisms (including the agricultural and rural zone provisions) they will still need to be consistent with the State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land.

The PPUs full response can be provided on request.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

That Members note a lack of input into the location of telecommunications towers and other similar infrastructure emitting radiation/microwave links and request that LGAT investigate options to allow councils to have more input prior to the submission of the Development Application.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

Telecommunications companies have some powers to enter land and install and maintain some types of telecommunications facilities. However, in using these powers, carriers have to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act 1997, the Telecommunications Code of Practice and also the Mobile Base Station Deployment Code of Conduct.

In late 2018 both the Code of Practice and Code of Conduct underwent reviews. LGAT actively participated these reviews by providing input with the other State Associations to ALGA, who sat on both working groups. ALGA was successful in incorporating a number of changes to the Codes.

While the Codes cannot change the regulatory and legislative regime at a local, State or Federal level, they do supplement the existing requirements already imposed on Carriers by requiring them to consult with the local government and the community and to adopt a precautionary approach in planning, installing and operating telecommunications infrastructure.

The 2018 Telecommunications Code of Practice can be found [here](#) and the 2018 Mobile Base Station Deployment Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

Roads and Infrastructure

That LGAT and member Councils continue to lobby the Minister for Infrastructure for improved roadside vegetation management on State Government controlled roads.

Passed: April 2017

Notes:

LGAT has met with the Department of State Growth twice in the past on issues relating to, and including, this motion. Most recently, LGAT raised this issue during its successful advocacy around the Roads and Jetties Act 1935, which achieved legislative changes allowing councils to enter agreements with the State on coordination and delineation of road management responsibilities, and which relates to this motion. State Growth has advised that it invites councils to contact them directly to discuss any areas within a council's Local Government Area that require additional vegetation management treatment to ensure roads and signage are safe and visible. Councils are encouraged to open positive communication lines with the Department in the spirit of a collaborative approach to road management and raise any issues they may have.

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting.

That the State Government be urged to increase its per capita spending on the provision of public transport services within metropolitan and regional Tasmania.

Passed: July 2017

Notes:

In our recent budget and election documents LGAT has advocated for a greater State Government focus on locally based initiatives to addressing demand in areas such as public transport and active transport. This included a specific ask for \$1 million per year over four years for active transport.

That LGAT lobby the State Government for the establishment of a recurrent fund to support the provision of separated bicycle infrastructure for local and state roads.

Passed: December 2018

Notes:

See motion above.

1. 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

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

The Fire Services Act is currently under review. The Act is the key piece of legislation which dictates the Fire Service Contribution and how increases to the contribution are decided. LGAT provided a submission to the issues paper as part of the review and advocated concern and the need for more transparency and justification in relation to increase to the contribution. LGAT met with Mike Blake as part of his consultation on the Bill in which we discussed the LGAT submission and the issues raised as part of this motion. There will be additional opportunities to reinforce this position during further consultation as part of the review.

2. Seek justification for the excessive level of financial burden that has been imposed over the last five years.

Local Government Business and Finance

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) work with the Department of Treasury and Local Government Division to prepare a model Public Benefit Assessment for Councils to use where a public camping activity is a significant business activity.

The model Public Benefit Assessment will support Council requests to the Treasurer for a Ministerial Statement concerning the application of competitive neutrality principles for low cost and free camping.

Passed: December 2018

Notes:

In early 2019 the State Government released a Policy Statement on public camping. The National Competition Policy: Applying Competitive Neutrality Principles to public camping in Tasmania is available on the Treasury website <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/public-camping-competitive-neutrality-policy>

This Policy resulted from significant stakeholder interest and Attachment B of the Policy provides a “Public Benefit Assessment Guide”. This Guide provides a useful model for preparing Public Benefit Assessments.

To support implementation of the Guide LGAT has facilitated a process with Treasury for an initial group of 5 councils who are about to commence the preparation of Public Benefit tests. While councils will be required to identify their policy details independently, Treasury will work with the councils through the practical use of the Guide.

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting.

a) That Councils and the Local Government Association Tasmania work with the Local Government Division of Premier and Cabinet to review the various accounting methodologies being used by Councils with a view to developing standardised reporting; and

b) Address some of the complexities such as volume/length of reporting driven by disclosures required in the Local Government Act and International Accounting standards which are not necessarily relevant to Council operation and reporting.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has met with the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO) regarding this motion and there was an appetite to look at the issues raised. Subsequently LGAT has written to the TAO, seeking formal feedback on the areas where improvements / changes can be made.

Other Matters

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania be requested to lobby the **Passed: July 2018**

State Government to ensure that the State is taking sufficient measures and **Notes:**

allocating sufficient resources to provide affordable, low cost housing, The Tasmanian Government recently released the Affordable Housing Action Plan particularly in rural and outer suburban areas with transport and social services 2019 – 2023 (the Action Plan) to support the implementation of the Affordable Housing Strategy.

As part of the preparation of the Action Plan the Government engaged with a number stakeholder, including LGAT. The Action Plan contains a raft of specific actions across land release, land use planning and supply. A number of these measures will support the development of affordable and social housing in rural and outer suburban areas.

Most notable, the State Government has committed (Action 5.1) to providing grants to local governments and community organisations “to construct suitable housing in regional and rural areas where demand and affordability is demonstrated and value for money is shown. This could assist older people or people living with disability to stay in their community, or deliver new supply in areas where there is demand for affordable accommodation for key workers.”

This item will be removed following the July 2019 General Meeting.

That LGAT seek that the Federal and State Government provides a strategic **Passed: July 2018**

commitment of a 4 year resources funding program working with Local **Notes:** The 2019 / 20 State Budget contained \$2.9 million in additional funding Government and established industry training providers for the implementation for TasTAFE to address skills needs in growth industries. The extra funding will of targeted VOC Training initiatives to ensure the dispersal of employment and support TasTAFE to train more apprentices and students in sectors including apprenticeship opportunities from all emerging industry investment and construction, electro-technology, plumbing, welding and nursing. expansion opportunities across the state.

In addition, the State Budget extended the Payroll Tax Rebate to support employers to take on new apprentices and trainees in key growth industries between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2021. The funding provides grants of up to \$5,000 for each new apprentice or trainee taken on by a small business in an area of identified skills demand.

This item will be removed following the July General Meeting.

Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government provides a strategic commitment and resources funding program for the implementation of a state and federal government services decentralisation action plan to leverage and ensure the dispersal of employment opportunities across the state.

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

In its 2018 election platform, the Tasmanian Government made some statements and commitments of relevance to this motion. LGAT is reaching out to State Government partners to determine what actions have been taken to date regarding these and how they might contribute to the Tasmanian Government implementing and delivering a decentralisation/regionalisation action plan.

That LGAT lobby the State Government and Spirit of Tasmania to ensure the availability of sailings adequately meets demand of Tasmanian residents, tourists and other users and that affordable pricing is available to users

Passed: July 2018

Notes:

LGAT has written to the CEO of TT Line Company (Spirit of Tasmania) to highlight the concerns of this motion and seeking a response as to what they are doing to address the issue.

That LGAT lobby the Bureau of Meteorology to retain its existing public weather forecasting operations in Tasmania in the interests of ensuring retention of specialist knowledge of unique Tasmanian microclimates, maintaining forecast quality and providing timely and regionally reflective forecasts for agriculture, emergency services, tourism and the like.

Passed: December 2018

Notes:

LGAT has written to BOM raising concerns and highlighting the importance of local weather forecasting operations in Tasmania. We are yet to receive a response from BOM.

Key LGAT Activity – March 2019

Issue in Focus

March saw the conclusion of the first phase of the State Government’s consultation for the Review of the Local Government Act. The Local Government Division received three hundred and eighty-two submissions from interested stakeholders. This included 14 from individual councils and a submission from LGAT. A copy of each submission and a summary of the submission can be found on the following page:

http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/local_government_legislation_review/phase_one_submissions

The Project Team within the Local Government Division is now in the process of developing draft policy positions that will be workshopped with the Project Reference Group, prior to being released in a Directions Paper, in the middle of this year for consultation.

LGAT will continue to actively engage with the Project via our membership on the Steering Committee and also via the Elected Representatives and staff on the Project Reference Group.

Policy / Project Activity

- Advertisement of two new contracts - Business Management Services and ICT solutions and services
- ALGA Grant Funding Expression of Interest – Empowering Local Government to grow the Australian Arts and Creative Industries
- Analysis of Tasmanian Council Digital Readiness Survey results
- Charitable rating exemptions
- Community Health and Wellbeing Project stakeholder consultation on 2019 plan
- Competitive neutrality policy for public camping policy clarification for councils
- Completed and acquitted Liveability Grant – Walkability project, with material now available on the LGAT website
- Completion of the statewide community satisfaction survey
- Councillor advice on immunisation programs
- Development of RFQ for shared procurement for street lighting energy for councils
- EHO workforce development project scoping
- LGAT enterprise created on Vendor Panel
- Sector consultation and submission to the review of the Local Government Act
- Sector update on Section 9 of the Building Act issues
- Workshop with Red Cross, councils and Police to discuss registration process in evacuation centres and options moving forward

Media

- 6/3 Media query: Cat Management
- 8/3 WIN, Sth Cross Coverage of International Womens’ Day Awards Luncheon
- 11/3 Letter to the Editor of The Advocate “Understanding Rates” (correcting Sean Ford article)
- 13/3 Media release: Council Cost Index
- 13/3 Media query: “Grey Nomad Times” – Free Camping

- 14/3 Media query: The Mercury – Council Coast index

Communication & Publications

- Better Councils Better Communities: City of Launceston – [Building a More Resilient Community](#) (Flood Markers Project)
- Community Health and Wellbeing Project – resources uploaded to LGAT webpage.
- Liveable Communities Grants Program – reports and resources uploaded to LGAT webpage
- [Pulse](#) March 2019

Training and Events

- Audit Panel Regional Workshops, 6th and 7th March
- Tasman Council Visit: Workshop on Council's Role as a Planning Authority, 27th March
- Planning for GM's workshop, Mayor's workshop and regional breakfasts
- Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women Awards (CEO was a judge) International Women's Day Shared Sector Awards Luncheon, 8 March Hobart
- Elected Members Professional Development Weekend, 23/24 March, Launceston
- LGAT General Meeting, 29 March, Devonport

Meetings

- Advisors to Minister Jaensch – Affordable Housing Action Plan and related planning matters
- Anita Dow MP new shadow Minister for Local Government and Planning
- Associations Policy Directors - Canberra
- Australian Local Government Association Board Meeting - Canberra
- Australian Taxation officer - Australian Business Register workshop
- CEO, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation
- Clarence City Council Officers – Access & Inclusion Toolkit
- Cradle Coast Authority catch up
- Department of State Growth - Heavy Vehicle Access Meeting
- Department of State Growth – Tourist Road Safety Strategy
- Department of State Growth, Hobart and Clarence City Councils – Ancillary dwelling project
- DPAC – State of the State/Regional Economic Growth
- Dr Rachel Bacon, Federal Deputy Secretary with responsibility for Regional Development and Local Government.
- Emma Riley – Regulatory Reform Project briefing
- General Meeting
- Great Southern Lights Project
- Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA) – Introduction to the Strategic Asset Management Plan template and NAMS.PLUS website functionality
- Jessica Robbins – Tasmania Way discussion
- LG Workforce Development Group – 2019 National Local Government Workforce Summit
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting

- LGTas Communications Forum
- Local Buy QLD (Procurement Business) – regular teleconferences on shared tendering and panel arrangements
- Local Government Cultural Forum Executive Meeting
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee
- Marine and Safety Tasmania – marine infrastructure funding and planning
- Menzies Institute – Active Transport Project update
- Minister Jaensch – transfer of public housing/impact on rates (teleconference)
- Minister for Planning's Advisor – regular catch up
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – Heavy Vehicle Freight Access Strategy, Local Government Working Group Inception Meeting
- National Procurement Network
 - Tyres, Tubes and Batteries
 - General Hardware
 - Plant Machinery and Equipment
- Nomenclature Board Meeting
- Office of Security and Emergency Management (OSEM) - Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy
- Planning and Building Portal Steering Committee
- Public Health Services – Healthy Tasmania update
- Public Health Services – quarterly meeting and report on Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Quarterly National Procurement Network – Adelaide
- Road Safety Advisory Council
- Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT)
- Royal Flying Doctors Service – discussion on collaboration
- SES, OSEM and TFS – Workshop on 'UnHARMED' Natural Hazards Planning and Assessment Tool
- Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) – Coastal Hazards Tender Evaluation
- State Regional Emergency Management Committee debrief on summer fires
- STCA RCCI – Regional Climate Strategy and Action Plan Template Project
- Tasmanian Audit office - LGAT procurement
- Tasmanian Greens and Labour Party – LGAT Budget Submission
- Tasnetworks – Local Provision Schedule discussion
- UTAS – engagement on future direction in the South
- UTAS - LEAP Program
- UTAS, EPA and Department of Health – EHO workforce development project scoping
- Wendy Kennedy EO Men's Sheds

Operational

- Completed draft Workplace Behaviours policies and template contracts for LGAT staff
- Recruitment of new Policy and Project Officers

Key LGAT Activity – April 2019

Issue in Focus

April saw the release of the latest edition of [LG Tas](#).

LG Tas is online publication to promote the Local Government sector with a focus on Member's achievements and activities. This was the first online only edition following consultation with Members. The decision to move to fully online was based on member feedback, seeking to reduce waste and also reducing costs associated with printing and postage.

The April edition was sent to over 1000 subscribers and has had an open rate of 41.9%, which is 17.5% above the national average for government publications. We were also pleased to see Members sharing LG Tas through their social media channels.

Policy / Project Activity

- Advertisement of one new LGAT Procurement contract - Corporate Clothing, Workwear & Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- AICD Lunch – Councils and Good Governance (Amalgamations) – panel with Michael Bailey TCCI
- Analysis of Tasmanian Council Digital Readiness Survey results
- Council advice on PD 4.1 amendments
- Develop EHO workforce plan scope of works
- Distribution ALGA Federal Election Materials
- Draft MOU for International Women's Day Award Event 2020
- Great Southern Lights Project continued work on draft sale agreement
- LGAT State-wide Waste Study Completion of Part A report
- Liaison with MAV and Local Buy regarding contracts and future opportunities
- Preparation of GMC Papers
- Quote for shared procurement for energy received, reviewed and advice provided to councils
- Review and assess applications under the "Prepared Communities Grants"
- Sector consultation on proposed amendments to the Historic Cultural Heritage Act
- Working Group – Charitable Rating Exemptions/ compilation of data, response to Minister Gutwein

Media

Communication & Publications

- April edition of [LG Tas](#)
- April edition of the [Pulse](#) newsletter
- Council Cost Index – The Mercury
- Free Camping – ABC and The Mercury
- The Mandarin – Telstra Award and working in partnership

Training and Events

- Annual Conference - Registrations now open for the event on the 3-5th July [here](#)
- Attendance at the GAMES (Great Association Meetings and Events Symposium) – Melbourne 29-30th April
- Engagement Champions Program – Final session held on April 1st in Hobart
- General Managers Workshop – 3rd and 4th April, Launceston
- International Women’s Day Awards reconciliation and debrief committee meeting – 17th April
- Local Government Awards for Excellence – Applications are now open [here](#)
- Local Government Procurement Training: Procurement and Contract Management Modules
- Results-Based Accountability and Performance Measurement Workshop – 10th April

Meetings

- Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities – Infrastructure Management System Replacement and Transformation Program
- CEO of LG Professionals Tas - Emerging Leaders Program
- Charitable Rates Working Group Teleconference
- City of Hobart - LGBTI training for council’s
- Consumer, Building and Occupational Services - Permit Authority Forums
- Council officers - Climate Change meetings
- Department of Health - Project Proposal meeting
- Department of State Growth – Community Road Safety Grants Assessment Panel
- Department of State Growth, Local Government Association of Queensland, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Director Housing Tasmania - Transfer of property/rates
- George Town Council – Presentation to workshop
- International Women’s Day event debrief and future planning
- LG Professionals Tasmania Board Meeting
- LGAT State-wide Waste Study - Project reference group meeting
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee
- Local Provision Schedule Steering Committee
- MAV Insurance Board – Teleconference
- National Disability Service - NDIS Mapping Project
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – Heavy Vehicle Freight Access Strategy Local Government Working Group
- PLGC Officials
- RDA Tasmania Meeting
- Regular Meeting Director of Local Government
- Richmond Fellowship - Joint Art of Story Telling workshop
- St Lukes - Sector wide health program
- State Emergency Services - Prepared Communities Grants assessment panel

- State Emergency Services - Training continuum project meeting
- State Emergency Services and Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience - Evaluation of the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience
- Tasmanian Asset Management Group
- Tasmanian Climate Change and Health Roundtable
- Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project Steering Committee
- Tasmanian Wellness Framework - Project meeting
- UTAS - Land use planning and renewable energy
- UTAS - Presentation on proposed Hobart campus move to the CBD
- UTAS, Department of Health, EPA - Environmental Health Officers (EHO) Workforce Plan scoping
- Web conference – LGAT SharePoint training
- West Tamar Council – Informal lunch

National Redress Scheme (Tasmania)

FACT SHEET

On 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish a National Redress Scheme for individuals who experienced institutional sexual abuse as children. The Scheme was created in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse which estimated that 60 000 people have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Australia.

The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government committed to joining the National Scheme. On 1 November 2018 the Tasmanian Government completed the formal requirements to join the Scheme including passing the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018* that enables Tasmanian non-government institutions to join the Scheme.

Overview

- The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse and includes three key components for individuals deemed eligible for redress:
 - a monetary payment (up to \$150,000);
 - a direct personal response (DPR) (such as a meeting with a senior institutional official and an apology); and
 - access to counselling consistent with National Service Principles (with the method of delivery to be determined by the relevant jurisdiction).
- The Scheme's objectives are to:
 - acknowledge that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions; and
 - hold responsible institutions accountable for child abuse;
- The Scheme operates on a 'responsible entity pays' basis.
- The National Scheme includes the role of Independent Decision Makers (IDMs) within its assessment process. IDMs assess applications, make decisions on the quantum of monetary and counselling payments, and determine the apportionment of responsibility in cases where responsibility lies with multiple institutions.

- The Tasmanian State Government officially joined the Scheme as a participating institution on the 1 November 2018. People who suffered sexual abuse in State Government Institutions can now access redress.

Participating of Tasmanian non-government institutions

- A number of other non-government Tasmanian institutions have also joined the Scheme and others have indicated their intention to join in the coming months.
- As of January 2019, the following institutions relevant to Tasmania are current participants in the National Redress Scheme:
 - Commonwealth government institutions
 - Tasmanian state government institutions
 - Anglican Church:
 - Anglicare Tasmania
 - Catholic Church:
 - Archdiocese of Hobart
 - Military Ordinariate of Australia
 - Marist Fathers Australian Province
 - Syro Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas
 - Global Interaction
 - The Salvation Army
 - Scouts Australia
 - YMCA
- The latest list of participating institutions can be found at <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/joined-scheme>

Who decides whether an institution will participate in the Scheme?

- Each non-government institution must decide to join the Scheme.
- The Australian Government requires non-government institutions choosing to participate in the Scheme to complete the administrative steps by 1 July 2020.

- If particular non-government institutions have not joined the Scheme, claimants cannot access redress for abuse relevant to that institution. In such circumstances, the claimant must:
 - wait until the institution joins the Scheme before their application can be assessed; or
 - in circumstances where more than one institution is responsible, the claimant may choose to progress their application in relation to those institutions that are participating in the Scheme.
- A claimant who has not been able to progress an application for abuse against a non-participating institution may pursue civil law options against that institution.

Position in other jurisdictions

- All state and territory governments have completed the legislative and administrative requirements to join the National Redress Scheme.
- Tasmanian residents who may have been affected by abuse in other states and territories can apply to the Scheme in relation to abuse occurring in participating institutions. A complete list of all participating state and territory government and non-government institutions can be found at: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/joined-scheme>.



Memorandum of Understanding on the participation of local councils in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

Recitals

1. The parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in recognition of the importance of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. This Agreement is an acknowledgment that sexual abuse suffered by children in institutional settings is wrong and should not have happened.
2. The Parties agree the objective of providing redress for survivors of child sexual abuse is to recognise and alleviate the impact of past institutional child sexual abuse and related abuse, and to respond to the recommendations contained in the *Redress and Civil Litigation Report* of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
3. This MoU represents the cooperation between Parties on the participation in the National Redress Scheme and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Parties under the National Redress Scheme.
4. This MoU is to be read in conjunction with the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth) and other related legislation.
5. The Minister for Justice or the Minister with portfolio responsibility for the National Redress Scheme and Mayors are authorised to agree to amendments to this MoU in accordance with Part 5 – Governance Arrangements.

PART I – Operative Provisions

Parties

6. This MoU is between:
 - a) the State of Tasmania (the “State”); and
 - b) the local councils, being:
 - Break O’Day
 - Brighton
 - Burnie
 - Central Coast
 - Central Highlands
 - Circular Head
 - Clarence
 - Derwent Valley
 - Devonport
 - Dorset
 - Flinders
 - George Town

Glamorgan – Spring Bay

Glenorchy

Hobart

Huon Valley

Kentish

Kingborough

King Island

Latrobe

Launceston

Meander Valley

Northern Midlands

Sorell

Southern Midlands

Tasman

Waratah Wynyard

West Coast

West Tamar

(Together, “the Parties”)

Term of this MoU

8. This MoU will commence for each Party as soon as it is signed by them. This may occur after the commencement date of the National Redress Scheme. This MoU will expire on 30 June 2028, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.
9. Commitments under this MoU which refer to participating government institutions, only apply to Parties that have participating government institutions declared.

Enforceability

10. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this MoU to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties’ commitment to this MoU.

Delegations

11. The Minister for Justice or the relevant Minister with portfolio responsibility for the National Redress Scheme is authorised to agree to amendments to this MoU and schedules to this MoU in accordance with Part 5 – Governance Arrangements.
12. Respective Mayors are authorised to agree to amendments to this MoU and schedules to this MoU in accordance with Part 5 – Governance Arrangements.

Definitions

13. In this MoU, unless the contrary appears:
- a) where a word or phrase has a defined meaning, any grammatical form of that word has a corresponding meaning,
 - b) a reference to legislation or a legislative provision includes a reference to any amendment, substitution or re-enactment of that legislation or provision, and
 - c) the singular includes the plural and vice versa.
14. Terms in this MoU will have the same meaning as in Scheme legislation.
15. In this MoU, unless the contrary appears:

Confidential Information means information that:

- i. The Parties know, or ought to know is confidential, or
- ii. The Parties agree in writing after the commencement of this MoU is confidential information for the purpose of this MoU.

For the avoidance of doubt, Confidential Information does not include Protected Information as defined in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2018. An example of Confidential Information would be a policy position shared by a Party on an issue that has arisen in the course of the Scheme.

The assessment framework policy guidelines for the monetary redress payment is Confidential Information.

Scheme legislation means:

- i. the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth) (the National Redress Scheme Act);
- ii. the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Rules 2018 (the Rules); and
- iii. the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018* (Tas).

PART 2 – Objectives

Role and purpose of this MoU

16. This MoU provides the foundation for governments to work together to implement the Scheme. This MoU will be signed by any local council that seeks to become a participating state institution for the purposes of the Scheme.
17. In addition, this MoU provides Parties with the framework for delivering the Scheme by setting out:
- a) roles and responsibilities of the State and participating local councils;
 - b) governance arrangements;
 - c) financial arrangements;

-
- d) implementation arrangements; and
 - e) Scheme operational arrangements.

Objects of the Redress Scheme

- 18. The National Redress Scheme Act set out the objects of the Scheme.
- 19. The main objects of the Scheme are to recognise and alleviate the impact of past institutional child sexual abuse and related abuse, and provide justice for the survivors of that abuse.

PART 3 – Roles and Responsibilities

Shared roles and responsibilities

- 20. The State and local councils which have had participating government institutions declared will:
 - a) work collaboratively to deliver redress from participating institutions to eligible survivors;
 - b) share information and data, subject to this MoU and privacy requirements, to promote a best practice and survivor-focused Scheme; and
 - c) identify and seek to resolve issues in a timely manner where Scheme arrangements are having unintended impacts.

Roles and responsibilities of the State

- 21. The State will:
 - a) introduce legislation to refer to the Commonwealth Parliament the text reference and the amendment reference, or adopt the relevant version of the National Redress Scheme Act once enacted and refer the amendment reference, in accordance with s 51 (xxxvii) of the Constitution;
 - b) administer the participation of the Parties to the Scheme through the State Department of Justice;
 - c) deliver direct personal responses to its survivors in accordance with the Direct Personal Response Framework;
 - d) deliver access to counselling and psychological care to survivors residing in Tasmania;
 - e) fulfil reporting obligations to the Scheme; and
 - f) fulfil agreed financial obligations in accordance with Part 6 – Financial Arrangements.

Roles and responsibilities of the local councils

- 22. The local councils will:
 - a) deliver direct personal responses to its survivors in accordance with the Direct Personal Response Framework;

-
- b) fulfil information sharing and reporting obligations required under the National Redress Scheme to the State; and
 - c) fulfil agreed financial obligations in accordance with Part 6 – Financial Arrangements.

PART 4 – IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Reporting

23. The State will provide local councils which have had claims made under the Scheme with an individual quarterly report on applications made under the Scheme that relate to their participating institutions, including information on:
- a) the number of completed applications,
 - b) the number of completed internal reviews of decisions,
 - c) the proportion of affirmed decisions,
 - d) the proportion of accepted offers,
 - e) the number of applicants that have been determined not entitled to redress under the criminal convictions policy, and
 - f) the number of applications to be processed.

Confidential Information

24. Subject to clause 25, a Party must not disclose Confidential Information to anyone, without the prior written consent of the Party that provided them with the information.
25. A Party can disclose Confidential Information to the extent that it:
- a) is disclosed to its internal management personnel, solely to enable effective management and/or auditing of the Scheme;
 - b) is shared within a Party, or with another agency, where this serves the State's or local council's legitimate interests;
 - c) is authorised or required by law to be disclosed, or
 - d) is in the public domain otherwise than due to a breach of this MoU.
26. Where a Party discloses Confidential Information to another person under clause 25 they must:
- a) notify the receiving person that the information is confidential; and
 - b) not provide the information unless the receiving person agrees to keep the information confidential.
27. A Party receiving Confidential Information will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Confidential Information of the other Party is protected at all times from any unauthorised use or access and to immediately notify the other Party if the receiving Party becomes aware of any unauthorised access to, or use or disclosure of Confidential Information.

Privacy

28. In exchanging information under this MoU, officials need to be aware of their obligations under privacy legislation.

PART 5 – GOVERNANCE

Variation of this MoU

29. This MoU, and schedules to this MoU, may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by all the Parties.

Review of this MoU

30. The Parties may review the operation and objectives of this MoU following the review of the Scheme outlined in the Scheme legislation, or as otherwise agreed by the Parties.

Withdrawal and Termination of this MoU

31. The Parties agree that withdrawal from this MoU will be a measure of last resort.
32. A Party that ceases to be a declared participating state institution under the Scheme legislation immediately ceases to be a Party to this MoU.
33. A Party to the MoU may indicate its intent to withdraw from this MoU at any time by notifying all other Parties in writing of its intention to do so. A Party that proposes to withdraw will give at least three months' notice of its intention to withdraw.
34. Following notification of a Party's intention to withdraw from this MoU under clause 33, the terms of withdrawal, including the date on which the Party will cease to be a Party, and arrangements necessary because of the withdrawal, will be negotiated in good faith and agreed between the State and the Party intending to withdraw from this MoU.
35. If a Party withdraws, this MoU will continue between all remaining Parties.

Counterparts

36. This MoU may be executed in any number of counterparts. All counterparts, taken together, constitute this MoU. A Party may execute this MoU by signing any counterpart.

Dispute Resolution

37. Any Party may give notice in writing to other Parties of a dispute under this MoU.
38. Officials of relevant Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
39. If a dispute is unable to be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the Minister for Justice or relevant Minister with responsibility for redress and Mayors.

Ministerial Declarations

40. Local councils will declare the participating local council institutions as participating State institutions.

-
41. Local councils are required to specify which local government institutions they agree to being declared under the Scheme, in accordance with the Scheme Legislation, and may do this by specifying a list of institutions by class.
 42. The State will arrange the Commonwealth Minister responsible for redress to declare the specified local government institutions as participating institutions where the relevant requirements are met. The Minister's declaration will be in the form of a notifiable instrument (which is not disallowable).

PART 6 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

43. The Scheme operates on a 'responsible entity pays' basis, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Parties will fund the cost of providing redress to each eligible survivor for whom one of their participating government institutions is responsible. This includes the monetary payment, access to Counselling and Psychological Care (CPC) and costs associated with delivering direct personal responses.
44. Participating local government institutions that are determined to be responsible for abuse will pay an administrative charge, set at 7.5 per cent of the total value of the institution's gross liability for redress payments made in relation to that abuse in each quarter.
45. Participating local government institutions, will also be required to pay a per-claim contribution towards legal support costs, delivered by the Scheme's legal support services. This amount will be \$1,000 for each claim for which the institution is the only liable participating institution, or a portion of the \$1,000 contribution proportionate to the institution's share of the redress payment where it is jointly responsible for providing redress with another institution or institutions. This amount does not include any GST, and no GST will be charged. These costs are directly attributable to supporting eligible applicants to access legal support.
46. Parties will be invoiced in arrears on a quarterly basis. The quarterly invoice will include the total amount owed and the total number of applicants who have been paid in the quarter broken down by CPC contribution, redress payment, legal support contribution and administrative charge along with details for payment. This approach ensures Parties will not have to make up front contributions to the Scheme based on estimated exposure to claims.
47. The Parties note that the per claim administrative charge will be reviewed by the Commonwealth Government in accordance with the requirements under the Scheme legislation to ensure it accurately reflects the costs being recovered.

PART 7 – THE SCHEME

48. The National Redress Scheme Act establishes the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. It provides the legislative basis for entitlement, participation, how to obtain redress, offers and acceptance of redress, provision of redress, funding, funder of last resort and other administrative matters.

Responsibility for redress

49. A participating institution will be responsible for redress if the abuse occurred in circumstances where the institution is, or should be treated as being, primarily or equally responsible for the abuse.

Release from civil liability

50. Survivors receiving redress under the Scheme will be required to release the responsible participating institution(s), their associates and the officials of these institutions (other than the abuser) from all civil liability in relation to all instances of child sexual abuse, and related non-sexual abuse within scope of the Scheme. This will be a condition of accepting any components of redress under the Scheme.
51. Where a participating institution has been released from civil liability either at common law or under another payment scheme in relation to the abuse they have been found liable for under the Scheme, then that release and any confidentiality provisions, cannot be relied upon for the limited purpose of determining the payment amount that a survivor may be entitled to under the Scheme.
52. Parties agree that their participating government institutions will waive their rights under prior releases to the extent necessary, and will not take action against survivors for failing to comply with the prior release simply on the basis that the survivor has applied for redress and notified the Scheme of information relevant to their application including a prior payment received. All other conditions under existing releases with survivors will remain.

Counselling and psychological care (CPC)

53. Parties agree that survivors found eligible under the Scheme, and who have signed the release from civil liability, will have the opportunity to access CPC to address the impact of their experience.
54. The State will provide access to CPC by delivering CPC services directly to survivors residing in Tasmania and receiving a tiered payment of \$1,250, \$2,500 or \$5,000 from responsible institutions for the provision of their services.

Direct personal response

55. Parties agree that survivors who are entitled to redress under the Scheme, and who have signed the release from civil liability, should have the opportunity to receive a direct personal response from the responsible participating institution(s), if they choose it.
56. Parties that have had participating institutions declared agree to adhere to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Direct Personal Response Framework 2018.

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by

The Honourable Elise Archer MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Break O'Day Council by

Mick Tucker

Lord Mayor of the Break O'Day Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Brighton Council by

Tony Foster

Lord Mayor of the Brighton Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Burnie City Council by

Steven Kons

Lord Mayor of the Burnie City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Central Coast Council by

Jan Bonde

Lord Mayor of Central Coast Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Central Highlands Council by

Loueen Triffitt

Lord Mayor of the Central Highlands Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Circular Head Council by

Daryl Quilliam

Lord Mayor of the Circular Head Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Clarence City Council by

Doug Chipman

Lord Mayor of the Clarence City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Derwent Valley Council by

Ben Shaw

Lord Mayor of the Derwent Valley Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Devonport City Council by

Annette Rockliff

Lord Mayor of the Devonport City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Flinders Council by

Annie Revie

Lord Mayor of the Flinders Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council by

Debby Wisby

Lord Mayor of the Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Hobart City Council by

Anna Reynolds

Lord Mayor of the Hobart City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Kentish Council by

Tim Wilson

Lord Mayor of the Kentish Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the King Island Council by

Julie Arnold

Lord Mayor of the King Island Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Dorset Council by

Greg Howard

Lord Mayor of the Dorset Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the George Town Council by

Bridget Archer

Lord Mayor of the George Town Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Glenorchy City Council by

Kristie Johnston

Lord Mayor of the Glenorchy City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Huon Valley Council by

Bec Enders

Lord Mayor of the Huon Valley Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Kingborough City Council by

Dean Winter

Lord Mayor of the Kingborough City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Latrobe Council by

Peter Freshney

Lord Mayor of the Latrobe Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Launceston City Council by

Albert van Zetten

Lord Mayor of the Launceston City Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Midlands Council by

Mary Knowles

Lord Mayor of the Northern Midlands Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Southern Midlands Council by

Alex Green

Lord Mayor of the Southern Midlands Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Waratah Wynyard Council by

Robby Walsh

Lord Mayor of the Waratah Wynyard Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the West Tamar Council by

Christina Holmhadl

Lord Mayor of the West Tamar Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Meander Valley Council by

Wayne Johnston

Lord Mayor of the Meander Valley Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Sorell City Council by

Kerry Vincent

Lord Mayor of the Sorell Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Tasman Council by

Kelly Spaulding

Lord Mayor of the Tasman Council

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the West Coast Council by

Phil Vickers

Lord Mayor of the West Coast Council

Date

**Treasurer
Minister for Local Government
Minister for State Growth**

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Ph: +61 3 6165 7670
Email: treasurerooffice@dpac.tas.gov.au



14 MAR 2019

Ald Doug Chipman
President
Local Government Association of Tasmania
GPO Box 1521
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear President

I am writing to seek information regarding Tasmanian councils' current policies for the assessment and application of charitable rates exemptions under section 87(1)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

As you are aware, the Act exempts land from general rates "...if land, or part of land, is owned and occupied exclusively for charitable purposes". While the Act does not define 'charitable purpose', in general I understand that facilities used exclusively for educational, health and other community purposes are considered charitable and are generally granted exemptions.

My recommendation to organisations that believe they own and occupy land exclusively for charitable purposes is that they should discuss their status with their council. The onus remains on individual organisations to apply to their local council for a general rates exemption where they believe they are entitled to receive it.

However, I have had some stakeholders raise with me concerns that individual councils are applying the exemption inconsistently and potentially in ways which they believe are not in accordance with the intent of the Act.

These concerns have emerged partly in response to the 2018 decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court regarding the rating treatment of Southern Cross Care's independent living units. Similarly, I understand councils are now concerned whether this decision may have broader implications, such as for student accommodation.

There is no suggestion at this time that the Full Court's decision in relation to Southern Cross Care's independent living units has broader implications for how exemptions apply to other organisations in other sectors. As you are aware, four councils sought leave to appeal this decision to the High Court, but the application was dismissed on 13 March 2019.

I have requested that the stakeholders in question provide me with specific examples and evidence of any inconsistency in rating treatment that they believe are occurring in terms of treatment by individual councils across the state.

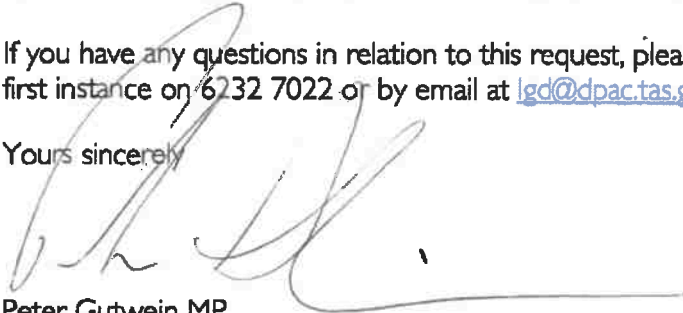
Specifically, I would like to understand how individual councils make decisions about whether an exemption is granted or denied, as well as how these decisions are practically applied. For example, I understand that councils grant some organisations exemptions for certain properties or parts of properties, and not others, depending on the nature of the specific services or activities that occur at those properties.

Any information that the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) could provide, in consultation with its member councils, will assist me in better gauging the scope and prevalence of this issue, so that I can consider how the Government might best respond, in consultation with the local government sector.

I would appreciate it if LGAT could please respond to this request by coordinating and providing the relevant information to the Director of Local Government by no later than **5 April 2019**.

If you have any questions in relation to this request, please contact the Local Government Division in the first instance on 6232 7022 or by email at lgd@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Peter Gutwein MP
Minister for Local Government

Copy to: Dr Katrena Stephenson
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Association of Tasmania

5 April 2019

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Minister

Charitable Rates Exemptions

In reply to your letter of 14 March and, further to my letter of 1 April, I am able to provide the following information.

The sector thanks you for advising organisations that they must apply to councils for general rates exemption. It is clear that there is limited understanding by charitable organisations that they must apply for an exemption of their general rates. Few charitable organisations appreciate that councils do not maintain a database of their existence and status. Indeed, our sector believes this is the root of most of the concerns around inconsistency.

The other key cause of inconsistency has been the lag between changes in law, through various court decisions and changes in policy at the Local Government level. For example, some councils had progressed policy changes which reflected the findings of the successful court case undertaken by Meander Valley and resolution at the LGAT General Meeting of February 2016 (see attachment) and others were still in the process of transitioning. The successful court challenge by Southern Cross Care has meant that those councils who had enacted such policies are now having to revise them to reflect the recent ruling. Some charities will have had changes to their eligibility for exemption as a consequence, but there is no way for councils to know if they should apply an exemption unless the charity applies to Council.

LGAT has sought advice from councils on the following matters:

1. Current council policy and process for the treatment of charitable exemptions.
2. Plans to revise policy/process in light of High Court outcome.
3. Impact of changes in policy on rates revenue.
4. Concerns about inconsistent application of policy.

1. Council Policies And Processes

All councils require organisations who think they are exempt for charitable reasons to apply in writing for the exemption on general rates. Proof of charitable status is required but that proof can sometimes vary. For example, some councils use the Australian Business Register, some rely on the common law definition (non profit and charter defines role in assisting community needs) and some seek the production of an Income Tax Exempt Charity Endorsement Taxation Certificate. None of these should be particularly difficult or onerous for a charitable organisation to comply with. Most councils review their rebates and remissions annually and may require proof of ongoing ownership/occupancy as part of that process.

Not all council rates (or remissions) policies specifically expand on the legislation, many rely on the legislation and the historical interpretation of “own and occupy”. Those councils who had moved to clarifying the situation for Independent Living Units following the Magistrates decision (which supported council interpretation) in 2015, expanded their policy and process advice along the following lines:

The Charitable Exemption will apply where both requirements are met, that is:

(i) the land is owned exclusively for charitable purposes; and

(ii) the land is occupied exclusively for charitable purposes.

3. Unless both requirements are met, the exemption will not apply. However, it is not essential that the same entity is the owner and the occupier, providing that both the owner and the occupier satisfy the requirement of owning/occupying the property for exclusively charitable purposes.

Some councils noted explicitly that if a charitable organisation carries out a commercial enterprise on a property *then it will not be occupied exclusively for a charitable purpose, even if the profits from those activities are used to fund the other activities of the charitable organization.*

Most commonly, councils only provide the exemption on general rates as required under legislation. A few councils provide some service rate relief for particular types of charitable organisations that support strategically desired community outcomes and these are detailed in their rates policy.

2. Proposed Policy Changes

Those councils who have been charging rates on the commercial activities of charities (as above) are in the process of amending their rates policies. For example, Hobart’s policy is likely to include the following:

The following are examples which may satisfy the “occupied” requirement:

(i) a presbytery (residence for parish priest);

- (ii) a convent (resident for nuns); and*
- (iii) a residence on school grounds used by the vice principal of the school, where the residence was used to a substantial extent for school purposes; and.*
- (iv) an independent living unit which is part of a retirement village operated by a charitable organisation.*

A significant number of councils noted that they did not have any properties directly impacted by the recent Supreme/High Court decisions, namely charitably owned independent living units, and on that basis had no real impact or need to change their rating policy.

3. Financial Impact

Despite the statement in the preceding paragraph, for those councils who do have retirement villages owned by charitable institutions or similar, the financial impact is significant. There are some specific examples in the table below:

Council	Impact	Comments
Brighton	Potential total loss if a range of current rate paying properties are deemed exempt is \$1.1million out of a general rate of approximately \$7.5million.	Includes St Anne's Living (not to be confused with St Anne's nursing home which is already exempt); Centacare Evolve Housing; committed title transfers from Housing Tasmania to Centacare.
Circular Head	Approx. \$20,000 per annum.	
Clarence City	Directly, \$110,000 per annum plus opportunity foregone of \$60,000 related to known future growth of such properties.	Additionally, potential future applications based Excludes refund required to be paid for last three years.
Devonport City	Approximately \$100, 000 per annum plus refund.	
Dorset	Approximately \$35,000 per annum.	
Glenorchy City	Potential loss of \$250,000 per annum.	Whilst this is not a definitive figure it is based on applications that have previously been received and rejected and reviewing known property owners with multiple properties.

City of Hobart	\$324,699 per annum based on 2018-19 general rates.	Additionally, have to make repayments of \$920,000.
Kingborough	Estimated \$295,000 per annum just in relation to Independent Living Units. Excludes challenges related to childcare, private schools and others which may emerge.	Additionally, have to repay \$46,000.
Launceston City	\$756,000 per annum related to Independent Living Units only.	
Meander Valley	\$39,000 for 2019-20.	
Northern Midlands	\$46,000 per annum approximately.	This in addition to rates revenue lost through airport challenge

Further analysis will be necessary to quantify the possible cost impact related to other charitable entities if the 'charitable purpose' definition is more broadly applied to their other 'commercial' activities currently being charged rates. We anticipate that there will be property owners in addition to independent living units that will consider their property exempt under this section. Some councils have already received applications from other types of providers, for example low cost housing providers. It also opens issues related to properties owned by religious organisations. For example, most councils charge rates on a church owned house rented to external tenants.

There is also uncertainty as to whether under the new interpretation of "charitable purposes", councils can successfully apply to the State Fire Service requesting that under S78(4) of the Fire Services Act 1979 the Independent Living Units are now an exempt tenant occupying the land for a 'charitable purpose' and hence should not be charged the fire levy. We would seek the State Government's support in ensuring this question could be dealt with on a whole of sector rather than council by council basis.

4. Inconsistent Application

The only councils that have received complaints of inconsistent application of exemptions are those who have been challenged by Southern Cross Care. One council reported they had complaints about not providing a remission on service charges to charitable organisations but as you are aware, this is not required under the Act.

Going Forward

When this matter was discussed at the General Managers' Workshop this week, it was clear that while at this stage impact is largely limited to councils with charitably owned Independent Living Units, there is a strongly held concern over the risk of a significant and broader impact from the recent court decisions and the emergence of significant inequity in rating. This was also a feature of discussion at the General Meeting, leading to the following resolution:

That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.

That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act; with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes.

Our first working group meeting will take place on the 9th April.

The sector strongly believes that the intent of the legislation was that, for an exemption to apply, the land in question is to be both **owned and occupied** exclusively for charitable purposes. It should not be enough that the landowner is a charitable institution if the purpose for the occupancy is not charitable. This is particularly the case when the land owner has the ability to pass on that cost to the non-charitable occupant, as was done by Southern Cross Care between court decisions.

Taking the case of Independent Living Units, they are by their very definition, accommodation units designed for independent, active retirees who do not require special assistance with day-to-day living. What distinguishes them from aged-care facilities is that independent living units are used as normal and private residences, just like anyone else's home.

Importantly, councils had not been applying this change of policy to aged-care facilities, short-term welfare housing, administrative offices and other facilities associated with these providers' operations, these have always remained exempt from paying general rates.

This issue is a question of equity. Is it acceptable or equitable that residents of these residential village units do not pay rates and therefore do not contribute to the services and facilities of their respective cities communities while low income families, pensioner home owners and private residential villages do pay?

How is it fair and equitable that someone paying \$600,000 - \$700,000 to buy into a modern Southern Cross Care Independent Living Unit doesn't pay rates but a pensioner who paid \$130,000 to buy a humble former Housing Tasmania property and has lived in low socio-economic areas for years does? Or that someone living at Vacluse Retirement Village does?

There are more than 8,500 pensioners across both Clarence and Hobart alone, together with low-income earners and self-funded retirees, who currently pay rates as their contribution to the cost of providing facilities and services to their community. With every form of rates exemption, there is a corresponding shift of the rates burden to other ratepayers.

The need for councils to ensure that general rate exemptions are appropriately applied is good governance. It is important for councils to implement up-to-date and equitable policies that consider the entire community and ensure ratepayers are being treated fairly and equally.

Given the recent court outcomes, amendment to the Tasmanian legislation appears to be the only practical path to achieve a balanced outcome.

Yours sincerely



Dr Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc Alex Tay, Director of Local Government
 Rick Dunn, Senior Advisor
 Kym Goodes, CEO, TasCoss

Tasmanian statewide waste management arrangement

Problems to address

1. Poor cohesion in the demand for organics recovery services
2. Insecure market for investing in recovery infrastructure
3. Risks and harms incurred by tyre stockpiles and illegal dumping
4. Resource-inefficient use of single use plastics and packaging

Q2..

Benefits

Enhance Tasmania's image

Positive culture towards waste management and 'faith in the system'

Climate change tackled through local solutions

Tasmania seen as valuing its natural assets

Narrative to attract visitors, residents, investors

Tasmania as a leader in tackling problem wastes

Government delivering on expectations to help people lead lower impact lifestyles & businesses

Protect health & the environment

Effective prevention & inhibition of littering, dumping and stockpiling

Cleaner & safer environment due to less illegal dumping & litter

Low reliance on landfills - lower landfill impacts including gas emissions, leachate, odour and amenity impacts

Greater self assurance in how to recycle

Soil quality improved using locally recovered material

Efficient resource use embedded in consumer decisions

Foster economic development

Natural assets retain value and are untarnished

Brands that rely on a clean image of Tasmania retain market credibility

Resources are recovered and used, in line with the scale of opportunity

Efficient private & public investment in recovery infrastructure and jobs

Efficient service prices that reflect demand over time

Strong local markets for recovered resources

Lower costs & risks borne by the recovery chain

Functions

1. **Vision statement** for waste management / circular economy in Tasmania, linked to a **credible commitment** to take action.
2. **Statewide infrastructure & service planning** and scheduling.
3. **Development of strategies for priority items**, including:
 - organics from municipal and commercial sources
 - end of life tyres
 - single use plastics and non-recyclable packaging
 - others identified as a priority for Tasmania.
4. **Statewide data collection, analytics and reporting:**
 - tracking and investigating illegal dumping incidents
 - volume of waste generated and services demanded at statewide & regional scales
 - projection of capacity needs for infrastructure and services
 - to inform preferred interventions to problem materials.
5. **Governance and collaboration models** to engender trust & commitment:
 - to support surveillance & remediation of dumping sites
 - to build certainty for new services & assets to come online.
6. **Local government engagement and procurement support** to lock in demand for new services and facilitate efficient use of assets.
7. **Coordinated education, engagement and marketing:**
 - to ostracise illegal dumping and encourage reporting
 - to foster acceptance and uptake of new recovery services
 - to stimulate demand for recovered resources
 - to support best practice in local and regional services
 - to guide consumer & purchasing behaviours and decisions.
8. **Statewide enforcement and prosecution** of stockpiling in breach of licence conditions, and illegal dumping.
9. **Market development measures including sustainable procurement:**
 - to stimulate markets for resources recovered locally
 - to foster the replacement of non-recyclable and single use items with reusable / recyclable / recycled content items.
10. **Coordinated advocacy and policy input** at the national level, where national solutions are deemed to be more effective.
11. **Product stewardship of priority items** including product re-design and takeback arrangements (e.g. CBL) - *pending examination of net benefit.*
12. **Infrastructure funding** to stimulate investment in recovery assets
 - *Pending private investment gap analysis & case for public funding.*
13. **Market and/or statutory instruments** (e.g. levies, bans from landfill) to address gate fee differentials
 - *Pending an analysis of gap between gate fees for new services and willingness to pay above existing landfill rates.*



lgat.tas.gov.au

21ST CENTURY COUNCILS – STRUCTURAL REFORM DISCUSSION PAPER

21 May 2019

Contact: Dion Lester

Email: dion.lester@lgat.tas.gov.au

Phone: 03 6146 3740

www.lgat.tas.gov.au

Executive Summary	3
Introduction.....	5
A Brief History of Local Government Reform	6
Why Reform?.....	7
<i>Economies of Scale</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Economies of Scope</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Strategic Capacity.....</i>	<i>8</i>
How could the sector Reform?.....	8
<i>Amalgamation</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Shared Services</i>	<i>8</i>
Tasmanian Local Government Reform	9
<i>The Brighton Common Service Model (de Souza & Dollery, 2011)</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Resource Sharing Arrangements between Kentish and Latrobe Councils (Ryan & Hunting, 2016).....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Northern Tasmanian Councils: Shared Services Study (KPMG, 2017).....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Greater Hobart: Local Government Reform (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017).....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>South East Councils Feasibility Study (KPMG, 2016).....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Cradle Coast Authority: Shared Services Project (2017)</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Tamar Valley Council Feasibility Study (KPMG, 2018)</i>	<i>14</i>
Criticisms within the Academic Literature.....	15
Success and Risk Factors	16
<i>Motivation</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Rationale.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Timeframes.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Leadership.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Representation and Identity</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Reform Arrangements</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Consultation.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Planning.....</i>	<i>18</i>
Conclusions.....	18
Bibliography	19

Executive Summary

Local Government in Tasmania is under increasing pressure to undergo structural reform in order to address existing and upcoming challenges (e.g., demographic change, technological advancements, financial sustainability).

The benefits of local government reform can be grouped into one of three categories:

1. Economies of scale – maximising the use of resources and/or services at the least cost;
2. Economies of scope – creating a wider range/higher quality of services/resources; and
3. Strategic capacity – having the skills and resources needed to act as high capacity organisations that manage complex and sometimes unexpected change.

Municipal structural reform programs have traditionally focused on amalgamation as the main instrument of reform. Shared services are an alternative method that occurs when two or more councils collaborate to provide a service in order to meet community or council needs.

There is a long history of structural reform, feasibility studies and post reform analysis in Australia and to a lesser extent Tasmania. Evidence suggests that the following factors are critical to the success of council structural reform arrangements:

- Reform that is **motivated** by a desire to share expertise and resources, not by crisis;
- Reform where all stakeholders understand the **rationale** behind the need for change;
- Reform **timeframes** that allow change to be gradually introduced and accepted;
- Reform that retains the political autonomy and **independent character** of councils;
- Reform that involves the **selective** rather than wholesale consolidation of functions;
- Reform where there is adequate engagement and/or **consultation** with the community;
- Reform driven by local **leadership** and engagement – a bottom-up approach; and
- Reform that is **carefully planned** and tailored to accommodate differing needs.

The significant body of work undertaken in this field of study can be distilled into three key messages:

1. Cost savings are unlikely to materialise and should not be the primary goal of reform.
The goal should be to create a more robust and capable system of Local Government.

2. Problems caused by a lack of sufficient funding and/or defects in the funding process are unlikely to be solved as a result of structural reform. These problems raise questions about the equity of Local Government funding, not structure.
3. The challenges councils face are many and varied, as are their individual circumstances. This militates against 'one size fits all' approaches to structural reform.

Introduction

Local Government in Tasmania is under continuous pressure to reform in order to provide contemporary best practice as well as to address existing and upcoming challenges. Over time councils have transitioned from a minimalist 'services to property' model to a maximalist model providing a broader range of 'services to people' (TCCI, 2012). The complexity of Local Government has therefore increased in the absence of change, structural or otherwise. Other noteworthy challenges and opportunities facing councils include:

Technological advancements

There has been a shift in Tasmania away from what might be considered traditional industries, towards tourism, service and knowledge-based industries. Improvements in technology have contributed to this change, most notably within industry and the broader community. While not a traditional area of responsibility for Local Government, these changes in the local context are likely to be creating expectations amongst the community and business about the role of the sector. Councils will need to find ways to exploit the benefits that come with digital technologies in their program delivery/policy making processes.

Demographic change

Tasmania currently has the oldest and slowest growing population in Australia. Population trends show that Tasmania's average growth rate from 2011 to now has been 0.3%. Recently produced population forecasts by the Department of Treasury have shown that this trend will continue with an average growth rate of 0.2% over the projection period, with particular issues for rural and regional councils who are expected to experience population decline. During this period, it is forecast that there will continue to be a decrease in the underage and working age populations, an increase in those aged 65 years and over, and a very large increase in those aged 85 years and over. This has implications in terms of the financial and operational sustainability of Tasmanian councils.

Regional development

There is an increasing focus on place-based initiatives that promote economic development. The challenge is how councils best position themselves to make the most of the range of opportunities as they present. Structural change that promotes strategic capacity at the local level and best use of targeted shared services should be considered.

Financial sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability of Local Government in Tasmania remains an ongoing concern despite significant investment and improvement in councils' long-term financial planning and asset management planning. While we have seen sector improvement, and recent reporting by

the Auditor General suggests, at least in the short to medium-term, that most councils are in good financial shape, the demands for councils to do more while holding rates increases to a minimum will continue to cause tension. The fiscal challenges faced by Local Government is not unique to Tasmania. Local Government raises 3.6% of Australia's total taxation revenue but have responsibility for managing 33% of public non-financial assets. At a whole of sector level, councils raise more than 80 percent of their own revenue. However, individual councils have widely differing abilities to raise revenue, based on location, population size, rate base and the ability to levy user charges. This is at the core of the national campaign to restore the quantum of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue.

A Brief History of Local Government Reform

Several investigations into Local Government reform have occurred in Tasmania over the last century, this has included the *Royal Commission on Local Government Report* (1939), the *Municipal Commission of Tasmania Report on matters relating to Local Government* (1974), and the *Board of Inquiry into Local Government* (1979).

The most recent significant structural reform, undertaken in 1993, involved changes to council operations, restructuring of Local Government boundaries, and a reduction from 47 to 29 councils. Additional amalgamations were proposed in 1997 on the grounds that further restructuring would result in widespread financial benefits and efficiencies. The proposed amalgamations were strongly resisted by local councils and communities who felt that there was a lack of effective engagement and planning and did not proceed. Few arrangements, except for recent State Government instituted water and sewerage reform, have gained traction following the 1997 proposal (see, generally, Haward & Zwart, 2000; TCCI, 2012).

A mass of work considering Local Government reform has been developed in response to the success or otherwise of existing reform arrangements. This paper attempts to summarise both the academic and grey literature around Local Government reform in order to provoke council interest and informed reform decisions. The bibliography, although not exhaustive, provides a list of sources that can be used to further guide council decision making. This information will give councils the opportunity to learn from past mistakes and to build upon successful arrangements already in place.

Why Reform?

The suite of benefits associated with Local Government reform are many and varied. They include greater financial strength and stability, the equitable distribution of goods, costs, and risks, increased capacity to offer a wider range and higher quality of services, efficiency gains, reduced administrative costs, and the greater use of all available resources (Aulich et al., 2011; Ryan & Hunting, 2016). These benefits have been broadly grouped into one of three categories: economies of scale, economies of scope, and strategic capacity.

Economies of Scale

The purpose of Local Government reform has traditionally centered on the benefits of economies of scale (Aulich, Sansom, & McKinlay, 2014). Synonymous with efficiency, economies of scale are achieved through maximising the use of resources and/or services at the least cost (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). Thus, economies of scale are represented in terms of cost savings (\$).

The degree to which services are characterised by economies of scale varies; whereas capital-intensive services (e.g. sewage disposal and water supply) tend to generate significant economies of scale, labour intensive and customer-oriented services (e.g. health and customer service officers) do not (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). This information has important implications in that it allows councils to appropriately target reform arrangements so as to achieve economies of scale.

Economies of Scope

Local Government reform, through consolidation and joint activity, has enabled councils to produce a wider range and higher quality of services and resources (Aulich et al., 2014). The latter occurrence, known as achieving economies of scope, has received limited attention in the literature and reform processes to date.

Potential sources of scope economies include (see, generally, Dollery & Fleming, 2005):

- Diminishing returns to inputs – where related activities handled by separate departments are devolved onto a single individual or division (e.g. GIS mapping support for engineering and planning departments).
- Jointness in inputs – where a single input can be used in the production of multiple outputs (e.g. underutilised machinery employed on a fee for service basis).

- Jointness in outputs – interconnected outputs are produced from a set of similar inputs (e.g. where staff who are employed to gather waste also transfer recyclables).
- Interactions between service provision or goods production – interaction processes that generate independent informational and/or physical outputs (e.g. community development staff informed of issues by operators of a council youth drop in centre or flood easements to remove excess water and enhance amenity).

The benefits associated with economies of scope will be strongest in councils with low levels of resources and with limited capacity to provide a breadth of services (e.g. small councils; Access Economics, 2011).

Strategic Capacity

The purpose of Local Government reform has slowly shifted from the benefits of economies of scale towards strategic capacity which can be seen as building on economies of scope (LGNSW, 2015). Strategic capacity is less about being financially robust and is more about councils having the skills and resources needed to act as high capacity organisations. Importantly, strategic capacity allows councils to respond to the diverse needs of different communities, as well as to manage complex and sometimes unexpected change (Aulich et al., 2014). Strategic capacity is therefore the most important outcome for councils to consider in examining modes of consolidation and Local Government reform.

How could the sector Reform?

Amalgamation

Municipal reform programs have traditionally focused on amalgamation – the most drastic form of structural change – as the main instrument of reform (Dollery & Fleming, 2005).

Amalgamation involves the combination of one or more councils into a new entity.

Amalgamations can be forced (by State Government) or be voluntary, wholesale or selective.

The latter is a more contemporary idea which suggests identifying and amalgamating only those council functions that can be performed in common or collectively (e.g. ‘back office’ functions; Dollery, Keogh, & Crase, 2007).

Shared Services

Shared services occur when two or more councils join together to provide a service in order to meet community needs (Ryan & Hunting, 2016). This method of Local Government reform is favoured by councils as it is a cost-effective means to share expertise and resources without the

need for structural reform (TCCI, 2012). Shared services can be provided via a range of mechanisms, some of which are included below (see, generally, Cradle Coast Authority, 2017; de Souza & Dollery, 2011):

- A common service provider model which distinguishes between independent (e.g. services delivered between councils on a fee-for-service basis) and sub-regional (e.g. services delivered to a subset of councils who cost share) shared service arrangements.
- A centre of excellence model where councils with specialised expertise in a given function (e.g. human resources) work together to develop and promote best practice and standardisation across councils in that function.
- A tripartite model which distinguishes between horizontal shared services (e.g. where arrangements are wholly operated and owned by participating local councils), vertical shared services (e.g. where state local government associations offer services to member councils), and intergovernmental contracting (e.g. where local councils carry out various functions on behalf of public agencies).

Although some services suit shared arrangements better than others (e.g. procurement, IT, waste management, human resources; LGAT, 2015), success will depend upon the degree to which these fit or are tailored to local circumstances – one size does not fit all!

Tasmanian Local Government Reform

The following section provides a brief summary of some of the more recent reform feasibility studies and analyses conducted in Tasmania.

The Brighton Common Service Model (de Souza & Dollery, 2011)

The Common Service Model was developed in 2007 by the Brighton Council. This model, unlike most existing shared services platforms in Australian Local Government, provides services already produced and used by the Brighton Council on a fee-for-service basis.

Several preconditions must be met before the Common Service Provision Model can operate successfully (e.g. existing friendly relations between councils, the availability and use of common platforms/systems, transparency in discussions between councils, services that are provided on commercial terms acceptable to both parties and small-scale beginnings).

The Brighton Model has delivered direct benefits to three main stakeholders: The Brighton Council, its employees, and client councils. These benefits range from being able to provide

high level professional services to local communities, improved succession planning, reduced administration costs, shared learnings, guaranteed service standards, and the like. Financially, there have been benefits for both the provider (additional income) and client (cost savings) councils. The revenue raised from this work, for example, represents around 20% of Brighton Council's rate revenue and is expected to grow over time.

The Brighton Model is therefore an interesting contribution to the field of shared services provision and is one that has ultimately allowed the local authorities involved to function more efficiently.

Resource Sharing Arrangements between Kentish and Latrobe Councils (Ryan & Hunting, 2016)

Various forms of resource sharing have been undertaken by the Kentish and Latrobe Councils in order to improve levels of service whilst maintaining local representation. The resource-sharing arrangement is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding which articulates all the terms and conditions for the two councils to abide by. Since the inception of the resource-sharing arrangements in 2010, the number of resources shared has steadily grown. Starting with the resources shared being those which require more substantial investment, ranging from senior management roles, specialist roles or in securing plant, equipment and systems, this arrangement has grown to involve almost full integration across both councils' operational areas.

In 2016, the councils conducted a review of their resource sharing arrangements. This review identified a range of success factors (e.g. shared strategic planning, transparency and trust, complementary IT and communication systems, incremental rather than transformational change, a common rationale, and shared general manager) which have supported their shared services. The review provided a series of recommendations in the following areas:

- Strategic planning and leadership (e.g. engage the senior leadership and councillors);
- Communications (e.g. develop an internal and external communications strategy);
- Staffing and workforce (e.g. shared performance management and workload system);
- New and expanded opportunities (e.g. work towards a centre of excellence model);
- Governance (e.g. develop a process for dealing with any conflict of interest);
- Succession planning (e.g. identify the desired attributes/skills needed for leadership);
- Change and project management (e.g. staff who understand the need for change); and
- Evaluation and reporting (e.g. develop an evaluation framework and share findings).

It is hoped that these findings will allow the two councils to grow, enhance, and refine their resource sharing arrangements, whilst informing the decisions of other Tasmanian councils.

Northern Tasmanian Councils: Shared Services Study (KPMG, 2017)

The northern Tasmanian councils have recently come together to explore options for shared services. This was done within the context of improving their capacity and performance, and involved examination of four core alternatives:

1. Optimising current arrangements by extending the current range of shared services;
2. Joint contracting for core services and outsourcing where feasible;
3. Contract service model (a single council delivers services on a fee for service basis); and
4. Incorporated venture (a separate shared services entity to centralise/deliver services).

Amalgamations were not an attractive option and were immediately ruled out by the councils.

Financial modelling revealed a combination of Options 1 and 2 to be favourable, with savings estimated at around \$3-4 million per annum across the region. This would represent savings of around 15% of the current operating expenditure on corporate, engineering, and waste management services. The latter, according to the Steering Committee, are key common service areas and should therefore be the focus of shared service opportunities in the north.

The study concluded that a more sustainable pathway for the region to adopt would be to expand resource sharing at regional (i.e., joint contracting and outsourcing) and sub-regional levels, whilst also transitioning to a single information management platform. An appropriate first step would be for the northern councils to establish a governance model which can be used to identify and plan for opportunities as they arise.

It is understood the Northern Tasmanian councils are progressing with a project on expansion of shared services.

Greater Hobart: Local Government Reform (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017)

The four Greater Hobart councils agreed to explore the merits of Local Government reform across the following four options:

- Option 1 - Business as usual,
- Option 2 - Merger of all four councils,
- Option 3 - Strategic alliance between all four councils,
- Option 4 - Merger of Hobart, Clarence, and Glenorchy, and
- Option 5 - Merger of Hobart and Glenorchy.

For all reform options, it was assumed that a Hobart Capital City Act would be introduced in order to take an integrated approach to planning that recognises the relationship between the city and State Government.

The modelling undertaken in the feasibility analysis consists of 2 forms of analysis:

- Modelling of financial costs and saving accruing to the participating Councils; and
- Modelling of wider social, economic and environmental costs and benefits accruing to the Greater Hobart community.

The financial modelling indicates that all options, with the exception of the Glenorchy, Hobart merger, come at a net cost.

The SGS study goes further and seeks to attribute a “financial or economic measure” to potential strategic benefits. The wider benefit modelled ranged from \$133.6 M (Option 5) up to \$392.9 M (Option 2). However, this modelling needs to be treated with caution as they are based on broader economic benefits not direct financial savings.

Whilst the SGS report highlights that there are much greater economic benefits to be achieved by a four Council merger, many of these benefits could be realised by a strategic alliance of the four Councils. By way of example, the report notes that better planning and decision making across Greater Hobart can deliver:

- A more sustainable metropolitan area through the progression of a more compact, multi-nodal spatial form of urban development and a more efficient transportation system;
- A more productive economic base, given the agglomeration economies that result from the above-mentioned benefits;
- A more effective tourism strategy; and
- Better co-ordination and sequencing of social infrastructure and social services delivery.

At the time of writing the councils involved had not progressed any of the proposed options.

South East Councils Feasibility Study (KPMG, 2016)

Though the viability of south east rural and remote councils has been aided by existing resource sharing initiatives, there is potential for further efficiencies to be realised. Four councils in the south east region of Tasmania therefore came together to consider the following amalgamation and shared services options:

1. Optimisation through the extension of current resource sharing arrangements;
2. Merger of Clarence, Sorell, Tasman, and Glamorgan Spring Bay councils;
3. Merger of Clarence, Sorell, and Tasman councils;
4. Merger of Sorell, Tasman, and Glamorgan Spring Bay councils; and
5. Merger of Sorell and Tasman councils.

Financial modelling revealed savings ranging from \$0.9 million per annum (Option 1) to \$7.6 million per annum (Option 2) in the first year, whilst savings ranging from \$9 million (Option 1) to \$49 million (Option 2) were predicted over ten years. This suggests that councils would be financially better off through amalgamation than through existing arrangements, and that the four-way merger would deliver the strongest financial gains.

It was recommended within the report that a Local Transition Committee be established should council amalgamations proceed. These committees would lessen any real or perceived loss in access to local representation during the transition process – an issue that is of particular concern to rural and remote council residents.

Further options for the Sorell and Tasman councils were recently examined by the Local Government Board (2018) who recommended that the councils be voluntarily amalgamated (as in Option 5). This option was believed to offer a level of sustainability and resilience that existing and extended shared services arrangements would be unable to provide. Sorell Council resolved to progress with the merger. A 2019 elector poll revealed that the majority (68.6%) of Tasman electors did not support the amalgamation, despite forecast savings of up to \$250,000 per annum and so Tasman Council has resolved not to progress with the merger.

Cradle Coast Authority: Shared Services Project (2017)

Local councils in the Cradle Coast have been collaborating and sharing in various forms for over two decades, yet no whole of Cradle Coast shared service model or strategy exists. A report was recently undertaken to determine whether the broader application of shared service arrangements could lead to further benefits being realised. The below arrangements were investigated:

- Independent shared services (services delivered to councils on a fee for service basis);
- Sub-regional sharing (services delivered to a subset of councils who cost share); and

- Centre of excellence (centre provides specialist support/resources to other councils).

The results indicated that significant gains would be possible through an overall increase in sharing arrangements across the Cradle Coast. Total projected savings amount to \$9+ million and accrue in the following priority areas: Procurement (\$2.5+ million), IT (\$1+ million), finance (\$1.5+ million), human resources (\$0.5+ million), and waste management (\$3.5 + million).

Two recommendations were made. Namely, to establish a shared services model and to expand sub-regional sharing arrangements for high potential and/or prioritised services. A phased approach to implementation was suggested in order to address council objectives and to maintain focus on longer term possibilities.

While limited progress has been made across the Cradle Coast region as a whole, the councils of Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard, and Burnie City have agreed to explore the development of a shared services entity to deliver back end business process and IT services. The three councils are currently developing governance arrangements, a shared services catalogue and cost model, and are undertaking a resource sharing trial to determine if establishing the shared services entity will produce desired outcomes.

Tamar Valley Council Feasibility Study (KPMG, 2018)

Although the George Town and West Tamar Councils are currently meeting service level statutory requirements and community expectations, scope for further savings and efficiencies exist. Both councils have therefore undertaken a feasibility study into merging to form a Tamar Valley Council.

The results of the financial modelling indicated savings of around \$1.3 million per annum over a ten-year period. Additional benefits were thought to include improved strategic capacity and organisational robustness (e.g. through advancing the culture and skill of employees, building stronger relationships with stakeholders and other regional partners, and enhanced credibility).

The study concluded a merger to be in best interests of the region and identified that an initial period of community consultation would be necessary in order to gauge the views of those involved. An implementation schedule, should the councils and their communities favour a merger, would likely involve an 18-24-month period of transition before council operations could commence.

Both councils considered the report recommendations, with West Tamar Council resolving to commence community consultation. George Town Council determined that it would not undertake consultation and further work has now ceased.

Criticisms within the Academic Literature

Local councils throughout Australia have almost always resisted proposals for reform, particularly amalgamation. Feasibility studies, such as the five Tasmanian studies described, delineate the merits and viability of various reform options. The results of these studies arouse criticism within the academic literature and are met with skepticism due to the observed outcomes (or lack thereof) of council reform programs to date (Dollery et al., 2007).

Australian municipal reform programs have traditionally shown a heavy reliance on amalgamation as the main instrument of reform (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). This unwavering focus on structural reform has been criticised on the grounds that shared service arrangements may yield equally if not greater council and community benefits (Aulich et al., 2014). The enduring belief that 'bigger is better' and that council amalgamations are key may therefore be unwarranted.

Related, is the idea that local government reform is not an 'either-or' (amalgamation *or* shared services) situation. The reform options listed in the Tasmanian feasibility studies describe amalgamation and shared service arrangements as independent. What is not often considered, is that these options could be used in conjunction (e.g. amalgamated councils pursuing greater consolidation and advantages through shared services as well; Aulich et al., 2014).

Many reports concerning local government reform focus on how increased scale (i.e., cost savings) can be achieved. This focus on purely economic benefits and/or arguments is detrimental when at the exclusion of other issues, such as achieving economies of scope and strategic capacity (Aulich et al., 2014). The latter outcomes are important to consider in that benefits associated with them tend to increase, compared to cost savings which are not always seen (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017).

Perhaps the greatest criticism of past council reform arrangements is that much of what has been promised, at least in terms of economies of scale, has not been achieved (Dollery et al., 2007). It is not uncommon, where savings have been asserted, for calculations to ignore implementation and related costs (e.g. costs of change and dislocation), thus nullifying alleged outcomes (Aulich et al., 2014). Such matters are further complicated by the fact that savings themselves are difficult to measure. For example, savings may be utilised to improve the quality and range of council provided services and may not represent improved profitability (i.e., economies of scale) as a result (Aulich et al., 2011).

These criticisms are not intended to cast doubt on Local Government reform processes as a whole. Instead, they are intended to facilitate critical thinking around the implementation and goals of Local Government reform, including how these factors may vary from one council to the next. Research suggests that the many benefits of reform are in fact achievable, but that their realisation depends on a series of factors (described below).

Success and Risk Factors

Past reform arrangements highlight a number of factors that were critical and/or detrimental to their success. It is important that these factors be noted given that all councils will undergo reform in some way and at some time in the future. These factors essentially represent the do's and don'ts of local government reform.

Motivation

Shared services arrangements are often driven by crisis (i.e., a means of avoiding amalgamation), not strategy (Ryan & Hunting, 2016). Research shows that arrangements of this type are unlikely to result in lasting partnerships where genuine council and community benefits are felt (Aulich et al., 2014). Success is more likely when arrangements are motivated by a desire to share expertise and resources in order to strengthen the viability of involved municipalities (Ryan & Hunting, 2016).

Rationale

All stakeholders must understand the rationale behind reform (e.g. motivations for considering reform, merits of available options, desired outcomes) if amalgamation and/or shared services arrangements are to be successful (Ryan & Hunting, 2016). Effective communication strategies have been shown to involve the publication of guidelines and newsletters, early direct contact with those involved/affected, clear and consistent messages, various feedback mechanisms, and the like (Access Economics, 2011).

Timeframes

Councils and communities are unable to achieve the best possible outcomes from reform when timeframes are too short (Aulich et al., 2014). Councils, within a short amount of time, have a limited ability to consult with the community, to respond appropriately to policy changes, and to plan and sell the need for reform, for example (Haward & Zwart, 2000). Therefore, reform

processes should be introduced gradually in order to minimise disruption and increase acceptance (Ryan & Hunting, 2016).

Leadership

A bottom-up approach whereby reform arrangements are influenced and supported by Local Government is essential (Haward & Zwart, 2000). This suggests that state government, instead of initiating and driving local government reform from the top-down, should provide political sponsorship and support to councils. The mutual commitment and leadership involved in this more bilateral process establishes a sound basis for ongoing operations and managing change (Aulich et al., 2014).

Representation and Identity

Many councils and communities possess a highly developed sense of place and identity which they fear will be weakened through reform arrangements (Dollery et al., 2007). These arrangements should therefore retain the independent character and political autonomy of councils as much as possible. This can be achieved via several methods (e.g., community boards, forums, ward committees) and would assist in securing the community's support (Aulich et al., 2014). The latter in and of itself is critical for the success of Local Government reform (SGS Economics & Planning, 2017).

Reform Arrangements

Wholesale consolidation, whether through amalgamation, shared services arrangements, or a combination of the two, is unlikely to be necessary given that the benefits of reform are specific to particular technologies and/or services (Dollery & Fleming, 2005). The selective consolidation of functions that councils could perform in common or collectively (e.g. 'back office' functions) is therefore of greater benefit in terms of efficiency, however would also mean that primary political and policy functions (i.e., democracy) remain largely unchanged (Dollery et al., 2007).

Consultation

Findings consistently indicate a reduction in the benefits of Local Government reform following inadequate engagement and/or consultation with the community (Aulich et al., 2014). This may be due to increased uncertainty and anxiety, or to a lack of trust and transparency that must be remedied if future reform arrangements are to succeed.

Planning

Reform arrangements must be well organised and planned so as to take into account the nature of Local Government service delivery, contemporary best practice, local conditions, and the like (TCCI, 2012). Careful planning in these areas enables councils to tailor reform arrangements and to accommodate differing needs. Poorly planned arrangements, on the other hand, have typically failed to deliver anticipated and otherwise achievable outcomes (LGAT, 2015).

Several other factors that are predictive of success include compatible record keeping and IT systems, effective governance arrangements, ongoing and objective evaluation, equity in resource allocation, and a 'one-in, all-in' approach (KPMG, 2017; Ryan & Hunting, 2016).

Conclusions

Several conclusions from this paper can be drawn. The first relates to the widely held belief that the primary goal of Local Government reform is to cut costs (Aulich et al., 2014). The literature and studies to date suggest that cost savings are unlikely to materialise, and that a greater focus on economies of scope and strategic capacity is therefore warranted in order to create a more robust and capable system of local government (Aulich et al., 2014).

A second albeit related conclusion is that a lack of sufficient funding and/or defects in the funding process are key to several of the problems within contemporary Local Government (Dollery et al., 2007). Such problems are unlikely to be solved as a result of structural reform as they emanate from chronic under investment and/or insufficient cash flow, not structure (Dollery et al., 2007). While reform is likely to be necessary, so too are questions about the equitability of Local Government funding.

The final and perhaps most important conclusion in relation to Local Government reform is that one size does not fit all (Aulich et al., 2011). For example, councils operate within increasingly diverse social, economic, and environmental contexts. The challenges they face are many and varied, as are their individual circumstances. Appropriate reform and structural solutions will therefore differ considerably both within and between municipal regions (Aulich et al., 2014).

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Local Government &
Local Government Association of Tasmania

Corporate Health Plan

April, 2019



Introducing St.LukesHealth

St.LukesHealth was established in Tasmania in 1952 and has since been offering quality private health cover to Australians in all states and territories. St.LukesHealth has built a strong reputation on its expertise, ability to supply high quality health cover and the exceptional customer service it delivers to its members. St.LukesHealth has a loyal membership base across Australia and especially Tasmania. Regardless of where you live, doing business with St.LukesHealth is easy.

St.LukesHealth is a not-for-profit organisation employing more than 100 dedicated staff. As a not-for-profit fund we do not pay shareholders and therefore all premiums stay within the fund for the benefit of our members. A key strength of St.LukesHealth is the knowledge and depth of experience of its Directors and Leadership Team, with many being associated with the organisation over a long period of successful operations.

Our promise to our members

Helping our members stay healthy, get well, live better and deliver peace of mind.

St.LukesHealth in the community

St.LukesHealth has taken a proactive and genuine role in social responsibility within the local community through sponsorships with a number of local sporting teams and organisations.

The benefits of private health cover

Private health cover provides peace of mind, knowing that you and your family are covered for hospital treatment in public and private hospitals as well as offering general treatment (extras) benefits for those services not usually covered by Medicare.

Importantly this means:

- No need to join a public hospital waiting list;
- You have a choice over when you are admitted for elective procedures in a private hospital;
- You have the option to choose your own doctor or specialist;
- More affordable access to private hospitals;
- You can have cover for general treatment services that Medicare doesn't usually cover, such as dental, optical, physiotherapy, chiropractic and natural therapies;
- High income earners can avoid the additional Medicare Levy Surcharge on most Hospital products; and
- You have the option to reduce your Hospital and Extras premiums under the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance depending on your level of income.

Health and wellbeing

St.LukesHealth and Healthy Business Performance Group have formed a partnership with the vision of creating positive difference to the customers we serve. We want to improve the quality of life of your employees and can assist by providing packages for intergrated workforce health and wellbeing by:

- Tailoring programs to suit your workforce needs, including one-on-one employee engagement.
- Increasing productivity while decreasing absenteeism;
- Providing workforce injury risk management.

Corporate Plan

Corporate Health Plan Features

- An **8% discount*** on the brochure rates offered in the Corporate Brochure;
- Easy premium payment by direct debit;
- **Current elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who **join or switch from another health fund** will receive the **first month's premium free** and the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on extras if they join within two months of the commencement of the Corporate Health Plan;
- **Current elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who upgrade **their existing St.LukesHealth cover** will receive the **first month's premium free** on the product added to their existing cover. If an existing member adds extras to their current hospital product they will receive the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on the extras, providing they upgrade within two months of the commencement of the Corporate Health Plan;
- **New elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who **join or switch from another health fund** will receive the **first month's premium free** and the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on extras if they **join within four weeks** of commencing employment with Local Government & Local Government Association Tasmania;
- **New elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** who upgrade **their existing St.LukesHealth cover** will receive the **first month's premium free** on the product added to their existing cover. If an existing member adds extras to their current hospital product they will receive the waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods⁺ on the extras, providing they **upgrade within four weeks** of commencing employment with Local Government & Local Government Association Tasmania;
- **No waiting periods for equivalent cover** for **elected representative and employees of Local Government in Tasmania & employees of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** employees **switching from another health fund** where they have already served their waiting periods;
- **Existing members of St.LukesHealth** will be eligible to receive the discount, provided they hold a product that is included in the Corporate Health Plan.

**The discount cannot be combined with any other discount available under any other arrangements between St.LukesHealth and other alliance partners.*

⁺The general two month waiting period and the 12 month pre-existing waiting period on hospital cover still applies. Each person is different, and your needs may require particular consideration. There may also be particular offers available to the general public which better suit your needs or situation.

Key Product Features

- **Gap Free Preventative Dental*** for the **whole family at your choice of dentist**;
- St.LukesHealth values the relationship it has with its members and that's why we have introduced Member Rewards on selected covers. Member Rewards will reward each person who has held top extras cover with St.LukesHealth for five years or more with a 5% increase in their dental benefits and annual dental limits;
- Dependent children are covered until they turn 23 and student dependents are covered until 25 years of age;
- Non-student child dependants can remain on their parents policy until their 25th birthday providing they are not married or living in a defacto relationship, for an additional premium across a range of covers;
- Pay half the excess on same-day hospital admissions for adults on most hospital covers, about 70% of procedures are same-day hospital stays;
- No excess on hospital admissions for children covered on the policy, for all levels of hospital cover offered in the Corporate Health Plan;
- St.LukesHealth is contracted with every private hospital in Tasmania and has a comprehensive list of contracted private hospitals in all other states and territories in Australia. If you are treated in a contracted hospital, your accommodation, theatre, and intensive care costs will be fully covered less any excess you have chosen on your policy.
- St.LukesHealth offers private postnatal services to Northern Tasmanian members on selected products. A 12 month waiting period applies to new members and members transferring from another fund. Members who reside in Southern or North West Tasmania are not eligible for this service, as postnatal services are provided by the private hospitals in these regions, unless they deliver at the Launceston General Hospital.

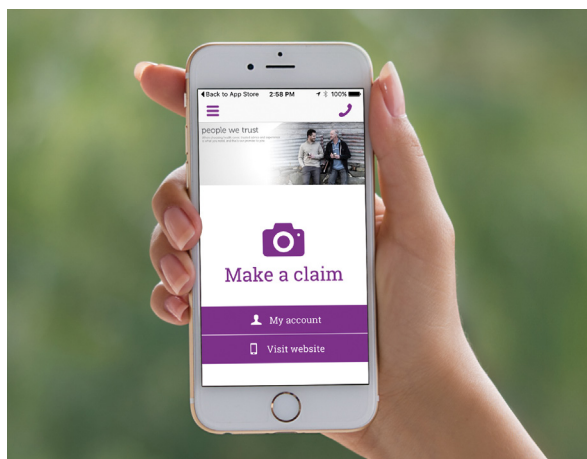
**For some preventative dental items on selected products. Annual limits, fund rules and waiting periods apply. Under Gap Free Preventative Dental we pay 100% of your dentists regular fee up to a maximum benefit for each eligible service. Please refer to Page 6.*

Services

- St.LukesHealth takes pride in providing a high level of customer service to our members. Independent and national polling by Roy Morgan Research across 33 private health insurance funds, has ranked St.LukesHealth number 1 Australia wide for Customer Satisfaction in 2016, 2017 and 2018;
- Being local means that we are able to offer great customer service and onsite support to all employees;
- St.LukesHealth does not have preferred provider arrangements, this means that members can choose which provider they use;
- Third Party partnerships with Cycology and Geards Cycles in Launceston, where members receive 10% discount on purchases (excluding: items already on sale, interest free purchases, Thule products and Garmin products) and half price Essential or Premium bike servicing. Other third party partnerships are currently being developed;
- Our website provides information about our company, products, providers, services and more;
- Our mobile app allows members to easily perform a variety of tasks including, submitting a claim, securely accessing their information and more;
- Online Member Services enables members to access details of their membership, claims history, change their contact or cover details and much more;
- St.LukesHealth has Business Development Consultants who will visit employees on site. The Business Development Team is fully trained to guide customers on making the right decision on their private health cover needs, provide cover comparisons if they are with another health fund and make joining St.LukesHealth an easy process;
- Access to St.LukesHealth is made easy for employees, with a network of six customer care centres and four service centres throughout the State. Our customer care staff are fully trained to provide assistance in selecting a cover that meets our member's needs including providing cover comparisons for employees currently insured with another fund.
- St.LukesHealth does not have a call centre, so when your employees call 1300 651 988, they will talk directly to our customer care staff.

St.LukesHealth will liaise with you to develop a plan for ongoing employee engagement that best suits the specific needs of Local Government & Local Government Association Tasmania;

- Marketing and promotional material;
- Informative brochures and forms;
- On site visits, either one on one or in groups;
- Information sessions.



Helping Tasmanians achieve their goals

At St.LukesHealth we are passionate about helping Tasmanians achieve their goals across many fields including medical research, health and wellbeing, mental health and sporting achievements.

St.LukesHealth works with and supports a number of young Tasmanians, including;

- Mitch McPherson, the "St.LukesHealth Healthier Communities" award winner 2016 and the "Premier's Tasmanian Young Achiever Award" winner 2016. Mitch was the stand out winner due to his work in mental illness and youth suicide in Tasmania. His aim is to reduce the suicide rate in Tasmania and the stigma surrounding mental illness. This is accomplished by speaking with young people in particular to develop their confidence, practical skills and knowledge to ensure people seek help when they need it.
- Dr Jessica Manuela, winner of the "St.LukesHealth Health and Wellbeing Award" 2017 and the "Premier's Young Achiever of the Year Award" 2017. At the age of 26, Dr Manuela opened her own clinic, Dental South. Now she has two clinics, employs 12 people and cares for more than 4000 patients. Dr Manuela's passion for preventative dental care extends beyond her practice by providing oral health education in schools. As a result she was inspired to develop a cartoon infomercial to try and ensure Tasmanians have greater access to basic oral health information.



Looking after your Health and Wellbeing

We know how busy life is and how difficult it can be to dedicate the time you need to look after your health and wellbeing. We also know how important health cover is when you are unwell and need access to the best health care available. At St.LukesHealth we go one step further by providing a range of preventative health and wellbeing programs. You can now get so much more from your health cover, even when you're not sick.

Salveo Healthcare Services

Salveo means "to be in good health" or "to be well" in Latin.

Salveo Healthcare Services' vision is to improve personal engagement in its clients healthcare through improving health literacy and health outcomes while keeping clients out of hospital where possible and appropriate. To do this, clients are provided with their own personal health record, while those living with a complex condition are provided with hands-on home-based support.

The program is completely holistic in that it looks at the person and not the condition. Nurses assess a client based around 18 assessments from cognitive function and behavioural change through to medication management, falls risk and transitional care. Nurses can provide assistance in facilitating entry into one of Tasmania's 1700 National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service providers, while also engaging with the client for better health outcomes.

Gap Free Preventative Dental

Another way in which we support your health and well-being is by encouraging regular dental check-ups to help keep your teeth and gums healthy. That's why we offer cover options with Gap Free Preventative Dental for both adults and children at your choice of dentist[^].

Under Gap Free Preventative Dental we pay 100% of your dentist's regular fee* up to a maximum benefit for each eligible service. This means that for most dentists you will have no gap or out of pocket to pay for an examination, x-ray, scale and clean or fissure sealing. This will help you keep your teeth and gums healthy and hopefully prevent the need for more extensive treatment later on.

[^]Includes examination, x-ray, scale and clean and fissure sealing. Benefits of 100 per cent of the dentist's regular fee* apply on selected products up to a maximum benefit per service. If your dentist charges above the maximum benefit, or in excess of the regular fee* he or she charges all patients, a gap or out-of-pocket may apply. Benefit applies to both adults and children who have served their two month waiting period. Other preventative services such as topical fluoride application and provision of mouthguard not included. Annual limits apply.

*Regular fee refers to the average fee your dentist charges to all patients of his or her practice for each eligible service.

Contact Information

Head Office

Launceston

17 The Quadrant Mall, Launceston 7250

Phone 1300 651 988 **Website** www.stlukes.com.au **Email** general@stlukes.com.au

Business Development Consultants

St.LukesHealth has Business Development Consultants across Tasmania who will visit your employees either at work or at home at a time convenient to them.

North & Devonport	Brandine Campbell	Mobile 0417 563 546	Email bcampbell@stlukes.com.au
Burnie & West Coast	Penny Saward	Mobile 0418 134 486	Email psaward@stlukes.com.au
South	Alicia Frankcombe	Mobile 0417 561 948	Email afrankcombe@stlukes.com.au
	Erika Boonstra	Mobile 0439 392 453	Email eboonstra@stlukes.com.au

Customer Care Centres

Hobart	94 Liverpool Street, Hobart 7000	Ph 1300 651 988
Kingston	Shop 28a Channel Court, Kingston 7050	Ph 1300 651 988
Burnie	27 Cattley Street, Burnie 7320	Ph 1300 651 988
Devonport	26 Rooke Street, Devonport 7310	Ph 1300 651 988
Smithton	24 Smith Street, Smithton 7330	Ph 1300 651 988



lgat.tas.gov.au

COUNCIL DIGITAL READINESS SURVEY

21 May 2019

Contact: Dion Lester

Email: dion.lester@lgat.tas.gov.au

Phone: 03 6146 3740

www.lgat.tas.gov.au

Table of Contents

Introduction and Method	3
Results.....	4
<i>Proficiency Gaps in the Sector</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Operational Efficiency.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Novel Uses and Opportunities</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Community Engagement</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Security</i>	<i>6</i>
Conclusions	6

Introduction and Method

Access to information and communication technologies, like access to transport, water, and electricity, is essential to living, working and participating in today's society.

Local Government is beginning to engage with digital opportunities in Tasmania in order to service communities in a smarter and more efficient manner. Specific examples include the scoping of a Shared Services entity in the north west, Hobart's development of a Smart City Strategy, as well as the significant work associated with the Launceston City Deal.

LGAT seeks to support and promote the work already occurring across the sector and has established a Digital Advisory Group. This group brings together leaders from Tasmanian and Queensland Local Government whom will each help to guide the introduction of a specialist digital transformation program. The program is expected to support the development of 'smart councils' which will in turn support the development of 'smart communities'.

Ultimately, the aim of this and upcoming work is to create councils that are easy to deal with, are informed by communities, are fit for the digital age and for leading the digital transition. To achieve these goals, we first need a clear picture of where councils are at currently, including what the critical barriers are to their transition. This information is being gathered via online and face-to-face surveys and in-depth respondent discussions.

This report covers the first component of this investigation, being an online survey, completed by 52 council respondents from 27 of Tasmania's 29 councils. Further sociodemographic information is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. *Respondent Sociodemographic Information.*

Variable	N (%)	
Respondent Role		
General Manager	14 (26.9)	Senior Management 39 (75%)
Deputy General Manager	2 (3.8)	
Chief Financial Officer	1 (1.9)	
Director of a Department	7 (13.5)	
Senior Management or Executive	15 (28.8)	
Human Resources Professional	2 (3.8)	Officers 13 (25%)
Financial Professional	0 (0.0)	
Communications Professional	2 (3.8)	
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Officer	6 (11.5)	

Administration or Customer Service Professional	3 (5.8)
Council Region	
North	13 (25.0)
North West	18 (35.0)
South	21 (40)
Council Rurality ¹	
Rural	30 (58)
Urban	22 (42)

Results

The survey results should be interpreted with caution due to the limited sample size ($N = 52$).

Proficiency Gaps in the Sector

Digital proficiency was rated relatively strongly, with 96% of respondents describing themselves as a competent user, amateur expert, and/or trained professional.

A large proportion of respondents (65.5%) feel that their council is on par with the community in adopting new technologies. Three councils were identified as being a local leader, whilst five other councils were identified as laggards.

Operational Efficiency

The percentage of councils using desktop (48.4%) versus cloud-based platforms (44.8%) is roughly equivalent, however rural councils are significantly more likely to be using network-based softwares (57.9%) and are significantly less likely to be using/transitioning to cloud-based platforms (36.8%) than are urban councils (30.0% and 60.0% respectively).

The digital systems and policies of most councils (72.4%) support working from home. When staff are unable to work from home, this is due purely to the insufficient mobility of council's digital systems, not policies, with no variation between rural and urban councils.

¹ Council rurality was determined using the [Australian Classification of Local Governments](#).

Rural councils maintain a significantly larger number of paper or part paper-based filing systems (57.9%) than urban councils (20.0%). Most urban councils (70.0%) and roughly a third of rural councils report using systems that are electronic or paperless.

The percentage of councils accepting hardcopy planning applications only (13.8%) is significantly less than the percentage of councils who accept electronic (41.4%) or a combination of electronic and hardcopy applications (34.5%). All four councils accepting hardcopy applications only were rural.

Almost one in four councils, particularly rural councils, do not use electronic document signing or verification. Where electronic document signing and verification is used, it is used for limited circumstances (62.1%). Usage wherever possible is less common (6.9%).

Around one in four councils utilise passive data collection. Of these councils, 20.4% utilise passive data collection devices and systems within their council offices and operations, whilst only 6.8% utilise these devices and systems across the broader municipality.

Most councils (70.0%) do not electronically monitor council fleet vehicles. Councils who do are almost twice as likely to monitor vehicle location and speed (19.0%) than to monitor vehicle location alone (11%).

Novel Uses and Opportunities

One third of council respondents reported currently using, or exploring the use of, new and emerging technologies. Drones (21.2%), traffic lights (13.5%), and traffic monitoring (5.8%) are among the most common new and emerging technologies being explored.

Almost 50% of councils, particularly urban councils, have a digital strategy or plan dealing with digital innovation, transformation, and/or disruption. Of these councils, 37.9% have digital strategies that are still in draft form or that are not far progressed. Only two (urban) councils have strategies that are complete or nearly complete.

The ten councils that do not have a digital strategy or plan (currently or in the making) are entirely rural. All but one of the councils with (or working on) a digital strategy have a budget for implementing the strategy.

Community Engagement

Facebook (90.4%), Twitter (28.8%), and Instagram (25.0%) are the most common social media platforms used by councils. Our results indicate that almost 50% of councils, particularly urban councils, use a specifically-qualified social media professional.

Most councils (65.4%) do not provide training for community members on digital platforms, technologies, or opportunities. While training for staff is more common (73.1%), respondent comments suggest that it is infrequent or as required.

Only 24% of councils provide convenient access (i.e. can search online for property planning permits) to planning decisions.

Security

Around 50% of councils have been the subject of a cyber-attack (e.g. firewall attack, email viruses, and ransomware) – only 10% of the cyber-attacks reported were successful.

One in five councils, particularly rural councils, feel that they are highly vulnerable or are not very confident of withstanding a cyber-attack. This trend (whereby urban councils are consistently more confident) continues despite many councils feeling only reasonably (37.9%) to very confident (31.0%) in the robustness of their systems and training. Comments indicate that confidence does, however, increase upon transitioning to cloud-based systems.

Conclusions

There have been rapid advances in digital technologies over the last decade. Some councils may leverage these advances in order to service their communities in a smarter and more efficient manner, whilst other councils may fall behind. In most cases this is related to councils' resources.

The purpose of this survey was threefold – to determine where councils are at now, what projects are underway/planned, as well as what the critical barriers to digital transition are.

The results revealed that councils are relatively digitally proficient, and that they are generally on par with the community in adopting new technologies. For rural councils, a number of barriers appear to exist, with this group of councils lagging behind their urban counterparts in a variety of areas (e.g., management platforms, filing systems, digital strategies).

A road map for how LGAT can support digital transformation within councils will be developed over the next few months in consultation with the Digital Advisory Group and council staff. The final road map need only be a simplified outline of the major steps to facilitating councils' digital transformation in order to pave the way to smarter councils and communities.

Mentoring – Peer Advisors Program



Is this your first time on council?

There is a lot to learn. While LGAT will be delivering training and resources, and your fellow councillors and council staff will be on hand to guide and advise you, sometimes it can be useful to have an independent and expert advisor on hand.

This is why LGAT has established a Regional Peer Advisor program.

Program Information

Each region has a dedicated Mayor or former Mayor to provide confidential advice to new Mayors and councillors on the political and relationship aspects of the role. (LGAT and the Local Government Division of State Government will continue to provide technical advice on the Act and related legislation).

When - This program will run from November 2018 to May 2019 (at latest).

The three Advisors are:

- North West Councils – Christina Holmdahl: (e: cholmdahl.wtc@bigpond.com & p: 0417 804 210)
- Northern Councils – Craig Perkins: (e: craig.perkins@rdatasmania.org.au & p: 0409 395 195)
- Southern Councils – Roseanne Heyward: (e: roseanne0409@yahoo.com & p: 0448 503 333)

Our Advisors are highly experienced when it comes to Local Government as well as having undertaken training in mentoring.

Advisors will be making contact with councils in their allocated region from November but they will also take individual calls or emails from that time.

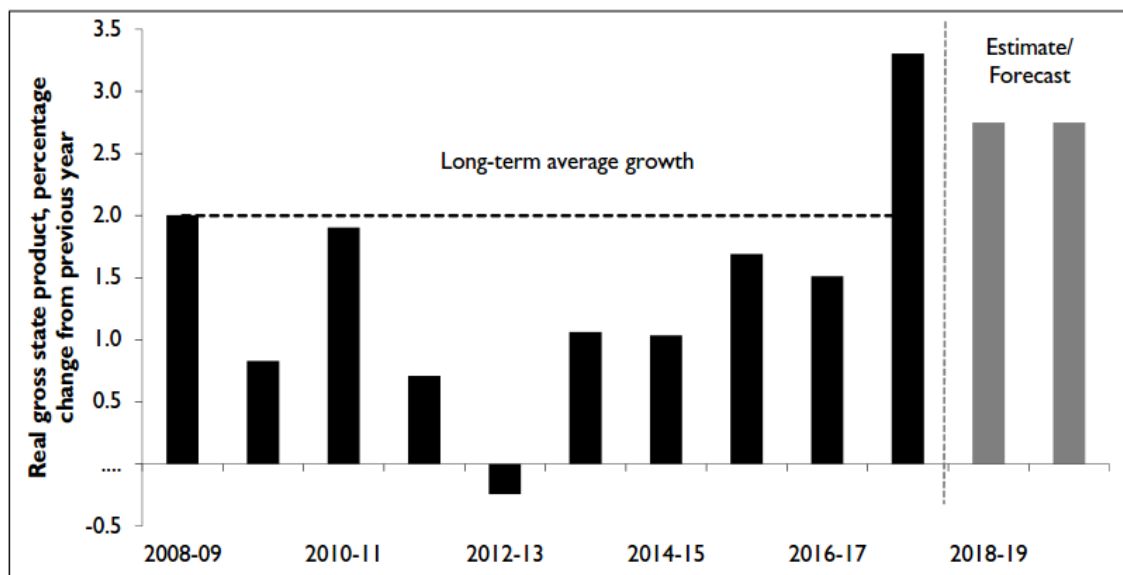
For more information, or if you need some other form of support or advice, please contact LGAT on p: 6233 5966 or e: reception@lgat.tas.gov.au

State Budget Fact Sheet

General overview and economic outlook

According to the 2019-20 Budget Papers, the Tasmanian economy continued to grow in 2018-19 at 2.75%, which is above the projected 2.25% and long-term trend of 2%. This compares with an Australian Treasury national forecast of 2.75% GDP growth in 2019-20 and IMF projection of 3.6% global growth. The relatively stronger Tasmanian economy has resulted in favourable labour market conditions and thus positive net interstate migration into Tasmania from other states.

Chart 2.1: Gross State Product, Tasmania



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, ABS Cat No 5220.0; Treasury forecasts.

Although the budget papers report that Tasmanian business conditions and confidence remain strong with a strong pipeline of major projects planned in the State, unemployment has increased to 6.5% in March 2019.

The budget papers claim modest Net Operating Balance surpluses over the Budget and Forward Estimate periods¹, but is projected to return to a 'manageable' Net Debt position over the forward estimates period².

Key Facts

For the 2019-20 financial year:

- Total revenue: \$6.4 billion
- Total expenses: \$6.35 billion
- GST revenue: \$2.48 billion
- Total Infrastructure spending: \$723.3 million (a record \$2.8 billion forecast including the Forward Estimates period)
- Total Health spending: \$152.9 million
- Total Education spending: \$51 million

Key Expenditure Initiatives/Highlights

Infrastructure Investment

Over the 2019-20 Budget and Forward Estimates period to 2023, the Government will invest a record \$2.8 billion in community infrastructure projects.

Major infrastructure projects for the budgeted year include:

- Roads and bridges (\$323.5 million).
- Hospitals and health (\$152.9 million).
- Human services and housing (\$80.6 million).
- Schools, education, and skills (\$60.8 million).
- Law and order (\$34.5 million).
- Tourism, recreation, and culture (\$48.6 million).
- ICT to support service delivery (\$15.3 million).
- Other infrastructure (\$7.1 million).

¹ Budget and Forward Estimates Period includes the Budget period 2019-20 financial year, plus the Forward Estimates period of 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 financial years.

² The Net Operating Balance and results are also impacted by introduction of new Australian Accounting Standards that apply from 1 July 2019.

Infrastructure Projects of Interest to Local Government

The following infrastructure projects of the 2019-20 financial year will be of interest to councils:

- Roads Program Expenditure: \$323.5 million, major projects including:
 - Infrastructure Maintenance (\$72.1 million)
 - Midland Highway (\$52.7 million)
 - State Road Upgrades – Southern Region (\$25.2 million)
 - Urban Congestion Fund (\$24.2 million)
 - Roads Package to Support Tasmania’s Business Economy (\$20.7 million)
 - Road Safety and Traffic Management (\$19.3 million)
 - Roads of Strategic Importance (\$15.2 million)
 - Hobart Airport Interchange (\$9.5 million)
 - New Bridgewater Bridge (\$8 million)
 - State Road Upgrades – Northern Region (\$7.2 million)
- Human Services/Housing Expenditure: \$80.6 million, major projects including:
 - Affordable Housing Strategy Stage II (\$40.5 million)
 - Housing Program (\$35.4 million)
 - Ashley Youth Detention Centre Redevelopment (\$3.6 million)
- Hospitals and Health Expenditure: \$152.9 million, major projects including:
 - Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment Projects (\$86.5 million);
 - Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment (\$11.5 million);
 - Mersey Community Hospital Capital Upgrades (\$10 million);
 - Statewide - Rural Hospital and Ambulance Station Upgrade Fund (\$8.1 million); and
 - 27 New Mental Health Beds in Southern Tasmania (\$6.5 million)
- Law and Order Expenditure: \$34.5 million, major projects including:
 - New Southern Remand Centre (\$17 million);
 - New Norfolk Police Station (\$3.5 million);
 - Sorell Emergency Services Hub (\$3.5 million); and
 - Longford Police Station (\$2.7 million).
- Tourism, Recreation, and Culture Expenditure: \$48.6 million, major projects including:
 - Cradle Mountain Visitor Experience (\$13.2 million);
 - Cradle Mountain Experience (\$10.2 million);
 - Community Recovery Fund - Parks Infrastructure (\$8.3 million);
 - Improved Statewide Visitor Infrastructure (\$5 million);
 - Three Capes Track - Stage 3 (\$3.2 million); and

- Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens New Visitor Centre (\$2.6 million).

Over the 2019-20 Budget and Forward Estimate period, the Government will provide \$792 million to government businesses and TasWater to support major long-term infrastructure projects (e.g. Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system improvements, Macquarie Point and the Freycinet Peninsula wastewater system).

Other items of Interest to Local Government

Planning - additional funding of \$500 000 per annum has been provided to assist with the achievement of Government planning reforms and planning priorities.

Other expenditure for the budgeted year:

- \$1.6 million to support the ongoing recovery of communities impacted by the bushfires in January and February 2019.
- \$650,000 to deliver the Flood Mapping Project
- \$450,000 to finalise the Local Government Legislation Review
- \$1.2 million for the Southern Tasmania – Community Recovery Fund.

Links:

- 2019-20 Tasmanian Budget Documents:
<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/2019-20-tasmanian-budget/2019-20-tasmanian-budget-word-documents>
- Factsheet on Taxation Measures relevant to Housing:
<https://www.sro.tas.gov.au/>

Policy Update – Cat Management

The Minister for Primary Industries, Jeremy Rockliff launched the four- year Tasmanian Cat Management Plan (TCMP) in June 2017. Based on feedback from councils, throughout the development of the TCMP, LGAT has maintained that while Local Government supports the initiative to develop a state-wide approach to cat management, the effective management and control of cats is beyond the capacity of most councils in Tasmania. To this end, LGAT continues to work with the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to ensure that Local Government can participate appropriately in the delivery of the TCMP.

DPIPWE have confirmed that the amendments to the Act will improve regulating the management of cats and include compulsory desexing and microchipping but that penalties for 'cats at large' will not be considered. There will also be amendments to improve general effectiveness of the legislation. The current Act allows councils to create by-laws to restrict 'cats at large'. The process being undertaken by Kingborough Council to develop by-laws for cat management on Bruny Island will provide a useful case study for Tasmanian councils wanting to create cat restricted areas to protect areas with high conservation value. Latrobe Council already has a by-law in place for cat management. Feedback from councils suggest there is no interest in further regulation with a preferred focus on engagement.

LGAT has been actively supporting the implementation of the TCMP through the Cat Management Advisory Committee. The committee oversees a consistent approach by the dedicated Coordinators to:

- Raise general community awareness;
- Develop knowledge and skills about cat management; and
- Assist in resolving issues such as the location and adequacy of cat management facilities.

The State Government have funded Cat Management Coordinators in each region to work with councils and communities. As part of this project, regional working groups have been established in which local government is a participant.

A number of Councils, eg. Break O'Day, Sorell and Kingborough have established prohibited areas under the Cat Management Act, for land they manage. These focus on sensitive areas where native fauna may be being impacted, council land (St Mary's/Fingal) where cats may be a public nuisance (waste station, recreational areas etc.).



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

The

**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH SESSION
OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Will be held on
25 July 2018**

**Commencing
11.00am**

**Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

CONFERENCE PROGRAM	4
1 MINUTES OF 105 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *	5
2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT	6
3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2017 *	10
4 LGAT BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018/2019 *	11
5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS	13
6 RULES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA	14
7 LGAT/LG PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE	17
8 ANNUAL PLAN *	19
9 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *	20
10 CLOSURE	21

* Denotes Attachment

Electronic Voting Results have been attached at the end of this document.

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

***The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 25 July, 2018***

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT
***One Hundred and Sixth Annual General Meeting
of the Association
will be held at
Wrest Point
Hobart***

***Commencing at
11.00am
on
Wednesday 25 July, 2018***

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
***Association's General Meeting
will be held at
Wrest Point
Hobart
commencing immediately following
the conclusion of the
AGM
on Wednesday 25 July, 2018***

***To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils***

***Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER***

2018 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2018

11.00am	AGM	
	General Meeting	Commences immediately following the conclusion of AGM
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	Meetings continue	
5.00 6.00pm	Welcome Reception	With thanks to Page Seager

THURSDAY 26 JULY 2018

8.00am	Conference Registration	
8.45am	Welcome and Opening	
9.00am	Scott Rankin	
9.40am	Sally Curtain	
10.20am	Corporate Wellness - Dr Matt Constable	
10.35am	Morning Tea	With thanks to Dial Before You Dig
11.10am	Brook Dixon	
11.40	Mayor David O'Loughlin – ALGA President	
12.10	Speed Networking	
12.30pm	Lunch	With thanks to Dial Before You Dig
1.30pm	Workshop Program	
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
3.30pm	Craig Reucassel	
4.30 – 5.30pm	Happy Hour	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
7.15pm	MAV Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY 27 JULY 2018

8.30am	The Rewind Walking Tour – Tasmanian Heritage Council	
9.00am	Workshop Program	
10.30am	Morning Tea	With thanks to Jardine Lloyd Thompson
11.15am	2018 Local Government Awards for Excellence	
11.55am	Genevieve Lilley	
12.50pm	Conference wrap up	
1.00pm	Lunch	With thanks to Jardine Lloyd Thompson

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, will welcome Members, declare the Annual General Meeting open at 11.00am.

Apologies were accepted from -

Mr Ron Sanderson	Brighton Council
Mr Nick Heath	City of Hobart
Mayor Albert van Zetten	Launceston City Council
Mr Michael Stretton	Launceston City Council
Mr Andrew Paul	Clarence City Council
Mr Paul West	Devonport City Council
Mr Bill Boehm	Flinders Island Council
Ms Justine Brooks-Bedelph	George Town Council
Mayor Michael Kent	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Mr David Metcalf	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Mr Des Jennings	Northern Midlands Council
Mayor Carol Cox	Flinders Island
Lord Mayor Ron Christie	City of Hobart
Mayor Alwyn Boyd	Burnie City Council

1 MINUTES OF 105TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Clarence City Council/Central Coast Council

That the Minutes of the 105th Annual General Meeting, held 26 July, 2017 be confirmed.

Carried

The Minutes of the 105th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 26 July, 2017 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Circular Head Council/West Tamar Council

That the President's report be received.

Carried

I am pleased to be able to present my Annual Report on the activities and achievements of LGAT over the last twelve months.

It has again been a very busy year and I have been grateful for the support of the General Management Committee and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge them:

- Vice President Mayor Daryl Quilliam from Circular Head Council;
- The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey and since March Alderman Ron Christie;
- Mayor Tony Bisdee, Southern Midlands Council;
- Mayor Christina Holmdahl, West Tamar Council;
- Mayor Steve Martin, Devonport City Council and since March, Mayor Jan Bonde from Central Coast Council;
- Mayor Mick Tucker, Break O Day Council, and
- Alderman Heather Chong from Clarence.

This time last year we were very much in the thick of our campaign against the State Government's takeover of TasWater and so, it is with great pleasure and some relief that I note the new and positive relationship with the State Government on this issue since the March State elections.

Over the next few months councils will be provided detailed advice on how it is proposed the MOU with the State Government can be implemented and will be asked to provide feedback on legislation and vote as owners on changes to the constitution.

I can only say that as your President, along with your dedicated and hardworking Chief Owner Representative Mayor David Downie and the Chair and CEO of TasWater, Miles Hampton and Mike Brewster respectively, I truly believe the changes outlined in the MOU represent a real win. A win for councils, a win for Government and ultimately a win for our communities.

Not only will there continue to be \$20 million a year available for councils to spend on local services and infrastructure but we will also continue to see significant improvements in water quality and sewerage treatment right across Tasmania.

While LGAT has invested considerable effort and resources on TasWater advocacy, this does not mean other important issues have gone untreated.

Under the highly capable leadership of the CEO Katrena Stephenson and LGAT's Policy Director, Dion Lester, the policy team have prosecuted strong agendas around issues like waste management, planning, housing affordability, heavy vehicles, electricity pricing, emergency management and much more.

I could go on for quite some time, but in the interests of our full meeting agenda, I decided on a few highlights.

Take Land Use Planning, LGAT's advocacy has resulted in a change in reform focus, with Major Projects legislation shelved and significant changes made to the recent Housing Supply Bill. \$100,000 per region was secured to facilitate the development of the Local Provision Schedules and facilitate the statewide priority vegetation mapping. We continue to advocate for a sensible approach to short stay visitor accommodation and joined with other peaks to call for data to support sensible policy conversations.

When it comes to the changing waste management environment, we continue to press the Government for action and about a week ago, co-facilitated in an industry roundtable convened by Environment Minister. In the South, Dion Lester led regional negotiations for recycling contracts, and with the assistance of participating councils, secured a strong outcome despite the unstable environment. And we are not waiting for State Government to lead a more strategic response to waste issues. In the General Meeting, following this AGM, you will consider a proposal for a sector led feasibility study into a state-wide approach to waste.

Significant activity has occurred in the Emergency Management policy area this year. Of note the State Government has agreed to a contribution model of 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 as part of the flood studies grant program to be run through the Tasmanian Flood project. LGAT undertook consultation and made submissions in relation the *Local Government Relief and Recovery Policy, Emergency Management Bill, Evacuation Framework and State Special Plan on Recovery*. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has now agreed to engage with Crown land to address the current gap in roles and responsibilities around the clean-up of crown land post emergencies and just last month, LGAT secured funding to update the Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines to better support councils in understanding the plethora of changes to the arrangements in recent years.

Through Georgia Palmer's hard work, LGAT continues to actively engage in the Southern Lights LED Project with councils and TasNetworks. It is fair to say that this project has not been as smooth as the northern lights project but issues are being worked through and project roll out is likely to begin in the coming months. LGAT has also engaged in a partnership with the Municipal Association of Victoria to tender for energy efficient street lighting and installation.

Further, LGAT has also been active in its advocacy role around TasNetworks network and distribution pricing reset, particularly in relation to street lighting. The work and liaison with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and the Consumer Advocacy Panel has resulted in some reduction in pricing from TasNetworks. It is hoped that the Australian Energy Regulator will recommend a further review of the pricing when it hands down its draft determination in September.

Thanks to Deborah Leisser, LGAT continues to provide a wide range of procurement offerings. The amount of contract and panel arrangements and activity since 2017/18 have grown considerably with new opportunities around fuel, mobile garbage bins, telecommunications and corporate wardrobe. Councils have spent around \$6.5 million on LGAT/National Procurement Network contracts or panels over 12 months and we estimate savings to the sector of \$1.08 million. When electricity savings from the whole of sector approach to street lighting are also considered, the sectoral savings are around \$1.9m.

When LGAT/NPN direct and indirect estimated savings are added to estimated electricity savings negotiated through LGAT, fifteen councils make enough savings in a 12 month period to cover their LGAT subscriptions for a 12 month period.

In matters directly targeted at the sector, LGAT led a review of the Code of Conduct (there is a report on that in the General Meeting Agenda), advocated strongly in relation to the review of Councillor Allowances and provided feedback on a range of regulatory issues, including most recently, electoral advertising.

Michael Edrich has worked with a number of councils and key State Government stakeholders to develop a model Credit Card policy for councils, which meets the recommendations of the Auditor General as well as working practically for councils.

And a range of new policies and procedures were added to the IR Toolkit.

This year we have continued to build strong relationships, with politicians, senior officers and other stakeholders. This led to a joint principles document, candidate forums and a leader's forum for the State election; participation at the Premier's Housing Summit and Kelly Madden's roll out of our Health and Wellbeing Project to name but a few examples. We also entered into two new MOUs thanks to the initial ground work undertaken by Penny Finlay, one with the EPA and one with the Local Government Youth Conference.

And you will have seen we continue to push opportunities to promote the good work of Local Government, with our new look Annual Report, regular opinion pieces and Local Government focused publications. Our new communications and events team, Kate Hiscock and Miriam Rule, continue to incrementally modernize our approach and you will see a number of examples of this over the conference period.

Collectively the Association has continued efforts to deliver a varied program of professional development opportunities for elected members and staff including our annual conference, elected member weekend, regional breakfasts and mayors' workshops, preventative health, strata titles, and priority vegetation forums and more. With a focus on Local Government elections, LGAT has delivered several regional and remote sessions for prospective candidates and thanks to Scott Blacklow loaded the website with new tools and information and used our TVC as a call to action "Stand for Council".

The GMC are currently reviewing priorities for the next twelve months but some priorities are already clear, Federal Elections, induction and support for new councillors, the review of the Local Government Act and securing a strategic approach to waste management for a start. Certainly, plenty to keep the small LGAT team busy.

I would like to conclude with some thankyou's.

Firstly, I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work and strong outcomes delivered by every single staff member at LGAT. They really do work tirelessly for our Sector. I have mentioned a number of staff during this address but I would be remiss if I did not thank in particular, the engine room of LGAT, Christine Agostinelli, Michelle Freeman and Melissa Alomes.

I also want to thank Vice President Daryl Quilliam and the other members of your GMC. Both individually and collectively they have been strong and sensible voices during a tumultuous year and I have very much valued their advice.

Finally, to you as members and stakeholders, thank you for your passion and commitment to the cause of Local Government in Tasmania. For those of you running again, I wish you the very best for the upcoming elections and for those of you who have decided to step back, thank you for collective contribution to a strong Local Government sector.

Central Highlands Council/Tasman Council

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 be received and adopted.

Carried

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, an abridged version of which are included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

A full version is available from the Association's offices on request.

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2017 to 22 June 2018 is also included at **Attachment to Item 3** to provide members with an indication of the current financial position of the Association.

At the time of preparation of this report one week remained to the end of the financial year with year-end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be a surplus (approx. \$60,000) with items below being of note –

- With the decision to revamp the Community Satisfaction Survey, the survey will not be undertaken until the 2018/19 financial year, resulting in an underspend of \$30,000 this financial year.
- Additional staffing were incorporated into the budget for 2017/18 to accommodate changes to the communications and events role and general staff changes. Consequently, a full year was not been worked in all positions. This resulted in a reduction in overall wages and superannuation costs.
- We were able to secure some excellent speakers for the July 2017 Annual Conference at a low-cost which, combined with some other cost cutting initiatives, resulted in less expense overall to hold the event.

Southern Midlands Council/Burnie City Council

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

Carried

Subscriptions

This year we have transitioned to the new subscription formula agreed at the 2017 AGM. That formula comprises a flat fee of 40 per cent and population and revenue fees of 30 per cent each, 8 revenue categories and 8 population categories and a 10 per cent collar and cap.

In this first year, many councils trigger either the collar or cap provisions but, testing on outer years has demonstrated that the formula stabilises and that the number of councils triggering the 10% cap will reduce substantially.

Additionally, to smooth the first year when so many councils triggered caps and collars, a small adjustment against total subs has been made to ensure alignment between the formula and budget.

However, mindful of the impacts of the formula change, LGAT has applied an overall subscription increase (including the survey/advertising components) of 2.42%¹.

Budget

There are no strongly significant areas of variation to the budget this year but some moderate variations as follows:

- Staff outputs and productivity continue to be high and therefore in line with most council EBAs a 2% pay increase has been budgeted for across all second year plus staff. Staff in their first year receive a post probation period increment as per their contracts.
- There has been a change in the way conference registrations and trade and general sponsorship have been reflected in the budget to better reflect our new approach to sponsorship but overall only a modest increase in this income stream (\$10,000) is projected given the competitive conference and sponsorship environment.
- We have continued to focus on generating our own income and while it remains a relatively small component as compared to subscriptions, it is increasing. A further small but steady increase in income is predicted in relation to our events and commissions.

¹ In line

with Council Cost Index.

- Owing to a re-examination of the format of the community satisfaction survey, it was not conducted during the 2017/18 financial year but will be conducted during the 2018 calendar year. It should be noted that LGAT subscriptions allow for a portion of the costs of the four yearly survey to be captured each year so there is not a neat offset between income and expenditure in a single year. This is further exacerbated as we are still in the transition period between a two-yearly survey and a four-yearly survey. The collection of a portion of funds each year reduces the impact for councils in a survey year.
- The allocation to TV advertising has been reduced this year based on the planned program of activity and the use of some unspent advertising funds. This has helped keep the overall subscription increase in line with the Council Cost Index.
- Interest rates remain low and projected interest earnings reflect that this is unlikely to change in this financial year.
- LGAT is shifting providers for telecommunications (mobile and data) and we anticipate significant savings over time, with a smaller offset this first year because of equipment transition costs.
- There is no significant building maintenance work scheduled for this year.
- A new budget line item has been introduced for HR/IR which relates to a new contracted support service to LGAT on these matters. This will be partially offset by a reduction in consultancy costs (related to legal fees).
- Budget for a short-term mentoring project has been established to support the post-election environment.

A copy of the Budget and Subscriptions for the 2018/2019 Financial Year are at **Attachment to Item 4.**

Central Coast Council/Huon Valley Council

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

Carried

The Rules of the Association provide that the Annual General Meeting will grant an annual allowance to the President and Vice President.

In the past an independent review of allowances was undertaken in the same financial year as the review of allowances for Local Government Elected Members, with the last review undertaken in 2009. The result of that review was to retain the basis of the present allowances unchanged for the two positions with movements to be in conjunction with the wages price index. This brought the escalation factor for allowances in line with Elected Member allowances across councils.

The escalation factor used for elected member allowances remains the wages price index and it is deemed appropriate that the President and Vice President Honorariums continue to escalate on the same basis.

A review of Elected Member allowances has been undertaken in the 2017/18 Financial Year but is not yet finalised. If, as anticipated, the review determines that the escalation of Elected Member Allowances will not alter, the Honorariums will not require review.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for 2017/18 were:

- President allowance \$47,304 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$11,826 per annum.

GMC sitting fees will also be adjusted by the wages price index.

Circular Head Council/Waratah Wynyard Council

That Members agree to amend the Rules to reflect electronic voting practices as outlined in Option One.

Carried

Background

LGAT introduced electronic voting for the AGM and General Meeting in July 2017.

At the November 2017 Meeting Members agreed to the practice of publishing the vote record on decision items by the Council in the General Meeting and AGM Minutes. Members also agreed that the electronic vote would be used for all items (with cards only to be used in the case of technology failure).

It is timely then to amend LGAT's rules to reflect this practice, the changes proposed are highlighted in red below.

Option 1

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 to **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 Representative	Colour placard to be raised by the Voting Representative 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 (d), 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 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) The electronic record of votes cast for decision items will be provided with the Minutes of the Meeting.

A critical point to understand is that when voting cards were used, it was not possible to know who abstained from voting. On that basis LGAT has simply carried a motion based on a majority of votes. The proposed amendments would continue to work on that basis. That is, to abstain is not considered a vote in the negative. If Members determined that to abstain is considered a vote in the negative, then the following Rule Amendments would apply.

Option 2

16. VOTING AT MEETINGS

- (g) 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 to 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 Representative	Colour placard to be raised by the Voting Representative 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

- (h) Electronic voting buttons will be the first choice for voting on all decisions, with placards only to be used if the technology fails.
- (i) Voting buttons allow councils to vote for or against a motion or formally abstain from voting. An abstain is to be taken as a negative vote.
- (j) 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.
- (k) Except as provided in sub-rule (d), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast, with an abstain to be counted in the negative. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
- (l)
 - (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 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.
- (h) The electronic record of votes cast for decision items will be provided with the Minutes of the Meeting.

Members should note that as the voting software is not currently set up to count 'abstains' as a negative vote, this rule amendment would not apply until the December General Meeting.

LGAT Policy

Does not apply.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

King Island Council/Clarence City Council

That Members note the intent to undertake scoping work with LG Professionals Tasmanian with respect to combining our conferences in future.

That Members further note, that should conferences combine, it may be prudent to shift the AGM and General Meeting to a separate date.

Carried

Background

During the organization of the LGAT Annual Conference, we have experienced the withdrawal of some of our regular sponsors and trade exhibitors, demonstrating a continued tightening of the market. Some of the withdrawing sponsors are citing a move to sponsoring Local Government Professionals Tasmania (LG Professionals Tas) which is surprising given that over the last two years, the numbers attending the LG Professionals Tas Conference has dropped dramatically. Small attendance numbers might make both sponsorship and trade significantly more difficult for LG Professionals Tas to attract in future.

Both LGAT and LG Professionals Tas are providing increased networking and professional development opportunities and in essence may be cannibalizing our big events with more tailored events. Combined with greater workloads/fewer resources in councils, more alignment with technical/professional roles and training opportunities related to those (eg PIA, IPWEA, EHA), tighter council budgets restricting paid professional development opportunities, low interest rates, tighter market conditions, more focused spend by sponsors, not to mention competition between our two organisations, the pressure on our key revenue raising events will continue.

In 2017, while LGAT and LG Professionals Tas shared a resource, LGAT undertook and funded, a sponsorship workshop with an independent consultant which highlighted the potential benefits of a joint approach to sponsorship and conference but the timing was not quite right to pursue from either a LGAT or LG Professionals Tas perspective. However, both the GMC and the LG Professionals Tas Board have agreed that if we continue to delay these discussions there is a significant risk to the viability of both events.

Both organisations have agreed to work together to develop a proposed model for a joint 2019 conference as well as a proposed model for a joint sponsorship prospectus, that is in tune with the principles of our MOU.

Before a decision can be made on whether to combine events, both organisations require some independent advice, particularly as relates to assessing historical income generation and resourcing and determining a fair methodology for distributing income and an understanding of who/how sponsorship and conference would be managed ongoing. There are implications for both organisations financially and in terms of human resource that would need to be considered. This preliminary investigative and modelling work will be funded by both organisations equally. A consultant has been engaged and a workshop will be held with representatives of both organisations in late September as part of that process.

At the November 2017 General Meeting, the CEO informally canvassed views about separating the AGM from the LGAT Annual Conference. The rationale was two-fold, it could reduce the cost of attendance of the AGM significantly and it could free up the conference to include other streams and partners as outlined above. Members indicated the viability of this should be explored. As it currently stands, there is a risk to the conference viability generally in separating the AGM and General Meeting because of the additional resourcing costs internally to LGAT (related to two separate events), the potential loss of registered participants and the subsequent loss in trade and sponsorship. Consideration of the timing of the AGM will be part of LGAT's overall considerations when modelling a partnership approach to the conference.

Budget Implications

Up to \$5000 for the initial scoping study.

Current Policy

Focus Area: Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Priority Area 9: Host an excellent Annual Conference, AGM & General Meetings

There is nothing in the rules which prevents separation of the AGM and General Meeting from the Annual Conference.

Huon Valley Council/City of Launceston

That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background Comment:

LGAT has made significant progress on the strategic priorities identified in the Strategic Plan for 2017-18, thanks to a small but high functioning team. There were 10 priorities:

1. Influence the State Government agenda for TasWater.
2. Shape the Code of Conduct Review.
3. Drive the planning reform agenda.
4. Build upon the resources available for Elected Members and staff.
5. Prepare communities and Councils for Local Government Elections in 2018.
6. Position the Local Government agenda in the State Government election.
7. Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader community.
8. Ensure LGAT systems and IT are fit for purpose.
9. Host an excellent Annual Conference, AGM and General Meetings.
10. Continue to expand the Procurement Program.

In particular, it should be noted that work was successfully completed in relation to TasWater advocacy, the Code of Conduct review, preparing for Local Government elections and State Government election advocacy.

In addition, internally LGAT completed significant IT upgrades and transitioned to a new staffing structure.

The GMC will soon agree the key strategic priorities for the year ahead and a new annual plan will be developed around those.

It is anticipated that training of new councillors, Federal elections, future Local Government reform and Waste Management will feature as new priorities but that planning, building resources and training and sector promotion will remain as priorities.

A report against the progress of the LGAT Annual Plan and a copy of the LGAT Strategic Plan are at **Attachment to Item 8.**

Central Coast Council/Central Highlands Council

- (a) That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.**
- (b) That Conference acknowledges the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.**

Carried

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Representatives on Bodies are requested to provide a report for Conference and are also requested to provide regular reports back to the Association during the year.

- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**
Clr David Moser
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Ms Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- **Family Violence Consultative Committee**
Clr Mary Knowles OAM, Northern Midlands Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mrs Jill Taylor
- **Local Government Board**
Mr Greg Preece
- **State Fire Commission**
Clr Hannah Rubenach, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Ms Melanie Kelly, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Grant Atkins and Mr Rodney Fraser
- **State Marine Pollution Committee**
Mr Andrew Brown, Clarence City Council
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Ms Danielle Gray, Kingborough Council; Ald Robin McKendrick, City of Launceston
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Clr Dick Adams, Northern Midlands Council; Ald James Walker, Clarence City Council; Ms Amanda Davison, Waratah Wynyard Council
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Mr Michael Stretton, Launceston City Council
- **Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Committee**
Acting Mayor Annette Rockliff, Devonport City Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 9.**

10 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 12.00pm.

Annual General Meeting

25 July 2018

Item 1

Total Responses: 57

1 Confirmation of Minutes

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL / CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July, 2017, as circulated, be confirmed.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL / CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July, 2017, as circulated, be confirmed.

1. For ☒ 57
2. Against ☐
3. No Vote ☐



1. For ☒ 57
2. Against ☐
3. No Vote ☐



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1

Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 2

Total Responses: 56

2 President's Report

CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL / WEST TAMAR COUNCIL

That the President's report be received.

1. For 54
 2. Against 0
 3. No Vote 2



2 President's Report

CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL / WEST TAMAR COUNCIL

That the President's report be received.

1. For 54
 2. Against 0
 3. No Vote 2



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	No Vote	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1

Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	[No Response]	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 3

Total Responses: 57

3 Financial Statements to 30 June 2017

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL / TASMAN COUNCIL

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 be received and adopted.

1. For 57
 2. Against
 3. No Vote



3 Financial Statements to 30 June 2017

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL / TASMAN COUNCIL

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 be received and adopted.

1. For 57
 2. Against
 3. No Vote



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2

Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 4

Total Responses: 57

4 LGAT Budget and Subscriptions 2018/2019

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL / BURNIE CITY COUNCIL

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

1. For ☒ 57
2. Against ☐
3. No Vote ☐



4 LGAT Budget and Subscriptions 2018/2019

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL / BURNIE CITY COUNCIL

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

1. For ☒ 57
2. Against ☐
3. No Vote ☐



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 5

Total Responses: 57

5 Presidents and Vice President Honorariums

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL / HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

That the President and Vice President allowances for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

1. For 55
 2. Against 2
 3. No Vote 0



5 Presidents and Vice President Honorariums

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL / HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

That the President and Vice President allowances for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

1. For 55
 2. Against 2
 3. No Vote 0

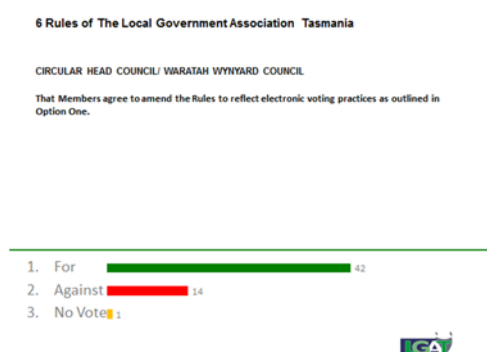


Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4

Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	Against	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 6

Total Responses: 57

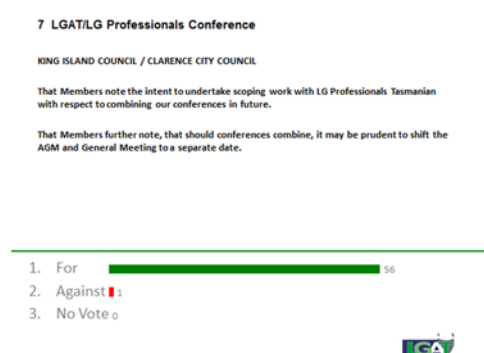
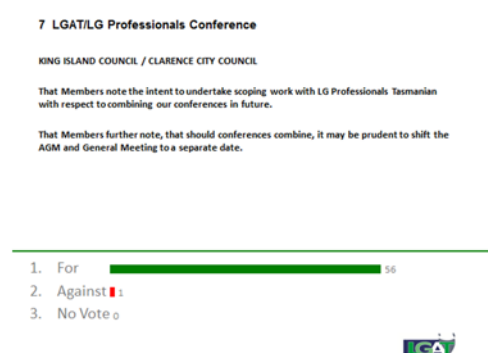


Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	Against	1
Brighton Council 2	Against	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	Against	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	Against	2

Devonport City Council 9	Against	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	Against	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	Against	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	No Vote	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 7

Total Responses: 57



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	Against	1

Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 8

Total Responses: 53

8 LGAT Annual Plan

HUON VALLEY COUNCIL / CITY OF LAUNCESTON

That Members note the following report.

1. For ☒ 53
2. Against ☐
3. No Vote ☐



8 LGAT Annual Plan

HUON VALLEY COUNCIL / CITY OF LAUNCESTON

That Members note the following report.

1. For ☒ 53
2. Against ☐
3. No Vote ☐

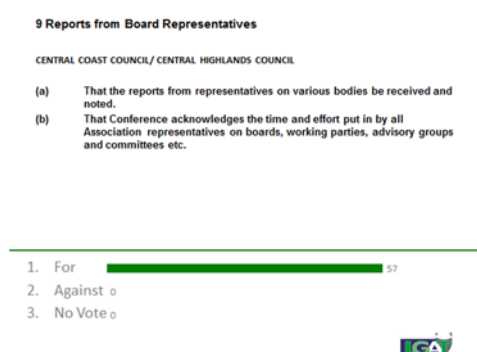
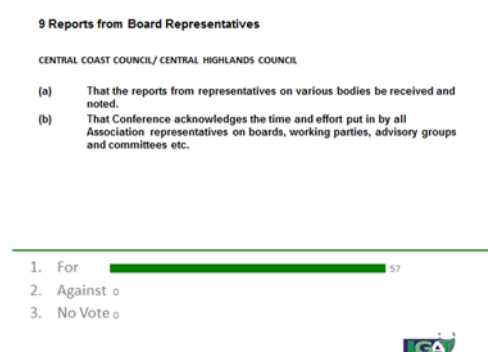


Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	[No Response]	4
Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2

Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

Item 9

Total Responses: 57



Participant	Response	Weight
Break O'Day Council 1	For	1
Brighton Council 2	For	2
Burnie City Council 3	For	2
Central Coast Council 4	For	3
Central Highlands Council 5	For	1
Circular Head Council 6	For	1
Clarence City Council 7	For	4
Derwent Valley Council 8	For	2
Devonport City Council 9	For	3
Dorset Council 10	For	1
Flinders Council 11	[No Response]	1
George Town Council 12	For	1
Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council 13	For	1
Glenorchy City Council 14	For	4
Hobart City Council 15	For	4

Huon Valley Council 16	For	2
Kentish Council 17	For	1
Kingborough Council 18	For	3
King Island Council 19	For	1
Latrobe Council 20	For	2
Launceston City Council 21	For	4
Meander Valley Council 22	For	2
Northern Midlands Council 23	For	2
Sorell Council 24	For	2
Southern Midlands Council 25	For	1
Tasman Council 26	For	1
Waratah - Wynyard Council 27	For	2
West Coast Council 28	For	1
West Tamar Council 29	For	3

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2018

	Note	Assist 2018 \$	General 2018 \$	Assist 2017 \$	General 2017 \$
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	775,593	747,733	781,775	1,055,342
Trade and other receivables	4	-	17,043	-	55,198
Financial assets	5	271,210	1,690,028	199,957	1,340,000
Other assets	6	4,908	102,399	2,203	73,356
Total current assets		1,051,711	2,557,203	983,935	2,523,896
Non-current assets					
Financial assets	5	26,867	500,000	114,772	500,000
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	902,775	-	912,463
Intangible assets	8	-	5,696	-	9,174
Total non-current assets		26,867	1,408,471	114,772	1,421,637
Total assets		1,078,578	3,965,674	1,098,707	3,945,533
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	9	6,328	275,843	6,541	311,490
Provisions	10	-	157,012	-	138,308
Total current liabilities		6,328	432,855	6,541	449,798
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	10	-	24,911	-	104,031
Total non-current liabilities		-	24,911	-	104,031
Total liabilities		6,328	457,766	6,541	553,829
Net Assets		1,072,250	3,507,908	1,092,166	3,391,704
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		1,072,250	3,507,908	1,092,166	3,391,704
Total Equity		1,072,250	3,507,908	1,092,166	3,391,704

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	General 2018 \$	General 2017 \$
Note 15 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Fees and commissions	126,458	129,579
Interest - general account	64,068	62,801
Interest - building proceeds	2,107	2,619
Interest - HW Grant	3,053	-
Surplus/(Deficit) on sale of plant and equipment	(115)	(393)
Sponsorship, conferences/seminars	268,854	349,493
Subscriptions	1,205,940	1,179,099
Other subscriptions	65,004	64,999
Rentals	4,457	9,749
Unexpensed Government Grants	76,293	250,000
	1,816,119	2,047,946
Expenditure		
Advertising	4,752	3,165
Accommodation expenses	656	2,176
Accounts administration	11,935	12,985
ALGA	120,260	120,412
Amortisation - computer software	3,523	4,374
Annual conference	146,053	167,361
Auditors' remuneration	14,250	14,760
Catering	4,534	4,026
Cleaning	9,108	9,656
Consultancy fees	26,329	101,999
Council careers and skills shortage	26,476	63,030
Conferences and seminars	25,447	28,797
Cost Recovery - grant administration	(45,939)	(52,628)
Depreciation - buildings	12,228	1,062
Depreciation - computers	10,361	9,607
Depreciation - motor vehicles	12,387	14,334
Depreciation - furniture and equipment	2,035	2,533
Division 43 Deduction	1,526	1,521
Fringe benefits tax	12,786	12,728
Land & buildings running costs	1,984	2,144
Insurance	38,767	35,507
Members emoluments	63,719	63,587
Motor Vehicle - running expenses	7,383	6,692
Motor Vehicle - repairs and maintenance	3,859	2,503
Network and internet	14,519	13,954
Other expenses	11,527	10,693

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	General 2018 \$	General 2017 \$
Note 15 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure (cont'd)		
Postage	4,827	5,059
Power	9,435	9,237
Printing and publications	12,562	7,242
Rates and taxes	12,626	12,334
Rentals	1,462	1,327
Salaries, wages and employee benefits (incl. Grant Staff)	838,688	882,965
Software	860	2,427
Sponsorship	2,241	1,500
Stationery	886	1,251
Subscriptions - general account	11,064	9,116
Superannuation contribution (incl. Grant Staff)	105,532	103,124
Telephone	17,744	18,920
Travelling Expenses	27,594	26,611
Government grants expenditure (excluding wages and superannuation):		
HW	36,346	-
EDRes	39,348	-
Healthy Communities	-	5,717
LG Reform	-	31,780
IT Strategies	38,235	47,434
Total expenses	1,699,915	1,823,022
Operating surplus/(deficit) - general account	116,204	224,924

Charges incurred for the administration of both the LGAT Assist account and grant projects have been recharged to LGAT Assist or the specific project. The recovery of these costs is then shown as Cost Recovery so that the expenses on the General Account are more accurately reported.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Assist 2018	Assist 2017
Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Interest on Loans	28,307	29,491
Other Interest Revenue	16,627	17,692
	44,934	47,183
Expenditure		
LGAT Assist Accounts Administration	38,232	42,161
Auditors Remuneration	3,500	4,920
Bad Debts Written Off/(Recovered)	4,755	4,883
Donations and Research Projects	11,250	10,000
Grants to Members – Welfare	7,000	13,953
Other Expenses – Welfare	113	266
Total Expenses	64,850	76,183
Operating surplus/(deficit) – LGAT Assist	(19,916)	(29,000)

Note 17 Commitments

At 30 June 2018 the Association had no outstanding commitments.

Note 18 Fair Value Measurements

The Association measures and recognises the following assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis after initial recognition:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- Freehold land and buildings.

Fair value hierarchy

AASB13: *Fair Value Measurement* requires the disclosure of fair value information by level of the fair value hierarchy, which categorises fair value measurements into one of three possible levels based on the lowest level that an input that is significant to measure can be categorised into as follows:

Level 1	Measured based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2	Measurements based on inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3	Measurements based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The following table provides the fair value of the Association's assets and liabilities measured and recognised on a recurring basis after initial recognition and their categorisation within the fair value hierarchy:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

Fair Value Measurements (cont'd)

30/06/2018

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets:				
Other financial assets	2,190,028	313,127	-	2,503,155
Total financial assets recognised as fair value	2,190,028	313,127	-	2,503,155
Non-financial assets:				
Freehold land and buildings*	-	825,000	-	825,000
Total non-financial assets recognised at fair value	-	825,000	-	825,000

Financial assets:				30/06/2017
Other financial assets	1,840,000	329,779	-	2,169,779
Total financial assets recognised as fair value	1,840,000	329,779	-	2,169,779
Non-financial assets:				
Freehold land and buildings*	-	825,000	-	825,000
Total non-financial assets recognised at fair value	-	825,000	-	825,000

*Valuation last performed on 26 May 2016

Note 19 Related Party Transactions

Key management personnel compensation

The totals of remuneration paid to two key management personnel (KMP) of the Association during the year are as follows:

	2018	2017
Short-term employment benefits	325,682	315,167
Post-employment benefits	37,628	36,308
Other long-term benefits	(5,637)	16,943
	357,673	368,418

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Association, directly or indirectly, excluding any committee member (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity, is considered key management personnel.

Committee members compensation

The totals of remuneration paid to committee members of the Association during the year are as follows:

	2018	2017
Short-term employment benefits	63,719	63,587
	63,719	63,587

Any committee member (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity, is considered a committee member.

Transactions with Related Parties

Purchase of goods and services

Slick Promotions controlled by Lord Mayor Sue Hickey, a committee member provided advertising material during the year

	2018	2017
	473	1,342
	473	1,342

Local Government Association of Tasmania
Profit and Loss (Budget Analysis)
1 July 2018 to 23 May 2019

4-000	Income	Selected Period	Budget	Difference	% Difference
4-0500	Annual Conf/General Spons	\$243,756.88	\$125,000.00	118,756.88	95.0
4-0501	Annual Conf Regos	\$180,644.18	\$120,000.00	60,644.18	50.5
4-1000	Professoinal DMent Activities	\$122,146.01	\$62,000.00	60,146.01	97.0
4-1500	Cost Recoveries	\$12,917.90	\$0.00	12,917.90	
4-1505	Deposits Paid	-\$2,620.92	\$0.00	-2,620.92	
4-2000	Fees & Commissions	\$47,429.02	\$120,000.00	-72,570.98	-60.5
4-3000	Interest	\$50,820.25	\$66,000.00	-15,179.75	-23.0
4-3100	Interest - Building Proceeds	\$900.28	\$2,500.00	-1,599.72	-64.0
4-3500	Other	\$7,333.00	\$0.00	7,333.00	
4-400	Rentals	\$4,275.00	\$6,000.00	-1,725.00	-28.8
4-5000	Profit Sale on Plant/Equip.	-510.00	0.00	-510.00	
4-5600	Waste Strategy	65,773.74			
4-6000	Subscriptions	1,245,937.03	1,245,937.00	0.03	0.0
4-6100	Subs - TV Advert Better Councils	55,000.00	55,000.00	0.00	0.0
4-6115	Subs - Community Sat Survey	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.0
	Total Income	2,044,802.37	1,813,437.00	231,365.37	12.8
6-0000	Expenses				
6-1050	Accomm exp - GMC	\$2,045.92	\$2,500.00	-454.08	-18.16
6-1100	Accounts Administration	\$10,655.00	\$15,000.00	-4,345.00	-28.97
6-1200	Advertising	\$3,291.12	\$6,500.00	-3,208.88	-49.37
6-1250	ALGA - Meeting expenses	\$26,282.94	\$20,000.00	6,282.94	31.41
6-1300	ALGA Subscription	\$95,599.00	\$96,500.00	-901.00	-0.93
6-1350	Annual Conference	\$150,036.44	\$180,000.00	-29,963.56	-16.65
6-1400	Auditors Remuneration	0.00	\$15,000.00	-15,000.00	-100.00
6-1450	Bank Fees & Gov. Charges	\$1,331.36	\$3,000.00	-1,668.64	-55.62
6-1500	Catering / Entertainment	\$1,458.01	\$4,000.00	-2,541.99	-63.55
6-1600	Cleaning and Supplies	\$10,997.11	\$9,500.00	1,497.11	15.76
6-1610	Community Satisfaction Survey	\$28,350.00	\$38,000.00	-9,650.00	-25.39
6-1650	Professional Develoment Activites	\$74,079.52	\$30,000.00	44,079.52	146.93
6-1700	Consultants Fees	\$16,930.00	\$20,000.00	-3,070.00	-15.35
6-1702	Consultants Fees - Mentoring	\$13,498.64	\$15,000.00	-1,501.36	-10.01
6-1705	Consultants Fees - HR/IR	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	-1,000.00	-16.67

6-1710	Council Advert - Better Councils	\$33,816.44	\$55,000.00	-21,183.56	-38.52
6-1850	Elections - GMC Bi-annual	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	-2,000.00	-100.00
6-1900	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$9,576.00	\$12,000.00	-2,424.00	-20.20
6-2000	Depreciation Expense	\$27,405.45	\$33,000.00	-5,594.55	-16.95
6-3100	Insurance	\$40,490.81	\$39,400.00	1,090.81	2.77
6-3200	Land & Building Running Costs	\$3,286.77	\$8,000.00	-4,713.23	-58.92
6-3400	Members Emoluments	\$56,745.43	\$64,000.00	-7,254.57	-11.34
6-3410	President travel expenses	\$5,746.03	\$7,000.00	-1,253.97	-17.91
6-3500	Network & Internet	\$8,367.40	\$10,000.00	-1,632.60	-16.33
6-3580	Office Requisites	\$166.25	\$2,000.00	-1,833.75	-91.69
6-3600	Other & Miscellaneous	\$989.37	\$700.00	289.37	41.34
6-3610	Other Extraordinary	\$7,339.67	\$0.00	7,339.67	
6-3800	Other Employment Entitlements	\$20,752.20	\$12,000.00	8,752.20	72.94
6-3900	Postage	\$3,732.89	\$5,000.00	-1,267.11	-25.34
6-4000	Power	\$8,818.25	\$12,500.00	-3,681.75	-29.45
6-4100	Printing & Publications	\$8,347.92	\$8,000.00	347.92	4.35
6-4300	Rates & Land Tax	\$12,511.15	\$12,500.00	11.15	0.09
6-4310	Rentals	\$964.65	\$1,500.00	-535.35	-35.69
6-4350	Repairs & Maintenance	\$981.63	\$4,500.00	-3,518.37	-78.19
6-4400	Salaries & Wages	\$754,797.25	\$919,500.00	-164,702.75	-17.91
6-4500	Software	\$625.19	\$5,000.00	-4,374.81	-87.50
6-4600	Stationery	\$1,070.63	\$2,000.00	-929.37	-46.47
6-4700	Subscriptions - Membership etc	\$11,306.45	\$11,600.00	-293.55	-2.53
6-4800	Superannuation	\$94,609.65	\$115,000.00	-20,390.35	-17.73
6-4900	Sponsorship/Research/Donations	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	-3,500.00	-100.00
6-5100	Telephone	\$14,878.83	\$12,000.00	2,878.83	23.99
6-5200	Travel - Interstate	\$14,193.39	\$10,000.00	4,193.39	41.93
6-5205	Travel - Intrastate	\$5,775.60	\$6,000.00	-224.40	-3.74
6-5250	Staff Training	\$1,906.28	\$12,000.00	-10,093.72	-84.11
6-5600	Waste Strategy	\$52,367.27			
6-7000	Motor Vehicle Expense	9,100.46	\$10,000.00	-899.54	-9.00
6-7960	Grant Cost Recoveries	-10,820.31	(\$10,000.00)	-820.31	8.20
6-7970	LGAT ASSIST - Cost recoveries	-\$28,700.00	(\$35,000.00)	6,300.00	-18.00
	Expenses	1,610,704.06	1,811,700.00	-200,995.94	-11.09
	Net Profit(Loss)	434,098.31	1,737.00	432,361.31	24,891.27

Less	2019-20 Conference Adjustment	123,108.32			
	Income & Expenses				
	Outcome	310,989.99	1,737.00	309,252.99	17,803.86
8-0000	Government Grants Income				
8-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution	\$6,804.44			
8-1020	DPAC - Good Governance	\$4,000.00			
8-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project	\$13,946.79			
8-1600	SES - Disaster Resilience	\$25,000.00			
8-2150	LG Reform Fund	\$218,774.38			
8-2500	Liveable Communities	\$9,587.00			
8-3000	Healthy Communities	\$16,278.96			
8-3150	DHHS - Health & Wellbeing	\$281,512.56			
	Total Government Grants Income	575,904.13			
9-0000	Government Grants Expenditure				
9-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution				
9-1020	DPAC - Good Governance	4,000.00			
9-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project				
9-1600	SES - Disaster Resilience	3,400.00			
9-2150	LG Reform Fund	45,500.00			
9-2500	Liveable Communities	9,587.00			
9-3000	Healthy Communities				
93150	DHHS - Health & Wellbeing	45,787.77			
9-6000	LG IT Strategies	17,906.46			
	Total Government Grants Expended	126,181.23			
	Operating Profit(Loss)	760,712.89			

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2018/19	2019/20	Comparison
Income			
Annual Conference Registrations	120,000	115,000	-5,000
Annual Conference Trade and General Sponsorship	125,000	145,000	20,000
Sponsorship			0
Professional Development Activities	62,000	64,000	2,000
Fees and Commissions	120,000	124,000	4,000
Interest (Excl. Interest on grants)	66,000	66,000	0
Interest on Capital from Building	2,500	2,500	0
Profit on Sale of Plant & Equip			0
Project Admin/Cost Recovery	10,000	10,000	0
Assist Revenue	35,000	36,000	1,000
Rentals	6,000	0	-6,000
Subscriptions	1,245,937	1,245,937	0
Community Satisfaction Survey	11,000	12,000	1,000
TV Advertising	55,000		-55,000
Total Income	1,858,437	1,820,437	-38,000

Expenditure			
GMC Meeting Expenses	2,500	3,000	500
Accounts Administration	15,000	15,500	500
Advertising	6,500	7,000	500
ALGA Subscriptions	96,500	97,421	921
Auditors' Remuneration	15,000	15,500	500
Special Projects (Charitable Rates)	0	40,000	40,000
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	3,000	3,000	0
Catering, receptions, etc	4,000	4,000	0
Cleaning and Supplies	9,500	11,000	1,500
Community Satisfaction Survey	38,000	0	-38,000
Annual Conference	180,000	175,000	-5,000
Seminars - Other	30,000	30,000	0
HR/IR Service	6,000	6,000	0
Consultants' Fees	20,000	10,000	-10,000
Consultants - Mentoring Program	15,000	0	-15,000
TV advertising	55,000	0	-55,000
Depreciation Building Division 43	3,000	200	-2,800
Computers	9,000	10,000	1,000
Furniture & Equip	2,000	1,500	-500
Motor Vehicles	16,000	16,000	0
Amortisation	3,000	2,000	-1,000
Donations/Research/Scholarships	3,500	2,500	-1,000
Fringe Benefits Tax	12,000	13,000	1,000
GMC Elections - Bi-annual	2,000	0	-2,000
Insurance Fidelity Guarantee	1,400	1,400	0
General	13,500	14,000	500
Public Liability and PI	16,500	19,000	2,500
Workers Compensation	8,000	9,000	1,000

Land & Building Running Costs	8,000	5,000	-3,000
Members Emoluments	64,000	65,600	1,600
Motor Vehicles - Running Costs	8,000	8,000	0
Repairs and Maintenance	2,000	2,000	0
Lease Hire	0		0
Network and Internet	10,000	10,000	0
Office Requisites	2,000	1,750	-250
Other and Miscellaneous	700	800	100
Other Employee Entitlements	12,000	15,000	3,000
Postage	5,000	4,000	-1,000
Power	12,500	12,800	300
Printing and Publications	8,000	8,000	0
Rates and Land Tax	12,500	12,800	300
Rentals	1,500	1,550	50
Repairs and maintenance	4,500	4,000	-500
Salaries (exc Grant Staff)	919,500	946,000	26,500
Software	5,000	8,000	3,000
Stationery	2,000	1,500	-500
Subscriptions - membership etc	5,000	12,000	7,000
Superannuation	115,000	123,000	8,000
Telephone	12,000	10,000	-2,000
Training	12,000	10,000	-2,000
Travelling expenses ALGA	20,000	22,000	2,000
Intrastate	6,000	6,000	0
Interstate	10,000	14,000	4,000
President	7,000	9,000	2,000
TTC Subscription (inc in General Subscriptions)	6,600		-6,600
Total Expenditure	1,856,700	1,818,821	-37,879
Net Result	1,737	1,616	-121

All figures are ex GST

LGAT ASSIST

ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2020

	2018/19	2019/20	Comparison
Income			
Interest	16,000	14,000	-2,000
Interest on loans	30,000	27,000	-3,000
Assist Loan Application Fees	1,500	1,000	-500
Tasplan Sponsorship	5,000	5,000	0
Total Income	52,500	47,000	-5,500
Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses	0		0
Accounts Administration	40,000	40,000	0
Advertising	0		0
Auditors' Remuneration	5,000	5,000	0
Bad Debts	7,000	6,000	-1,000
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	250	250	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	15,000	10,000	-5,000
Grants to members	10,500	10,500	0
Other and Miscellaneous	250	250	0
Printing and Publications	0		0
Welfare Write Offs	200	200	0
Special Projects	0		0
Total Expenditure	78,200	72,200	-6,000
Change in net assets from operations	-\$25,700	-\$25,200	\$500

All figures are ex GST

LGAT 2019-2020 Subscriptions

Council	Previous year subs	Cap/Collar	2019/20 Subs overall	Adjustment	Final Subs Due	\$ Diff from Last FY	% Diff from Last FY
Break O'Day	35,724.11	As Calculated	35,691.58	452.11	35,239.46	-484.64	-0.09
Brighton	49,045.66	As Calculated	46,975.27	595.05	46,380.22	-2,665.43	-4.22
Burnie	54,087.48	As Calculated	51,881.23	657.19	51,224.03	-2,863.44	-4.08
Central Coast	54,087.48	As Calculated	51,881.23	657.19	51,224.03	-2,863.44	-4.08
Central Highlands	23,164.02	As Calculated	21,690.74	274.76	21,415.98	-1,748.05	-6.36
Circular Head	41,561.52	As Calculated	39,427.65	499.44	38,928.21	-2,633.31	-5.13
Clarence	70,045.50	As Calculated	71,127.66	900.99	70,226.67	181.17	1.54
Derwent Valley	35,724.11	As Calculated	37,578.48	476.02	37,102.47	1,378.36	5.19
Devonport	61,994.49	As Calculated	59,428.85	752.80	58,676.05	-3,318.44	-4.14
Dorset	35,689.98	As Calculated	33,766.93	452.11	33,314.82	-2,375.16	-5.39
Flinders Island	21,206.84	As Calculated	19,803.83	250.86	19,552.97	-1,653.87	-6.62
George Town	35,689.98	As Calculated	35,691.58	452.11	35,239.46	-450.52	0.00
Glamorgan Spring Bay	40,186.30	Collar	36,167.67	356.51	35,811.17	-4,375.14	-10.00
Glenorchy	66,300.29	As Calculated	67,353.85	853.19	66,500.66	200.38	1.59
Hobart	70,060.51	As Calculated	68,108.61	862.75	67,245.86	-2,814.65	-2.79
Huon Valley	54,087.48	As Calculated	51,881.23	657.19	51,224.03	-2,863.44	-4.08
Kentish	35,689.98	As Calculated	33,766.93	427.73	33,339.20	-2,350.78	-5.39
King Island	23,164.02	As Calculated	21,690.74	274.76	21,415.98	-1,748.05	-6.36
Kingborough	62,338.89	As Calculated	63,580.04	805.38	62,774.66	435.76	1.99
Latrobe	40,132.68	As Calculated	37,578.48	523.34	37,055.14	-3,077.54	-6.36
Launceston	70,039.06	As Calculated	71,882.42	910.55	70,971.87	932.81	2.63
Meander Valley	49,390.24	As Calculated	46,975.27	595.05	46,380.22	-3,010.02	-4.89
Northern Midlands	43,518.70	As Calculated	41,314.56	523.34	40,791.21	-2,727.49	-5.06
Sorell	45,907.91	As Calculated	46,975.27	595.05	46,380.22	472.32	2.33
Southern Midlands	40,154.13	Collar	36,138.72	427.73	35,710.98	-4,443.15	-10.00
Tasman	23,164.02	Cap	25,480.42	332.13	25,148.30	1,984.28	10.00
Waratah Wynyard	45,875.73	As Calculated	41,314.56	523.34	40,791.21	-5,084.52	-9.94
West Coast	29,818.44	Collar	26,836.59	332.13	26,504.47	-3,313.97	-10.00
West Tamar	54,087.48	As Calculated	51,881.23	657.19	51,224.03	-2,863.44	-4.08
	1,311,937.00		1,273,871.61	16,078.02	1,257,793.59		

Noting - Amounts do not include GST

LGAT Work Plan 2018 – 19 Progress Report



Not yet commenced



Unable to progress due to others



Ongoing



Completed

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
1.	Lead the waste management reform agenda	State Government releases a State Waste Action Plan supported by Local Government		<p>There was little progress on the State Waste Strategy until late 2018, where following a Round Table in July, hosted by the Minister for Environment, the Government made a commitment to develop a State Waste Action Plan. The EPA has recently indicated that the draft State Waste Action will go out for consultation in June 2019.</p> <p>In parallel, LGAT has commenced the feasibility study into the establishment of a Statewide Waste Management Arrangement, with the successful completion of Part A and Part B now commenced – please refer to the agenda item this meeting for further information.</p>
2.	Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government reform	<p><u>Review of the Local Government Act</u> LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government</p> <p><u>Local Government Sustainability</u> Determination of the best structure / alignment for councils so they can service the needs of modern Tasmanian Communities</p>		<p><u>Review of the Local Government Act</u></p> <p>Please refer to the item this agenda for an update.</p> <p><u>Local Government Sustainability</u></p> <p>Please refer to the item this agenda for an update on the 21st Century Councils Project.</p>

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
3.	Drive the planning reform agenda	LGAT's recommendations accepted by the State Government.		<p>The State Government's number one planning reform priority is to establish the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which they accept can best be achieved by supporting councils in the preparation of their Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs). All councils are progressing the development of their LPSs, with at least 9 having submitted their drafts to the Tasmanian Planning Commission.</p> <p>The State Government's focus has now turned to the other aspects of planning reform, the majority of which emerged out of the sectors advocacy a number of years ago.</p> <p>More information on the timing of the various next steps is outline in the item int his agenda.</p>
4.	Further build sector resources and support, particularly for new Elected Members	<p>Increased utilisation of LGAT prepared resources (web and extranet hits).</p> <p>Strong attendance at new councillor induction session.</p> <p>Overall positive feedback from attendees to training and events.</p> <p>Increased number of training and workshops delivered from previous year.</p>		<p>LGAT continues to prepare resources for elected members and council staff, with a significant focus on resources for newly elected representatives. Recent training and workshops have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Planning – 70 attendees • Internal Audit – 66 attendees • Engagement Champions session (3rd sessions) – 15 attendees • Elected Members weekend – 71 attendees • International Women's Day lunch – 270 attendees • Regional breakfasts (Devonport and Hobart) – 70 attendees <p>In addition LGAT will be running two lunch time, web based sessions for councillors. The sessions are Roles and Responsibilities (6th June) and Land Use Planning (7th June).</p>

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
5.	Position the Tasmanian Local Government agenda in the Federal election	Number of Local Government initiated policies adopted by political parties.		<p>The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) lead a national advocacy “Fairer Share” campaign leading into the 2019 Federal Election. In summary, the campaign aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek and achieve a commitment from both major parties to increase funding for local councils; • Seek and achieve a commitment from both major parties, to return the funds lost as a result of the 2014-15 indexation freeze; and longer term to • Secure a fairer share of national taxation revenue for Local Government that reflects the role of councils and the needs of local communities. <p>LGAT supported members in participating in the national campaign by sharing and/or incorporating some of the national campaign key messages in your own election advocacy work.</p>
6.	Further develop the financial and asset management in councils	<p>Strengthen councils’ knowledge base and delivery of best practice asset management.</p> <p>Increase the community’s understanding of and engagement with councils’ role in asset management.</p>		<p>LGAT is continuing its significant history of work in supporting councils’ asset management resources and capacity, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) template for use by member councils, a project commissioned by LGAT and prepared by Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA). The SAMP template joins the growing list of asset management resources available to councils on the LGAT Extranet and assists councils in meeting the requirements of the Section 70B of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>. • Established a statewide meeting of Local Government asset management professionals to enhance collaboration, capacity building and professional development in the sector and field. • Facilitating engagement of the Tasmanian Audit Office and Local Government Division with council’s asset managers on matters of importance

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
7.	Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader community	Increased exposure to LGAT and council produced stories via LGATs communication channels.		<p>The latest (April) edition of the LG Tas publication was recently released as an online only publication.</p> <p>LGAT continues to update and promote the Better Councils Better Communities Website and cross promote it through LGAT's e-newsletter (the Pulse), which has also been refreshed with a new template.</p> <p>LGAT continues to look for opportunities to promote LGAT and the sector's achievements through media releases and opinion editorials, recent examples include media releases on the council cost index, understanding rates, low cost camping, cat management and promotion of the role of Local Government in the Federal election campaign.</p>
8.	Deliver a refreshed statewide community satisfaction survey	Deliver the statewide community satisfaction survey.		<p>The 2018 / 19 community satisfaction survey is complete. The survey involved a telephone survey of around 1200 residents across Tasmania and included questions that asks residents views about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact with council; - The importance of and, their satisfaction with, a range of council services and facilities; - Satisfaction with council governance and leadership; - The image of Local Government; - The best thing about the council; and - What council could do to improve performance. <p>A summary report for decision makers is included as an item in this agenda.</p>

No.	Priorities	Outcome/Output Measures	Progress	Comment
9.	Host an excellent Annual Conference, AGM and General Meetings	<p>Delivery of the Conference on budget</p> <p>Conference feedback providing an overall rating of good or excellent from >70% of survey responses.</p> <p>Increased General Meeting agenda items for decision or discussion.</p>		<p>Planning for the 2019 LGAT Annual Conference has progressed significantly. The new online web area is now live. To visit see (https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=209).</p> <p>This provides delegates with an easy view online program divided under the pages Workshops, Plenary Speakers, Accommodation, Program and Registration.</p> <p>Across the Program this year LGAT has made significant enhancements. Our workshop program includes more opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other. In edition we will be showcasing citizen engagement projects in City of Hobart, Waratah/Wynyard Council and Tasman Council – providing delegates with the ability to share industry knowledge across the sector.</p> <p>The plenary program has also been confirmed with Mayor Tim Shadbolt – New Zealand’s longest serving mayor, alongside Heather Rose award winning Tasmanian Author, Penny Terry ABC radio presenter and Creative Director of Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd and David O’Loughlin President ALGA. The Panel session is back with a timely focus on the Federal sphere of Government and how Local Government can best have an influential voice.</p> <p>Registrations are now open.</p>
10.	Continue to expand the Procurement Program	<p>Growth in sectoral procurement savings</p>		<p>The past 12 months has been a very successful year for procurement, with an increase in the number of panels available to councils, total sector savings exceeding membership subscriptions (\$1.9M versus \$1.3M) and strengthening of our partnerships with other association procurement businesses.</p> <p>Fourteen Councils made savings through LGAT Procurement that were sufficient to fully offset their LGAT annual subscriptions and a further four made savings that covered more than 50% of their LGAT annual subscription.</p> <p>See the item in this agenda for further information.</p>



About LGAT

The Local Government Association of Tasmania is the voice of Local Government to other spheres of government, stakeholders and the wider community.

LGAT has been the peak body for Local Government in Tasmania for over 100 years and is part of a national network of associations. It is funded by councils and earns other income through projects delivered on behalf of Local Government, services to members and sponsorships.

LGAT provides specialist services to its member councils including policy and strategic support, capacity building for Local Government elected members and officers and procurement of goods and services. LGAT also coordinates the Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence, the LGAT Annual Conference and the LGAT Assist Program.

LGAT works collaboratively with members to support council staff and elected members. The communities our 29 councils serve are represented by 263 elected members and supported by nearly 4000 staff.

Local Government Association Tasmania

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STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2020

Our Vision

Vibrant Tasmanian Communities

Our Mission
Help Tasmanian councils to be the best they can be for their communities

Our Values

Ethics Impartiality Respectfulness Accountability Commitment Creativity

Our Core Purpose

1. Protect and represent the interest and rights of councils in Tasmania
2. Promote an efficient and effective system of Local Government in Tasmania
3. Provide services to Members, councillors and employees of councils

Facilitating change

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Number of positive concessions achieved in State Government policy and legislative reform
- ◆ Number of proactive policy successes

Building Local Government's reputation

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Continual improvement in community satisfaction survey findings
- ◆ Improvement in satisfaction rating in member survey results

Fostering collaboration

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Increase in joint submissions and projects
- ◆ Uptake in whole of sectoral projects

Promoting financial sustainability

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Improvement in Auditor General report measures
- ◆ Growth in sectorial procurement Savings

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Key Performance Indicators

- ◆ Reduction in upheld Code of Conduct complaints
- ◆ Increased attendance at training events

To achieve this plan, in the next 12 months (2018-2019) we are committed to completing the following priorities:

1. Lead the waste management reform agenda
2. Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government reform
3. Support councils in implementing the planning reform agenda
4. Deliver the 21st Century Councils Project
5. Work with councils and stakeholders to address identified workforce capacity gaps
6. Deliver the Community Health and Wellbeing Project
7. Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader Community
8. Deliver equitable rating outcomes through securing legislative amendments
9. Deliver a range of high-quality training and events
10. Continue to expand the Procurement Program



REPORTS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

to be presented to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 3 July, 2019

INDEX

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	2
STATE FIRE COMMISSION BOARD.....	3
TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD	4
TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION	5
TASMANIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL	6
TASMANIAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE	7

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE: Cllr Rob Churchill, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2018/19 1 Meeting - New Committee

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

To draft the Tasmanian Animal Welfare framework and 3 year plan.

To address issues of animal welfare (complaints/investigations) and to communicate this to the broader community.

Agenda themes to be conducted under the headings of: Legislation, Education and collaboration.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

LEGISLATION

Consider the need for overall strategic appreciation of animal welfare issues relevant to Tasmania across the full range of animal populations.

Look at legislative initiatives in other state jurisdictions re animal welfare (Tasmania made amendments to the Animal Welfare Act in 2015).

The committee is to consider the Act in the context of contemporary legislation.

EDUCATION

- Discussion re proposed education initiatives. Programs in Tasmanian schools and elsewhere.
- Some animal welfare education programs already in place with RSPCA TAS, Biosecurity TAS and UTAS Ag Science Degree.
- Agreed that animal welfare education should take place through multiple channels, eg. RSPCA, AVA and LGAT.

COLLABORATION

- Partnering opportunities with the aquaculture industries (including seal management and salmon farming).
- Department of State Growth re native animal road kill.
- Tasmanian abattoirs (including shipping of livestock interstate).
- Engagement with the Red Meat Committee.

STATE FIRE COMMISSION BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Chris Hughes

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2018/19 10

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Commission sets the strategic direction of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) within its Corporate Plan. The State Fire Commission (Commission) must ensure that TFS management's objectives and activities are aligned with the Commission's strategic expectations and also address the risks identified by the Commission.

The Commission has a number of mechanisms in place to ensure this is achieved including:

- Approval of a strategic plan designed to meet stakeholders' needs and manage business risk;
- Ongoing development of the strategic plan and approving initiatives and strategies designed to ensure the continued sustainability, viability and success of the TFS; and
- Implementation of budgets by management and monitoring progress against budget - via the establishment and reporting of both financial and non-financial key performance indicators.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

2018/2019 Tasmania has experienced an exceptional fire season, with a number of fires burning throughout the State at one time with over 2,500 fire personnel being on the ground during this time.

The Commission has been working on:

- Conflict of Interest Policy – this relates to members of the Commission whilst performing their functions as members;
- Strategic Asset Management Plan - key outputs to be delivered from this document are:
 - Maintain and/or improve the condition and performance of property assets (buildings);
 - Provide contemporary, useful technology and equipment;
 - Adequately maintain, replace and upgrade equipment;
 - Modernisation of the Department's information Technology infrastructure to make information more accessible to our members and employees as well as our customers;
 - Improved data and knowledge management; and
 - Including exploration of opportunities for collaboration and further integration.

The SAMP will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to align with Budget/Corporate Planning processes.

TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Dick Adams, OAM

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2017/18

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

To connect Tasmanians to knowledge, ideas and community through our libraries and archives.

The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board recognises libraries as contributing to greater social equality, improved economic prosperity and a more sustainable environment.

Libraries Tasmania continues to be a unique organisation, offering contemporary library and archive services, and preserving Tasmania's documentary heritage for present and future generations.

The Aim being to enable universal access and participation.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Rebranding the Library from LINC to Libraries Tasmania;

- Abolishing fees for lending library services;
- Protecting Libraries Tasmania's cultural collections;
- Promoting literacy through the 26TEN program;
- Working towards the redevelopment of the Hobart library building and archives; and
- Picking up the Cultural and Creative Strategy ideas and adapting them for Libraries Tasmania to promote lifelong learning and community inclusion.

One of my personal interests for being on the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board is to promote the smaller libraries in the regions to deliver the aims of the library to country people who do not access the cities regularly. I see the smaller libraries acting as a hub for local learning, assistance with the latest technology, and community development spaces as well as traditional library activities.

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Stretton, General Manager City of Launceston

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2017/18 11 Meeting Days

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Commission's role includes:

- Assessing interim planning schemes;
- Providing planning advice to the Minister for Planning and Local Government;
- Assessing projects of regional and State significance;
- Reporting on draft State Policies;
- Assessing planning schemes;
- Assessing planning directives;
- Inquiring into the future use of public land; and
- Reviewing reports and representations on draft management plans.

The Commission's main responsibilities are set out in the following Acts:

- [Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993](#)
- [State Policies and Projects Act 1993](#)
- [National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002](#)
- [Water Management Act 1999](#)
- [Wellington Park Act 1993](#)
- [Public Land \(Administration and Forests\) Act 1991](#)

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Endorsed Ministerial Statement of Expectation 2018-2020;
- Endorsed TPC Business Plan and Budget 2018/19;
- Delegated Assessment panels for Applications for Planning Scheme Amendments (Various);
- Delegated assessment panel for the assessment of Draft Local Provisions Schedules
- Endorsed 2017-2018 Annual Report;
- Developed and endorsed Commission Governance Arrangements;
- Completed Review of State of Environment Reporting in Tasmania; and
- Reviewed Executive Commissioner Position description

TASMANIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Danielle Gray

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2017/18 8

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The Tasmanian Heritage Council is a statutory body responsible for the administration of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* and the establishment and maintenance of the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council operates as part of the resource management planning system. Places of significance to the whole of Tasmania are entered on the Register and development of entered places requires the approval of the Heritage Council before works can commence.

The Heritage Council provides leadership and engagement with stakeholders within Tasmania's historic and cultural heritage sector, chiefly through the development and implementation of its Strategic Plan.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

In addition to the ongoing responsibilities of the Heritage Council with regard to decision making on applications for development to places on the Register, some of the issues dealt with by the Tasmanian Heritage Council over the last 12 months include:

- Continuing refinement of the Register to add new, fill gaps and update existing entries, while also work to develop an accessible, interactive and more user-friendly data-set. This will be achieved by way of the development of the Tasmanac, the Living Register and a Boundary layer in the LIST. The development of these projects are underway;
- Ongoing improvements to the data sheets of original entries on the Register by refining cadastral parcel information and improving information on the significance and history of places and sites, to allow for better protection of historic and cultural heritage values. This is through an ongoing program of updating, amending and replacing existing entries;
- Drafting of a Registration Plan to better facilitate, stage and prioritize Registration effort;
- Improvements to Tasmania's historic cultural heritage sector by implementing recommendations to improve management and assessment systems, processes and operations to deliver outcomes in a more effective and efficient way, including the

drafting of a revised Registration Decision Policy, Amending and Replacing Entries in the Heritage Register Policy and exploring the development of a Compliance Policy; and

- Lead the sustainable management and conservation of Tasmania's historic and cultural heritage by ongoing input into the implementation of, and promotion of the Heritage Places Renewal Loan Scheme. This Scheme assists the owners of properties on the Register to have access to low-interest loan funds to facilitate opportunities that help to grow their business and the visitor economy and ensure the sound conservation and continued use of heritage places.

TASMANIAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE: Annette Rockliff

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2017/18 4

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

To advise government on policy related to reducing suicide and suicidality in Tasmania

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Overseeing the rollout of the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategies, of which there are three.

- the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016 – 2020,
- the Tasmanian Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-2020
- and the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Workforce Development and Training Plan 2016-2020.

The Committee receives updates and reports to government on progress against the strategies. The Committee is also responsible for oversight of the Community Forum and LIFE Awards, the Tasmanian Suicide Register and the Community Networks.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

To be submitted to the

**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Will be held on
3 July 2019**

**Commencing at
11.00am**

**Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

CONFERENCE PROGRAM	4
1 MINUTES OF 106 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *	5
2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT	5
3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2018 *	6
4 2019/2020 LGAT BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS *	7
5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS	9
6 CHANGE TO THE RULES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA	10
7 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN *	11
8 STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020 *	11
9 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *	14
10 CLOSURE	14

* Denotes Attachment

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

***The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 3 July 2019***

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundred and Seventh Annual General Meeting
of the Association
will be held on
3 July 2019
Commencing at
11.00am**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
Association's General Meeting
will be held on
3 July 2019
To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

**Commencing immediately following
the conclusion of the
Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 3 July 2019**

**All sessions to be held at
Wrest Point Casino
Hobart**

**Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

2019 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2019

11.00am	AGM	
	General Meeting	Commencing immediately following the conclusion of AGM
12.30pm	Lunch	With thanks to Dial Before you Dig
1.30pm	Meetings continue	
5.00 6.00pm	Welcome Reception	With thanks to Jardine Lloyd Thompson

THURSDAY 4 JULY 2019

8.00am	Conference Registration	
8.45am	Welcome and Opening	
9.05am	Mayor David O'Loughlin	
9.40am	Mayor Tim Shadbolt	
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Mat Pinnegar	
11.30	Heather Rose	
12.10	Speed Networking	
12.40pm	Lunch	
1.40pm	World Café Series	
2.40pm	Afternoon Tea	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
3.15pm	The Panel	
4.30 – 5.30pm	Happy Hour	With thanks to Commonwealth Bank
7.15pm	MAV Insurance Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY 5 JULY 2019

8.50am	Welcome Back, Reflections from Day One
9.10am	Symposiums and Workshops
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.10am	2019 Local Government Awards for Excellence
11.55am	Penny Terry
12.50pm	Conference wrap up
1.00pm	Lunch

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Doug Chipman, will welcome Members, declare the Annual General Meeting open and accept apologies.

1 MINUTES OF 106TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting, held 25 July 2018 be confirmed.

The Minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 25 July 2018, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Decision Sought

That the President's report be received.

The President will present his report to the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Decision Sought

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 be received and adopted.

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, an abridged version of which are included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

A full version is available from the Association's offices on request.

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2018 to 23 May 2019 is also included at **Attachment to Item 3** to provide members with an indication of the current financial position of the Association.

At the time of preparation of this report five weeks remained to the end of the financial year with year-end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be an unanticipated surplus (approximately \$190,000) with items below being of note –

- TV advertising funds have not been fully expended and will be carried forward. This has resulted in no call being made on Members for the 2019-20 financial year.
- Additional workshops and training events held during the year, along with new sponsorship arrangements for some of these sessions, saw an increase in overall event income. Additional sessions were largely targeted at newly Elected Member's post-election but, there were also other new offerings including Playground Forums, Audit Panels and an inaugural International Women's Day Luncheon held in conjunction with TasCoss and DPAC.
- There were several staff changes during the year with vacancies during the recruitment periods. This meant a full year was not worked in all positions, resulting in a reduction in overall wages and superannuation expenditure.
- New, one off funding was received in relation to assistance and support for the National Skills Plan Project.
- General under expenditure in areas such as consultants' fees and staff training also contributed to the surplus.

Decision Sought

That the Meeting endorse the adoption of the Budget and Subscriptions as presented.

Budget

- Some significant expenditure items from 2017-18 and 2018-19 are not carried forward in this budget (for example, the community satisfaction survey, advertising and the peer advisor program) and this means, despite appropriate indexation of wages and superannuation (see later dot point) it is anticipated that overall expenditure, excluding advertising funding, will not increase significantly and that overall subscriptions will remain the same (refer below). A new expense item has been introduced to account for the work on Charitable Rating or similar projects. This has been labelled Special Projects – Charitable Rates.
- There will be no call on Members for advertising funds this year. TV advertising has always been accounted for separately to general subscriptions so that no call would be made unless there was a significant program intent.
- Staff outputs and productivity continue to be high and therefore in line with most council EBAs a 2.5% pay increase has been budgeted for across all second year plus staff. Staff in their first year receive a post probation period increment as per their contracts. It should be noted that our two newest recruits are both on two-year contracts (aligned with DHHS funding for ½ a position) and we will revisit the staff requirements at the end of their employment period.
- It should also be noted that we are at a turning point in relation to procurement activities and so we have factored in additional staff time of 7.5 hours a fortnight to allow for closer work with vendors, as well as councils, to allow continued participation in the NPN and the increasing range of contracts/tenders being progressed. One year will be sufficient time to test whether this additional investment reaps benefits for councils.
- LGAT has traditionally paid superannuation above statutory requirements as a mechanism for recruitment and in recognition that we are unable to be highly competitive on salaries. Over time, as the base superannuation percentage has increased, the differential has decreased. This budget provides for a 0.5% increase in superannuation payments in order to maintain competitive advantage, noting the intent to match the increases in the superannuation guarantee over time.
- We have continued to focus on generating our own income and while it remains a relatively small component as compared to subscriptions, it is increasing. A further small but steady increase in income is predicted in relation to our events and commissions.
- Based on 2018-19 financials a small decline in conference registration income but increase in sponsorship and trade income has been contemplated.

The following minor adjustments have also been made:

- A reduction in expense item - Consultants Fees, as some of this expenditure item allows for LGAT to deal with emerging issues, like charitable rates, which has been budgeted for separately.
- An increase in expense item - Public Liability Insurance in line with anticipated market impacts.
- An increase in expense item – Software, which now captures software subscriptions and a corresponding decrease in expense item - Subscriptions. The nature of software purchase models has changed and this will allow us to more accurately reflect such costs.
- An increase in expense item - President Travel, recognising that with an incoming President there will likely be increased intrastate travel costs in the first year, related to council visits.
- With the appointment of a new Launceston based EO for LG Professionals, LG Professionals have given notice they will no longer require rental of the LGAT office.
- Interest rates remain low and projected interest earnings reflect that this is unlikely to change in this financial year.
- We will be undertaking a limited refurbishment of LGAT toilets and bathrooms but as this is an asset renewal it does not go through the budget but is instead funded through our building reserves. There is no significant maintenance anticipated this year.
- The budget anticipates a net result of \$1,616.

Subscriptions

This is the second year of applying our new subscription formula agreed at the 2017 AGM. That formula comprises a flat fee of 40 per cent and population and revenue fees of 30 per cent each, 8 revenue categories and 8 population categories and a 10 per cent collar and cap.

Six councils have moved categories, as a consequence of either population or revenue changes. Derwent Valley, George Town, Glenorchy City and Tasman have all moved up a Category, Sorell has moved up two Categories and West Coast has moved down a Category. The consequence of category movement as well as initial significant use of caps and collars in the first year of transition, means that despite an overall subscription decrease, seven councils will see small increases in subscriptions (ranging from \$181 to \$1984).

As outlined above, there is no change to the overall subscriptions compared to last year and no call on members for advertising, representing a reduction of 4.29% in the call on Members.

A copy of the Budget and Subscriptions for the 2019/20 Financial Year are at **Attachment to Item 4**.

Decision Sought

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

The Rules of the Association provide that the Annual General Meeting will grant an annual allowance to the President and Vice President.

In the past an independent review of allowances was undertaken in the same financial year as the review of allowances for Local Government Elected Members, with the last review undertaken in 2009. The result of that review was to retain the basis of the present allowances unchanged for the two positions with movements to be in conjunction with the wages price index. This brought the escalation factor for allowances in line with Elected Member allowances across councils.

The escalation factor used for elected member allowances remains the wages price index and it is deemed appropriate that the President and Vice President Honorariums continue to escalate on the same basis.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for 2018/19 were:

- President allowance \$48,393 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$12,098 per annum.

GMC sitting fees will also be adjusted by the wages price index.

Decision Sought

That the Meeting agree to change the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins.

Background

At the March 2019 General Meeting, Members agreed in principle to the rule change and its application at the July AGM/General Meeting ahead of a formal vote on the change.

At the December 2018 GMC meeting there was discussion around how to enable free participation at the LGAT AGM while still charging, as appropriate for participation at the adjacent General Meeting which comes at some considerable cost to LGAT (room hire, AV, catering). The cost of General Meetings has always been borne by Members on an attendance basis.

One of the difficulties of having the AGM at a set time is that in an election year, the AGM is held after the General Meeting as under the LGAT Rules the incoming President takes up the role at the conclusion of the AGM. It would be unfair to expect a new President to chair the biggest meeting of the year as their first duty.

Section 27 of the LGAT Rules (as adopted July 2018) is as follows:

- a. Subject to Rule 27(d), the President shall take up office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting following his or her election and shall hold office for a two year term concluding at the end of the relevant Annual General Meeting.*

Note that 27(d) relates to an election where the President has vacated office for whatever reason.

The rule could be amended as follows:

- a. Subject to Rule 27(d), The President shall take up office at the conclusion of the combined Annual General Meeting and General Meeting which immediately precede the LGAT Conference and*

Changing the rules to allow for chairing both meetings means that the AGM could be held first at a clearly advertised time with attendance at no cost (and no significant impact on costs/catering). Subsequently, those who have not registered and paid for the July General Meeting could be asked to leave at the conclusion of the AGM. It makes the AGM more accessible but not at a cost borne by delegates attending the General Meeting/Conference.

While technically the rule could not be changed until this AGM, by securing agreement in principle in March, LGAT minimised any risk of foreshadowing the change in the conference registration forms.

Budget Impact

Minimal impact.

Current Policy

Currently attendance at the AGM is captured as part of the paid registration for the General Meeting.

7 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN *

Decision Sought

That Members note the report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

Background

At **Attachment to Item 7** is a report against the LGAT Annual Plan for consideration.

Budget Implications.

Within current budget.

8 STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020 *

Decision Sought

That Members note the proposed 2019-20 priorities for the LGAT Strategic Plan and that they are invited to provide feedback to LGAT staff or Members of the General Management Committee.

Background Comment:

In early 2017 LGAT developed a new strategic plan for the 2017 – 2020 period. The Strategic Plan contains:

1. A long-term Vision of success for LGAT – *“Vibrant Tasmanian communities”*;
2. LGATs Central Purpose – *“Help Tasmanian Councils to be the best they can be for their communities”*;
3. Our Core Functions (from the Local Government Act);

4. Five proposed Key Focus Areas, which are -
 - a. *Facilitating change across Local Government;*
 - b. *Building Local Government's reputation;*
 - c. *Fostering collaboration;*
 - d. *Promoting financial sustainability; and*
 - e. *Underpinning Local Government capacity and capability to deliver.*
5. Key performance indicators for each focus area;
6. A short-list of critical priorities for the next twelve months that fulfil our core Purpose and address our Key Focus Areas; and
7. The values LGAT will strive to be known by.

The short list of critical priorities for the 2019 – 20 period require updating in light of the completion of a number of them as well as a changing context. The following draft priorities will be subject to a strategic planning workshop with the newly elected GMC early in the 2019/20 financial year. Once the priorities are signed off by the GMC the Annual Work Plan for the 2019–20 period will be developed.

Attachment to Item 8 contains a draft updated Strategic Plan. Four new priorities areas are proposed by LGAT staff for 2019-20 and are listed below (the numbers represent how they are listed in the Strategic Plan):

4. Deliver the 21st Century Councils Project.
5. Work with councils and stakeholders to address identified workforce capacity gaps.
6. Deliver the Community Health and Wellbeing Project.
8. Deliver equitable rating outcomes through securing legislative amendments

Items 4, 6 and 8 represent LGAT led projects currently underway that are expected to require significant resources over the next 12 – 18 months and all are discussed in other items in the General Meeting Agenda.

Item 5, Work with councils and stakeholders to address identified workforce capacity gaps, recognises the findings of the National and Tasmanian skills workforce reports (see the General Meeting Agenda item on these), the work LGAT is undertaking with others on Environmental Health Officers workforce issues and the support LGAT is providing the Economic Development Officers interest group.

These new priorities replace the following completed priorities from the 2018 – 19 year:

4. Further build sector resources and support, particularly for new Elected members (this work will continue, but is captured by priority 9 below);
5. Position the Tasmanian Local Government agenda in the federal election;
6. Further develop the financial and asset management in councils (this work will continue, but is captured by priority 9 below); and

8. Deliver a refreshed statewide community satisfaction survey.

The following priorities remain unaltered or have been slightly amended in the draft plan to reflect changes in the operating context or have been broadened (e.g. priority 9 below) to capture previous priorities:

1. Lead the waste management reform agenda;
2. Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government legislation reform;
3. Support councils in implementing the planning reform agenda;
7. Promote the good work of Local Government to the broader Community;
9. Deliver a range of high-quality training and events; and
10. Continue to expand the Procurement Program.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Decision Sought

- (a) That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.
- (b) That Members acknowledge the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2018/2019 financial year.

Representatives on Bodies are requested to provide a report for Conference and are also requested to provide regular reports back to the Association during the year.

- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**
Clr Rob Churchill , Glamorgan Spring Bay
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Nikki Den Exter, Kingborough Council
- **Family Violence Consultative Committee**
Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Northern Midlands Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mrs Jill Taylor
- **Local Government Board**
Mr Hadley Sides, former Chair (Acting)
- **State Fire Commission**
Chris Hughes, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Ms Melanie Kelly, Kingborough Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Greg Preece and Mr Rodney Fraser
- **State Marine Pollution Committee**
Mr Andrew Brown, Clarence City Council
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Ms Danielle Gray, Kingborough Council; Ald Robin McKendrick, City of Launceston
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ald Tanya Denison, City of Hobart, Clr Dick Adams, Northern Midlands Council; Jackie Merchant, Central Coast Council; Ald Simon Fraser, Glenorchy City Council
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Mr Michael Stretton, Launceston City Council
- **Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Committee**
Mayor Annette Rockliff, Devonport City Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 9.**



GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

**Wrest Point
Hobart**

Wednesday 3 July 2019

**Commencing
Immediately following the
Conclusion of the
AGM**

**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 Representative	Colour placard to be raised by the Voting Representative 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.

Schedule

10.30am	Coffee on arrival
11.00 approx.	Annual General Meeting General Meeting. Commences immediately following The conclusion of the Annual General Meeting
12.00	The Hon Peter Gutwein MP Treasurer Minister for Local Government Minister for State Growth
12.30	Lunch
1.30	Statewide Waste Study Presentation Urban EP
2.00pm	Community Satisfaction Survey Findings

Index

1	MINUTES *	6
2	CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS	6
3	PRESIDENTS REPORT	6
4	CEO'S REPORT	7
5	BUSINESS ARISING *	8
6	FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *	9
7	MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS *	9
8	ITEMS FOR DECISION	10
8.1	NATIONAL REDRESS *	10
9	ITEMS FOR NOTING	12
9.1	CHARITABLE EXEMPTIONS ON RATES *	12
9.2	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW	14
9.3	WASTE MANAGEMENT *	17
9.4	21 ST CENTURY COUNCILS *	18
9.5	PLANNING REFORM	20
9.6	LGAT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY *	22
9.7	ST LUKES CORPORATE HEALTH PLAN *	24
9.8	DIGITAL ADVISORY GROUP *	25
9.9	ENERGY	27
9.10	NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE AND FUTURE SKILLS REPORTS	29
9.11	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE	31
9.12	LGAT PROCUREMENT	32
9.13	HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW REVIEW AND HEAVY VEHICLES REGULATION IN TASMANIA	35
9.14	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	37
9.15	LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT	41
9.16	LGAT PEER ADVISOR PROGRAM *	42
9.17	STATE BUDGET *	43
9.18	FEDERAL ELECTION	45
9.19	COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING UPDATE	46
10	ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	49
10.1	REINSTATEMENT OF HEAVY VEHICLE ROAD TAX	49

10.2	COMPENSATION FOR NO INDEXATION OF HEAVY VEHICLE ROAD TAX.....	52
11	SECTOR PROFILE AND REFORM.....	55
11.1	AMEND MEETING PROCEDURES	55
12	SECTOR CAPACITY	56
	NO MOTIONS RECEIVED.....	56
13	FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	56
	NO MOTIONS RECEIVED.....	56
14	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.....	56
14.1	CLIMATE CHANGE	56
14.2	CLIMATE CHANGE	58
14.3	SINGLE USE PLASTICS/WASTE STRATEGY	61
14.4	SINGLE USE PLASTICS	64
14.5	STATE WEED MANAGEMENT.....	65
14.6	WASTE MANAGEMENT STORAGE & COLLECTION	68
14.7	FERAL CATS *	71
15	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	77
15.1	CERTIFICATE 337'S	77
15.2	INCREASED PENALTIES FOR UNLAWFUL USE AND DEVELOPMENT.....	81
16	PUBLIC POLICY GENERAL.....	83
16.1	SMOKE FREE AREAS.....	83
16.2	GUN CONTROL LAWS	85
17	CLOSE.....	86

*** DENOTES ATTACHMENT**

1 MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 29 March 2019, as circulated, be confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 March, 2019, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.**

2 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS

Decision Sought

That the agenda and order of business be confirmed.

Members are invited to confirm the agenda and order of business as presented.

3 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report on the President's activity from 1 March to 31 May 2019.

Media and Events

- Pulse, LG Tas articles
- Reconciliation Breakfast
- Regional Breakfast Forums (NW and South)

Meetings

- Anita Dow MP – Shadow Minister for Local Government
- LGAT General Meeting
- Local Government Legislation Review Reference Group Meetings
- General Management Committee
- Premier's Local Government Council
- Legislation Review Reference Group Workshops x 4
- Mayor's Professional Development Day

Upcoming Meetings (June)

- ALGA Board Meeting
- ALGA National General Assembly

Decision Sought

That the Meeting note the report on the CEO's activity from 1 March to 31 May 2019.

Policy, Projects and Presentations

- AICD Lunch – Councils and Good Governance (Amalgamations) – panel with Michael Bailey, TCCI
- Charitable Rating Exemptions, advice to Minister, developed creative brief, EOI process, engaged consultant, established Steering Committee, information gathering and working group analysis
- Distribution ALGA Federal Election Materials
- Investigating partnership approach to Art of Storytelling Workshop (August tbc)
- Preparation for Incoming GMC including briefing notes and discussion with consultant re strategic planning
- Review of the Local Government Legislation Steering Committee inputs
- Working Group – Charitable Rating Exemptions/compilation of data, response to Minister Gutwein.

Media

- Amanda Ducker/Mercury Café Society
- Code of Conduct – background only
- Council Cost Index – The Mercury
- Free Camping – ABC and The Mercury
- Planning matters – background only
- Pulse article on population
- Pulse/LG Tas
- The Mandarin – Telstra Award and working in partnership
- Valuations

Meetings, Training and Events.

- Adaptive Leadership Forum (free by invitation)
- Anita Dow MP – Shadow Minister for Local Government and Planning
- CEO Cradle Coast Authority
- CEO Dial b4 you Dig
- CEO of LG Professionals Tas regarding Emerging Leaders Program
- Charitable Rates Working Group Teleconference
- Consultant re Road Safety Strategy/Capacity Building (for State Growth)
- Director Housing Tasmania re transfer of property/rates
- DPAC re State of the State/Economic Growth
- General Manager's Workshop
- George Town Council – presentation to workshop
- GMC Meeting

- Hosted meeting of Association CEOs in Hobart
- International Women's Day event debrief and future planning
- LG Professionals Tasmania Board Meeting
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGD/KPMG re presentation of consolidated data collection
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee (monthly)
- MAV Insurance Board Meetings x 2
- Mayor's Workshop
- Minister Jaensch's Advisors re Affordable Housing Plan
- National Finals Telstra Business Women's Awards
- NW Regional Breakfast
- Peer Advisor Debrief (by teleconference)
- Penny Stringer UTAS re LEAP Program
- PLGC Meeting
- PLGC Officials
- Rates Exemptions Working Group (by teleconference)
- Reconciliation Breakfast
- Regional Development Australia Tasmania Board Meeting (as observer)
- Regular Meeting Director of Local Government
- Richmond Fellowship re joint Art of Story Telling workshop
- TCCI Budget Breakfast
- Telstra Business Women's Awards
- University Dinner
- UTAS Population Roundtable
- UTAS re campus move
- Web conference – LGAT SharePoint training
- West Tamar Council – informal lunch

5 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following information on business arising.

At **Attachment to Item 5** is a schedule of business considered at the meetings held on 29 March 2019 and the status thereof.

6 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Contact Officer: Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That the meeting note the report detailing progress of motions passed at previous meetings and not covered in Business Arising.

Follow up on outstanding motions

A matrix indicating progress to date on motions passed at General Meetings, which remained outstanding at the last General Meeting, is at **Attachment to Item 6.**

7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS *

Decision Sought

That Members note the reports for March and April 2019.

Background comment:

Monthly reports to Councils that briefly outline the Associations activities and outcomes for the previous months are at **Attachment to Item 7.**

8 ITEMS FOR DECISION

8.1 National Redress * Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members resolve to joining the National Redress Scheme with the State Government as a 'State Institution'.

Background

Following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, on 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish a National Redress Scheme for individuals who experienced institutional sexual abuse as children. In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government committed to joining the National Scheme.

The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who experienced institutional childhood sexual abuse and includes three key components for individuals deemed eligible for redress:

- A monetary payment (up to \$150,000);
- A direct personal response (such as a meeting with a senior institutional official and an apology); and
- Access to counselling consistent with National Service Principles (with the method of delivery to be determined by the relevant jurisdiction).

The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years. **Attachment to Item 8.1** provides further details on the Scheme.

Each State Government has been asked to engage with Local Government by the Scheme Operator (the Commonwealth Department of Social Services) to provide information to assist the sector in considering whether to participate in the National Redress Scheme and how that may occur. Staff from the Tasmanian Royal Commission Response Unit in the Department of Justice are currently meeting with councils to progress this discussion and recently presented at the General Managers' Workshop.

The State Government is offering Local Government the opportunity to join the Scheme as a 'State Institution', which would provide the following benefits:

- A clear mechanism to provide redress for any child sexual abuse that has occurred within a council in the past, which may reduce potential civil litigation ;
- Participation under the auspice of the State Government without the need to undertake individual steps to join the Scheme. Practically, Local Government claims

will be received like claims against any another Tasmanian Government Agency and the processing, coordination and management of claims will be supported and coordinated by the Department of Justice; and

- The Tasmanian Government will underwrite the redress liability for Local Government as calculated by the Scheme Operator for individual claims for payment by Local Government in arrears.

There is no cost for Local Government to join the Scheme or for the State Government to administer responses to the Scheme (this is handled by the State Government). However, the Scheme operates on a 'responsible entity pays' basis for the monetary payment. This means that councils who receive a claim via the Scheme are liable for that claim, but the claim is limited to that council, not all councils.

It is important to note that a claimant who has not been able to progress an application for abuse against a non-participating institution may pursue civil law options against that institution. Unlike the redress scheme, payments determined through civil law processes are not capped, however the burden of proof is likely higher.

The State Government has indicated a preference for all councils join the scheme. The difficulty that arises if a whole of sector approach is not taken is that administrative and legal complexity that would result. While the Tasmanian Government has not made a formal decision that it would not support individual councils, there are some legal complexities that they would need to liaise with the Commonwealth further about before indicating whether it is feasible.

A draft MOU, which will be sent to each council, is included for reference at **Attachment to Item 8.1.**

Budget Implication

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Building Local Government's reputation; and
Fostering collaboration.

9 ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 Charitable Exemptions on Rates * Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on LGAT Activity with respect to charitable rates exemptions.

As discussed at General Meetings in 2016, December 2018 and March 2019 the sector has raised significant concerns in relation to the application of charitable exemptions on rates.

In 2015 LGAT Members determined that they would take a common and equitable approach to the rating of Independent Living Units (ILUs) which takes as a core assumption that private residential occupancy is not a charitable purpose and is not exempt from general rates.

At the March 2019 General Meeting members resolved:

That LGAT establish a working group and seek legal advice if necessary, to develop a proposed amendment to section 87 of the Local Government Act, and specifically in regard to the definition charitable purpose, with a view to providing certainty and social equity in the application of rating exemptions.

That LGAT seek a firm commitment from the State Government to commence a review of the rating exemption provisions in the Local Government Act, with amendment to proceed as soon as practicable and ahead of the broader legislative review timeframes.

The sector strongly believes that the intent of the legislation was that, for an exemption to apply, the land in question is to be both **owned and occupied** exclusively for charitable purposes. It should not be enough that the landowner is a charitable institution if the purpose for the occupancy is not charitable. This is particularly the case when the land owner has the ability to pass on the rates to the non-charitable occupant, as was done by Southern Cross Care. Independent Living Units are by their very definition, accommodation units designed for independent, active retirees who do not require special assistance with day-to-day living. What distinguishes them from aged-care facilities is that independent living units are used as normal and private residences, just like anyone else's home.

This issue is a question of equity. Is it acceptable or equitable that residents of these residential village units do not pay rates and therefore do not contribute to the services and facilities of their respective cities and communities while low income families, pensioner home owners and private retirement villages do pay? How is it fair and equitable that someone paying \$600,000 -

\$700,000 to buy into a modern Independent Living Unit doesn't pay rates but a pensioner who paid \$130,000 to buy a humble former Housing Tasmania property and has lived in low socio-economic areas for years does? Or that someone living at Vaucluse Retirement Village does?

It is also relevant to note that rating exemptions applied to charitable organisations should not be confused with pensioner remissions. The State Government funds a rate remission for all eligible pensioners of the lesser of a prescribed amount or 30% of rates.

There are more than 8,500 pensioners across both Clarence and Hobart alone, together with low-income earners and self-funded retirees, who currently pay rates as their contribution to the cost of providing facilities and services to their community. With every form of rates exemption, there is a corresponding shift of the rates burden to other ratepayers.

The need for councils to ensure that general rate exemptions are appropriately applied is good governance. It is important for councils to implement up-to-date and equitable policies that consider the entire community and ensure ratepayers are being treated fairly and equally.

Further discussion on this issue was undertaken at the April General Managers' workshop where General Managers sought that LGAT develop a business case in relation to engaging specialist communications support for advocacy around appropriate amendment to the legislation.

Additionally, the Minister for Local Government has written to LGAT, outlining concerns raised by TasCOSS and seeking a response from both TasCOSS and LGAT (**refer Attachment to Item 9.1**). It is likely that concerns stem from council's having different processes and policies related to exemptions even though there is compliance with the legislation as it currently stands. LGAT anticipates advocacy for a common approach across the sector.

The LGAT CEO has since:

1. Sought and collated information from councils regarding current policies and processes, the impact of the high court decision on revenues and any concerns raised by charities.
2. Responded to the Minister (**refer Attachment to Item 9.1**);
 - Established a working group which meets regularly by web conference. A second meeting was held early May. The Working Group has broadly mapped the issues that need to be addressed and considered what form a legislative amendment might take and which aspects could not be dealt with legislatively.
3. Developed a creative brief and sought responses from targeted firms (based on advice from General Managers). The process has closed and a firm has been appointed.
4. Established a Project Steering Committee as a subcommittee of the General Management Committee. Membership comprises the Mayor of West Tamar (Chair), LGAT CEO, Mayor of Kingborough, General Manager of Hobart and General Manager of Brighton.
5. Allocated funding in the LGAT Budget to support efforts in this space.

6. Sought and received advice from the Minister's Advisor re a public statement by Ray Groom on behalf of Southern Cross Care that they have had assurances from the Minister that legislative change will not be supported.
7. Ensured that this issue remains on the Premier's Local Government Council agenda.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

As per the Meeting resolution.

Strategic Plan

Promoting Financial Sustainability

Priority Area 2 Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

9.2 Local Government Act Review

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the progress of the Local Government Act Review.

Background

As reported at the General Meeting in June 2018, the Minister for Local Government announced a 'roots and branches' review of Tasmania's Local Government legislation framework. Comment was sought on the Terms of Reference which were finalised in November 2018. There are a number of matters out of scope of this review including council amalgamations and Code of Conduct provisions.

A governance structure was finalised at the end of 2018. The Review is being governed by a Steering Committee. Local Government representatives on that Committee are the LGAT CEO Katrena Stephenson, former Tasman Mayor, Roseanne Heyward and former Meander Valley General Manager (and Chair of the Local Government Board) Greg Preece. The Steering Committee meets monthly.

A Reference Group has been appointed comprising membership from a broad range of backgrounds including Local Government and Industry. Members are:

- Doug Chipman Mayor, Clarence City Council
- Peter Freshney Mayor, Latrobe Council
- Kerry Vincent Mayor, Sorell Council
- Cheryl Arnol Councillor, Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council

- Claire Smith Director Organizational Performance, Waratah Wynyard Council
- Lynette While Director Community & Development Services, Meander Valley Council
- John Brown General Manager, Break O'Day Council
- Andrew Paul General Manager, Clarence City Council
- Karen Abey Solicitor, Simmons Wolfhagen
- Margaret Taylor Community member
- Pamela Allan Adjunct Professor, School of Technology, Environment & Design, UTAS
- Craig Perkins CEO, Regional Development Australia, Tasmania
- Rhonda Skelton Board Member, Northern Midlands Business Association
- Kym Goodes CEO, Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCoss)
- Luke Martin CEO, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania
- Brian Wightman Executive Director, Property Council of Australia, Tasmania Division
- Michael Bailey CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)

The Reference Group is being independently facilitated with each meeting to focus on a particular subject matter. Reference Group meetings commenced in April and concluded in May. Steering Committee Members did not attend the Reference Group Meetings. The Reference Group discussions were facilitated by Wise Lord Ferguson and by all accounts were productive and effective discussions.

The Premier's Local Government Council will have ongoing oversight of the project and following the release of a Government Directions Paper, technical working groups will be formed to support the development of appropriate legislative responses.

A discussion paper was released in late 2018 inviting submissions until 1 March 2019. The paper sought only broad input on principles and represents Phase 1 of consultation. A number of forums were held regionally to allow for public, sector and industry input into the paper as well as through a survey or written submission. LGAT participated in those. The Paper canvassed a range of questions around governance and powers, democracy and engagement, revenue and expenditure, performance transparency and accountability as well as seeking feedback on any other matters. Nearly 400 submissions were received. All submissions, including LGAT's, as well as a summary, are now available on the Local Government Division website.

Key themes arising in Phase 1, which were explored to various extents by the Reference Group included:

- A desire for greater community engagement particularly in relation to strategic decisions, budget and rate setting and around major development, infrastructure projects, parks and recreation facilities;
- Shared services as a priority and strong budget management;

- Greater transparency around council decision making;
- Enhanced accountability measures and management of conflict of interest;
- Limitations on council decision making in the lead up to an election; and
- Earlier intervention when councils are not performing as they should.

The Reference Group is to provide the Steering Committee with an insight into the views and ideas held by a diversity of stakeholders with an interest in Local Government. The Group have identified, discussed and workshoped ideas and reform options for the Local Government legislative framework, particularly in relation to elections, council revenue and expenditure, councils' roles as regulators and/or statutory authorities, representation and community engagement, council services, governance, regulatory oversight, performance monitoring and reporting and council administration. Recommendations and actions arising from these discussions will be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration as they form advice to the Minister in the form of a draft Direction Paper.

There will be further opportunity for broad sector input into the process in Phase 2 (June to August 2019) with the release of the Directions Paper and, in Phase 3 (March-May 2020) with the release of a draft Bill.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Facilitating Change

Priority Area 2 Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

9.3 Waste Management *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on LGAT's advocacy around waste issues and the report from the Statewide Waste Arrangements Feasibility Study.

Background

Improved waste and resource management has been an on-going and sustained area of LGAT advocacy for many years now, with recent activity including the Statewide Waste Arrangements Feasibility Study (the Study).

At the July 2018 General Meeting, Councils endorsed funding the study, up to \$90,000. In the latter part of 2018 LGAT was successful in securing a 50% funding contribution from the State Government for this work, reducing council contributions to \$45,000.

Tenders were sought from a range of providers to undertake the Study. There were four very high-quality submissions, with Victorian based firm Urban EP selected to undertake the work.

At the project commencement a project reference group, comprising two representatives from each regional waste authority and one representative from the EPA, was formed to oversee the project. There are two parts to the study.

Part A: Collate evidence and present findings on the needs for and benefits of a Statewide Waste Management Arrangement. This was primarily be developed through:

- Engagement with Local Government and the three regional waste authorities;
- A review of the three existing regional waste authorities, including their differing governance arrangements, roles and functions and how they may integrate with a statewide arrangement; and
- A review of arrangements in other jurisdictions.

Part A of the Study was completed in late April, with a summary of the problems to address, benefits of a state-wide arrangement and list of potential functions summarised in **Attachment to Item 9.3.**

The Study also found that establishment of a statewide arrangement would be consistent with the direction of all the mainland Australian states and the benefits would be shared across Tasmania and stakeholder groups, rather than accruing to any particular interest groups.

A summary report was provided to Mayors and General Managers on completion of Part A.

Part B of the Study, which is now almost complete, involves development of the purpose, role, functions and governance of this statewide arrangement as necessary for planning, co-ordinating and delivering statewide waste policies, strategies, programs and services.

There will be a short presentation on the main findings of Part B at the July General Meeting and will, in addition to the three (3) regional workshops, allow members to raise any issues or ask questions.

Budget Implications

Members agreed at the 2018 July General meeting to full fund the study. LGAT were subsequently successful in securing a State Government 50% contribution.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

9.4 21st Century Councils *

Contact Officer: Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the progress on the 21st Century Councils Project.

Background

At the March General meeting members endorsed the following methodology for progressing discussions on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government sector, known under the name of 21st Century Council Project:

1. Development of a summary paper covering the history of the work that has been done to date in relation to Local Government reform in the State and the context and drivers of discussions to date;
2. Compilation of a stakeholder interest/outcomes paper, there is significant interest in "Local Government reform", but what outcomes are different stakeholders actually seeking? This piece of work will seek to compile key stakeholder values and views.
3. A series of pilot projects to test change ideas that fit with the issues raised in the kitchen table exercise and the ideas and issues emerging out of the Part 2 investigations.

This work will be undertaken consecutively in the three-stages outlined above, with the initial summary paper included at **Attachment to Item 9.4.**

The summary paper has involved a detailed literature review, compiling relevant recent studies and academic literature on Local Government reform in Tasmania and Australia, articles around the issues, pressures and challenges facing Local Government. The paper does not seek to provide recommendations but rather outlines:

- A brief history of Local Government reform in Tasmania;
- An analysis of the drivers for reform;
- Types of structural reform;
- A comparison of the benefits and risks of the two main forms of structural reform typically discussed – amalgamations and shared services; and
- Conclusions.

Part 2 of the Project involves the compilation of a stakeholder interest paper and will commence later this month. In order to achieve comprehensive engagement with the Local Government sector, LGAT has developed a process and toolkit to guide individual General Managers to have a conversation with both staff and their councillor group.

The approach seeks to:

- Enable a collaborative engagement;
- Be simple and time sensitive; and
- Collect feedback in a useful, consistent and comprehensive format.

A toolkit has been developed to support GMs throughout this approach. The toolkit includes:

- Guided facilitator notes;
- An effective agenda, with explanatory notes detailing scope of engagement;
- A short briefing session (delivered virtually); and
- A note taking/reporting template.

The toolkit will be rolled out during July to enable GMs to undertake the consultation throughout July to September.

In addition, LGAT will be undertaking targeted consultation with a number of key stakeholders who have an interest in Local Government.

The results from Parts 1 and 2 will be analysed in late 2019, to allow the development of pilot projects (Part 3) in early 2020.

Budget Implication

Parts 1 and 2 can be undertaken within current resources, however Part 3 would require dedicated further investment to ensure the pilot projects are designed and implemented effectively.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

9.5 Planning Reform

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on the progress of the State Government's program of land use planning reform.

Background

The State Government's number one planning reform priority remains the establishment of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which is now reliant on councils completing their Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs) and submitting to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for assessment. The Minister for Planning has requested council lodge their LPS by 30 June 2019. At the time of writing nine (9) councils had lodged their LPS, with a further 14 likely to lodge prior to this deadline. Six (6) councils are unlikely to meet the 30 June timeframe but are expected to submit either shortly after or in the second part of 2019. This has taken a significant resource effort from councils and the planning staff are to be congratulated for their efforts.

To support councils in the advertising of the LPSs, LGAT has secured funding from the State Government for a sector software licence for councils to access. The licence provides access to an online mapping tool for the advertising of LPSs. This platform was successfully used by Meander Valley Council and can be viewed at:

<http://meandervalley.discovercommunities.com.au/connect/analyst/tps/#/main?mapcfg=tps>

Preparation of council specific pages requires additional modest investment for each council.

The other key areas of reform soon to be progressed by the State Government are outlined below.

The Development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPS)

As a first step, a Scoping Paper will be released for public consultation in June 2019 to gather feedback on the possible themes and scope of the TPPs, with formal consultation on a draft

suite of TPPs expected to commence in late 2019. It is anticipated that there will be a significant role for Local Government in the TPPs, not only during scoping but also during the drafting stage during the later months of the year.

Update of the Regional Land Use Strategies (RLUSs)

The RLUSs will need review in light of the development of the TPPs and it would be premature to embark on a review prior to the TPPs being understood. In the interim, the Government will focus on developing a framework for the RLUSs. It is anticipated that the review will commence in late 2019 with the release of a discussion paper.

Review of the Residential Provisions

The Government also recently announced the development of new planning rules that will facilitate 'medium-density' residential development in our major urban centres. This work is expected to commence in late 2019 with the government's aim of having the draft standards before the Tasmanian Planning Commission in 2020. In addition, the standards for residential development (Planning Directive 4.1) in the General Residential Zone are proposed to be reviewed. This is likely to commence in early 2020.

Improvements to Subdivision Legislation

The Government has previously committed to a review of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* (LGBMP) with a view to consolidating the Act's subdivision provisions into the State Planning Provisions. A preliminary review has indicated that the LGBMP Act is based on policy settings now decades old. The Act also contains a range of provisions relating to matters covered by other State agencies and has overlap with other legislation, consequently a comprehensive 'root and branch' review is required. However, the current priority is to establish the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and introduce a suite of TPPs.

Major Projects Legislation

The Government has committed to replacing the projects of regional significance process (PORS process) with a new major projects assessment process in LUPAA. It is anticipated that a draft Bill will be introduced in the Spring Session of Parliament 2019, which will replace the Projects of Regional Significance section of the Act.

Planning and Building Portal

The portal's aim is to make it easier for Tasmanians to access information about their properties and to apply for planning and building permits.

The portal will deliver a single statewide system that integrates all planning, building and related approvals and will incorporate features such as:

- Online access to information and regulatory requirements;
- Online application lodgement, which will allow owners and agents to lodge planning applications and associated documents; and

- An application tracking service, which will allow planning authorities to manage workflows and also applicants to view and track applications from lodgement to determination.

As part of this process the portal team have previously met with either the General Manager or a senior Development Officer at every council.

A tender for the design of the portal has recently been released by the State Government.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Building Local Government's reputation

Fostering collaboration

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

9.6 LGAT Community Satisfaction Survey *

Contact Officer: Deborah Leisser

Decision Sought

That Members note the results from the 2019 Community Satisfaction Survey as provided in the written report and presentation to the General Meeting.

Background

Metropolis Research was commissioned by LGAT to conduct primary research of 1,200 residents drawn proportionally from across the state to explore community satisfaction with the performance of Local Government and associated issues. This research builds on satisfaction research previously conducted by LGAT and has been conducted using the same methodology as has been employed in previous years.

Surveys were conducted as telephone interviews of randomly selected residents across Tasmania during the early months of 2019. The interviews lasted for a duration of roughly twenty minutes and were conducted by trained Metropolis Research staff. The purpose of the interviews was to measure community satisfaction with council's overall performance, as well as with a range of council provided services and facilities.

Satisfaction scores have been categorised as follows:

- **Excellent** – scores of 7.75 and above
- **Very Good** – scores of 7.25 to less than 7.75
- **Good** – scores of 6.5 to less than 7.25
- **Solid** – scores of 6 to less than 6.5
- **Poor** – scores of 5.5 to less than 6
- **Very Poor** – scores of 5 to less than 5.5
- **Extremely Poor** – scores of less than 5

Satisfaction with Council's Overall Performance

State-wide, respondents rated their satisfaction with their council's overall performance at an average of 6.81 ('good') out of a potential 10.

Time series results suggest that satisfaction with the overall performance of Local Government in Tasmania has remained stable since 2009.

There was some variation in overall satisfaction with councils observed across the State as follows:

More satisfied than average – respondents from the rural and north west councils, younger respondents (aged 18 to 34 years), senior citizens (aged 75 years and over) and new residents (less than five years in the municipality).

Less satisfied than average – respondents from city councils, mortgagee households and two parent families with the youngest child aged 5 to 12 years.

The most common reasons for dissatisfaction with a council's overall performance related to governance and accountability issues.

A summary of the 2019 Community Satisfaction Survey (A Report For Decision Makers) is at **Attachment to Item 9.6**.

Summary papers of key areas will be made available on the LGAT website and the lengthy and detailed final report is available through LGAT on request.

Community Satisfaction at the Local Council Level

Individual council surveys using the survey instrument that formed the basis of the State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey can be organised via LGAT.

Budget Implications

The State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey is already funded through council contributions to LGAT.

Facilitation and coordination of Community Satisfaction Surveys at the individual council level by LGAT (in consultation with councils) is not funded and will be costed on a fee for service basis.

Current Policy

Strategic plan

Building Local Government's reputation

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

9.7 St Lukes Corporate Health Plan *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the St Lukes Health Corporate Plan that is now available to all elected representatives and staff of Local Government Tasmania.

Background

St Lukes Health was established in Tasmania in 1952 and is a not-for-profit organisation employing more than 100 staff. They have been a supporter of the LGAT Annual Conference for a number of years.

On behalf of Tasmanian Local Government elected representatives and staff, LGAT has negotiated a whole of sector Corporate Health Plan, with the following key features:

- An 8% discount on the brochure rates offered in the Corporate Brochure;
- The first month premium free and waiver of the two, three and six month waiting periods on extras for those people who switch from another health fund within two months of the Corporate Health Plan commencing; and
- Current St Lukes members will receive, in addition to the 8% discount, the first month premium free if they upgrade their existing cover within two months of the Corporate Health Plan commencing.

The full Corporate Health Plan can be found at **Attachment to Item 9.7.**

It is important to note that the benefits are only available to elected representatives and staff while on council or working for council. Any individual would need to contemplate in relation to deciding to move to St Lukes that there is no guarantee of continued discount if they are no longer in the sector (either through election outcome or job change). This still represents a very attractive deal for many Elected Member and Employees of Local Government.

The Corporate health Plan commenced in late May, so Members are encouraged to make all staff and elected representative aware of the opportunity, as a number of the benefits are limited to within two months of the Plan commencing (or new staff starting employment).

Please see the St Luke staff at their Conference booth for further information.

Budget Implication

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Fostering collaboration

9.8 Digital Advisory Group *

Contact Officer: Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on the work of the Digital Advisory Group.

Background

Local Governments in Tasmania are experiencing changing local contexts. As is occurring in other State and Territories, there is a gradual shift in Tasmania away from what might be considered traditional industries, towards tourism, service and knowledge-based industries. Improvements in technology have contributed to this change, most notably within industry and the broader community. While not a traditional area of responsibility for Local Government, these changes in the local context are creating expectations amongst the community and business about the role of Local Government.

This poses three questions:

1. How should councils' play a role in fostering and supporting local business and residents' active participation within the digital economy?
2. How can councils adapt their service delivery in the digital age?
3. What internal changes do councils need to enable these changes?

There is a recognition within the sector that we need to find ways to capitalise on the benefits that come with digital technologies and over the last few years a number of Tasmanian councils have begun to explore ways that technology can be deployed to service their communities in a smarter and more efficient manner.

What is the role for LGAT?

There is already significant work occurring in a number of councils and this provides an opportunity for LGAT to **support** and **promote** the work already occurring across the sector and **connect** councils with a desire, but perhaps not the resources, to councils or other partners from outside the sector who could be of assistance.

In recognition of the potential role LGAT can play we established a Digital Advisory Group to help guide LGATs activities in supporting councils. The Digital Advisory Group, made up of sector and industry leaders from Tasmanian and Queensland, met for the first time in late 2018 and considered the three questions posed earlier in this item.

As a result of the feedback from the Digital Advisory Group LGAT is in the process of preparing a roadmap for how we support councils in this transformation. To further inform us of the current state across the sector, LGAT has recently completed a digital readiness survey of relevant council staff. A report on the survey results is included at **Attachment to Item 9.8**. The survey results have been provided to the Digital Advisory Group for consideration and advice to inform the LGAT roadmap for supporting councils through a digital transformation.

The path to a smart council and community is a long and continuous one. However, we know that with the right planning and investment in digital transformation, councils can make their communities more liveable, workable and sustainable.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on LGAT's successful advocacy in the energy space, resulting in significant sector savings.

Background

The Local Government Association of Tasmania continues to advocate strongly in the energy policy portfolio and provide project management support to councils to assist them in realising significant savings. This brief provides members with an update of the work occurring in this area.

TasNetworks Pricing Reset 2019-24

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 to protect electricity customers by ensuring specific performance standards and by capping revenues based on forecast costs during a regulatory period (usually five years).

TasNetworks submitted its combined Transmission and Distribution Regulatory Proposal (Proposal) for 2019 to 2024 to the AER on 31 January 2018. The process of review and consultation for a pricing reset is a long and detailed process providing stakeholders with a number of opportunities for engagement.

The TasNetworks proposal indicated that the current prices for public lighting assets fall significantly short of full cost recovery. As a result, TasNetworks proposed to increase its public lighting prices over the 2019-24. In reviewing the proposal, LGAT identified a number of issues of concern and raised these with the AER through face-to-face meetings and a formal submission.

The draft determination of the AER handed down in September 2018 supported LGAT's submission and rejected TasNetworks pricing for public lighting. TasNetworks were then given an opportunity to resubmit their proposal. The revised proposal, although better, was not completely transparent and still failed to adequately justify the proposed overhead price rises. LGAT again discussed concerns with the AER and provided an additional submission.

In April 2019 the AER handed down its final determination and rejected TasNetworks public lighting pricing submission and imposed caps on overheads, along with recommending that TasNetworks engage with LGAT to develop service level agreement for street lighting for Tasmanian councils.

This advocacy work has resulted in significant savings to councils.

TasNetworks original submission (January 2018) proposed a revenue of \$37.8 million over the five year period. However as discussed above, the AER were not satisfied that TasNetworks had demonstrated that the increased costs were justified, with the final determination by the AER allowing TasNetworks to recover revenue of \$30.7 million over the five year period, **\$7.1 million** less than TasNetworks original proposal. This is a significant saving to Councils and a good outcome from the advocacy work LGAT undertook throughout this process.

Great Southern Lights Project

The Great Southern Lights LED street lighting project continues to progress. While significant delays have occurred with the project due to negotiations with TasNetworks on the Asset Sale Agreement, at the time of writing they are close to finalisation. Once councils have signed the agreement the project managers will be appointed and orders for lights and installers will be made. It is likely that lights will begin being installed at the start of next financial year.

Budget Implications

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic plan

Facilitating Change

Fostering collaboration

Promoting financial sustainability

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on the Local Government Workforce and Future Skills Report.

Background

In April, LGAT released the Local Government Workforce and Future Skills Report for Tasmania¹ (foreshadowed in the December 2018 General Meeting) and distributed to councils via LGAT's newsletter, The Pulse². The report is one of a series of nationwide Local Government focused reports undertaken collaboratively between the Local Government Associations of all States and Territories, completed with Commonwealth funding support.

The Tasmanian Local Government workforce report found nearly 70% of Tasmanian councils were experiencing skills shortages and 50% of councils were experiencing skills gaps. These results substantiate the anecdotal evidence of councils across Tasmania reporting challenges in recruiting experienced staff in a number of important skills areas.

Engineers were found to be the top occupation shortage, followed by Town Planners, Surveyors, and Environmental Health Officers. Councils identified a number of reasons for the shortages, including:

- Location of the councils restricting the number of suitable candidates applying;
- Inability to compete with private sector on remuneration, due to a mismatch between Local Government funding and service obligations;
- Insufficient suitably qualified/experienced candidates, either from a limited skilled candidate pool or difficulty in attracting such candidates;
- Public perception and branding of councils; and
- Lack of vocational education and training providers.

These gaps and shortages in critical skill areas have significant implications for Local Government work flows, capacity and sustainability of service provision, especially if prolonged. For example, although councils are currently maintaining good permit processing times, prolonged shortages may place unsustainable resourcing demands on skills involved in assessing permits.

¹ See:

[http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/LG%20Workforce%20&%20Future%20Skills%20Report%20Tasmania%20\(Sept%202018%20FINAL\).pdf](http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/LG%20Workforce%20&%20Future%20Skills%20Report%20Tasmania%20(Sept%202018%20FINAL).pdf)

² View and subscribe to The Pulse here: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=635>

LGAT has previously received anecdotal reports of difficulties recruiting in specific skill areas from council human resources staff even before the outcomes of this report were known and has begun to take action. In addition to working with Members to address these issues, LGAT has initiated a program of work focusing on the shortage of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).

So far, LGAT, in partnership with the Department of Health and Environmental Health Australia (Tasmania), have lobbied the University of Tasmania to re-establish a tertiary degree to train EHOs in Tasmania, a course that the University had previously decided to phase out. As a direct result the University has agreed to map out a replacement course that serves the environmental health outcomes and demands of local communities. In addition, work has commenced on a workforce development plan for EHOs, refer Agenda Item 9.11 for a full description (see also report on the Health and Wellbeing Project Item 9.11)

Importantly, the work undertaken for EHOs will provide a model for addressing skills shortages in other fields, such as engineering and town planning.

Concurrent to the Tasmanian report, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has released the national Local Government Workforce and Future Skills Report Australia, available on ALGA's website³. National level actions are being considered to address these threats to the Local Government workforce and LGAT is collaborating with Local Government Associations of other states on these workforce planning issues.

Local Government cannot solve sector skills shortages alone and will need to work collaboratively with training providers and State and Commonwealth Government funding bodies to address the issue. This is particularly important as resolving underlying local resourcing issues is critical to sustaining adequate levels of community service provision, permit processing times and infrastructure and development management that contribute to the daily standard of living of Tasmanians.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

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

³ See: <https://alga.asn.au/local-government-workforce-and-future-skills-report-australia/>

9.11 Environmental Health Officer Update

Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on LGAT's work to address EHO shortages.

Background

Currently Tasmania's 29 councils are experiencing significant difficulty in attracting and retaining appropriately skilled Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). Local Government is the largest employer of EHOs in Tasmania and this workforce plays an essential role in ensuring the health and safety of our community and visitors to the State. The drivers of this skills shortage are complex and multifaceted and in order to address this challenge there needs to be a holistic assessment of the causes and a number of strategies developed.

This is why in late 2018 LGAT applied to SkillsTas for funding to undertake a workforce development plan for EHOs in Tasmania (the Project). This application was unsuccessful, however the contributors to the application determined that they would collectively fund the work themselves. LGAT, UTAS, the Department of Health and the EPA have all committed to jointly fund the Project. In addition, each organisation and Environmental Health Australia Tasmanian Division will contribute significant in-kind support for the Project.

The Project team consists of:

- Roger Hughes, School of Medicine, UTAS;
- Nicola Stephens, School of Medicine, UTAS;
- Dion Lester, LGAT;
- Lynden Leppard, LGAT;
- Paul Hunt, Public Health Services, Department of Health;
- Siobhan Harpur, Public Health Services, Department of Health;
- Melissa Burn, Environmental Health Australia (Tasmania); and
- Alasdair Wells, Environment Protection Authority Tasmania.

The Project funding will support the employment of a Research Assistant who will work to the Project Team under day-to-day support in the School of Medicine (Public Health & Health Systems team). Recruitment of a Research Assistant to undertake the work has commenced, with the Project expected to be complete this year.

The Project will produce a paper summarising in detail the issues and challenges facing the workforce, with initial suggestions for action that will inform the development of the workforce development plan. The members of the Project team represent the agencies with a stake in the project's findings and they are committed to a collaborative and constructive approach to the challenges that will be identified.

LGAT has an important role to play in facilitating a process in which all the stakeholders remain engaged and committed to the agreed principles for working together. LGAT also has a responsibility for ongoing consultation with all Local Councils on the implications of the findings and the development of recommendations.

One of the known key challenges to sustaining an appropriately skilled EHO workforce in Tasmanian was the lack of a University course for aspirant EHOs. Pleasingly and as a direct result of the advocacy efforts of the Project Team, the UTAS School of Medicine intends to develop a post-graduate Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health.

Budget Implication

Being undertaken within current resources

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Fostering collaboration

Promoting financial capacity

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

9.12 LGAT Procurement

Contact Officer – Deborah Leisser

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on LGAT's procurement services, the savings of nearly \$2million across the sector and potential future procurement opportunities for councils.

Background

LGAT provides a range of procurement services for members. Of primary importance is the development, establishment and management of a range of goods and services supply panel arrangements that combine the purchasing power of councils in Tasmania and in other States of Australia for collective benefits.

Tasmanian councils can save time and money by purchasing through LGAT Procurement. These savings are made both on the price of the goods (discounts have been negotiated) and through streamlined administrative purchasing processes i.e. avoiding the need to tender. Savings associated with a single tender process are in the order of \$15,000 for a simple tender to around \$45,000 for a complex tender process.

LGAT member councils can purchase from quality approved suppliers, through these panels via a Request for Quotation or direct purchase order, they do not need to undertake a tender process, as this has already been done on behalf of councils by LGAT. It is important to note that councils can purchase locally through these panels.

Panels are developed and managed by procurement experts and are designed to meet strong probity requirements.

LGAT panel arrangement activity for 2018/19

Panel arrangements in place -

- Energy Efficient Street Lighting
- Energy Efficient Street Lighting installation project management
- Telecommunications
- Fuel
- Mobile Garbage Bins
- Plant Machinery and Equipment
- Specialised Trucks and bodies, including Electric Garbage Trucks
- Trucks
- Industrial, Construction, Electrical and General Hardware and Materials

Panel arrangements under review/development

- Smart Cities
- Road, Water, Sewerage and Civil Works
- Business Management Services
- Information and Communication Technology Solutions and Services
- Corporate Clothing Workwear and Personal Protective Equipment
- Tyres, Tubes and Batteries
- Motor Vehicles, including Hybrids, Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

The key LGAT panel arrangements used

Over the 12 months to end March 2019 key LGAT panel arrangements used were:

- Plant Machinery and Equipment
- Trucks and Specialised Trucks and Bodies
- Telecommunications
- Corporate Wardrobe
- Tyres, Tubes and Batteries

Total Spend through LGAT panel arrangements

The total council spend through LGAT panel arrangements from the end of March 2018 to end March 2019 was \$5.8m. The total estimated savings for councils over the 12 months to end March was **\$1.11m**. This equates to an estimated saving per council (total savings divided by 29 councils) of \$38,276.

Savings through LGAT - Electricity

LGAT also works to coordinate specific procurement processes where a range of councils have a common interest. By way of example, in 2014 non-metred public lighting energy became contestable. As a result, LGAT facilitated two rounds of competitive procurement processes for the sector. LGAT secured a significant reduction in electricity costs for the group of participating councils by leading this collective procurement process.

The latest contract is coming to an end on 30 June 2019 and LGAT is once again facilitating a combined competitive procurement process with the sector. At the time of writing the tender process was underway and contracts are likely to be in place by the time the July General Meeting is held.

The total savings negotiated for electricity (street lighting) was in the order of **\$820,000** for the period 2018/19.

Total savings via LGAT Procurement (Panel Arrangements And Electricity)

The total amount councils saved via LGAT procurement for the 12 months to end March 2019, was \$1.9M or \$65,517 per council (total savings divided by 29 councils), \$1.11M of this was via LGAT contract/panel arrangements and \$820,000 was via savings through the electricity contract.

Total LGAT subs state-wide for 2018/19 amounted to \$1.3M. In other words, savings covered 146% of total subs for a 12-month period.

Fourteen Councils made savings through LGAT Procurement that were sufficient to fully offset their LGAT annual subscriptions and a further four made savings that covered more than 50% of their LGAT annual subscription.

Budget Implications

LGAT Procurement operates within existing staffing arrangements.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Fostering collaboration

Promoting financial sustainability

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report on the review of Heavy Vehicle National Law and direct interested staff to make contact with LGAT.

Background comment:

Tasmania is leading the way in Australia in collaborating to understand its road network and deliver safe and responsible road access for heavy vehicles. However, a current review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) by the National Transport Commission (NTC) may impact the work achieved to date.

Since its commencement in 2014, the HVNL has had a difficult introduction period for road managers, regulators and transport operators alike in implementing and adapting to the new regulatory environment. Being such a critical component and facilitator of economic activity and community wellbeing, both locally and nation-wide, getting the optimal balance between productivity, efficiency, road safety and infrastructure protection has been an important task for all stakeholders to get right.

To proactively adapt to the new law, the Tasmanian Department of State Growth (DSG) and Local Government have partnered closely over the last five years to undertake work to understand the infrastructure capacity and tolerances of their road network, as well as Tasmanian industry heavy vehicles and transport needs, in order to optimise the delivery of safe and responsible road access for operators. The collaboration has provided novel digital mapping and technical tools to assess proposed HV routes and their demands on critical infrastructure (like bridges and roundabouts) so that requests for HV access to the road network can be assessed and processed as efficiently as possible and with steadily improving speed and convenience. This has led to a relatively positive and stable road access situation for heavy vehicles in Tasmania, with a collaborative culture of continual improvement and infrastructure optimisation shared amongst road managers. From LGAT's perspective, the collaborative approach between State and Local Governments is a highly successful one in delivering quality services to our communities and unlocking value in the infrastructure we manage, providing a model for State-Local engagement in optimising service delivery for Tasmania.

However, Heavy Vehicle access problems, particularly in other jurisdictions, have motivated some operators and their industry associations to advocate for change, including the Oversize and Overmass (OSOM) Review⁴ and the broader HVNL review⁵, both very recent and in-progress. Some of this advocacy has taken aim at Local Government specifically, questioning the entire sector's role in road access decisions. Given that this is not the same issue in every jurisdiction and the substantial progress made in Tasmania, how the NTC responds to these claims in the HVNL review may have adverse impacts on the collaboration and service delivery that Tasmania is currently delivering.

LGAT is working closely with DSG to inform the HVNL review, as well as Local Government Association colleagues of other states and the ALGA. LGAT encourages members to support their road management staff in continuing the positive collaboration between State and Local road managers. Should your staff wish to be involved in the HVNL review, please have them contact 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
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

⁴ See: https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/ris/index.aspx

⁵ See: <https://www.ntc.gov.au/current-projects/heavy-vehicle-national-law-review/>

9.14 Emergency Management
Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on Emergency Management activity.

Background

Significant activity has been occurring in the emergency management sphere in recent times. The following provides an update on the status of this activity at the federal, state and local level.

Federal Government Policies

Emergency Response Fund

Through the 2019/20 budget the Federal Government announced a new \$3.9B Emergency Response Fund, to allocate up to \$150M per annum for natural disaster recovery and response initiatives above and beyond existing funding for severe and catastrophic disasters.

The application of the Fund will not interfere with the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The Fund will commence on 1 October 2019.

The fund is for natural disaster recovery and responses and on the face of it does not include mitigation, or betterment, which is dealt with under the existing DRFA.

However, the fund will be established under legislation which will be tabled after the election and may therefore be subject to negotiations to include mitigation funding. Indications are the funding could be in the form of grants as opposed to reimbursement under the DRFA model (albeit with upfront payment).

Natural Disaster Resilience Funding

The Government will provide \$130.5M over five years from 2019-20 to reduce the risk and impact of disasters

The funding includes \$104.4M for a five year National Partnership Agreement (NPA) to support the States and Territories in reducing disaster risks. The total amount available to the State and Territories under this agreement will be \$20.9M per annum (in contrast to the previous NPA, which provided a total of \$26.1M per annum). The funding difference is being provided to the Department of Home Affairs to deliver initiatives (8 projects) which reduce disaster risk at the national level.

From a Tasmanian perspective it is likely that funding for mitigation through grant programs will reduce from \$1.3 million to \$1 million per annum. This is still dependant on negotiations which will start after the election. Tasmania's previous share of NPA funding was allocated based on 5% of the national pool but whether the funding is distributed on the same basis under the new agreement is not yet known. Tasmania's share could be reduced as low as 2.2% if a decision is made to distribute the funding on a per capita basis.

Tasmanian Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines

LGAT and the State Emergency Service were successful in receiving grant funding to update the Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines to support Municipal Emergency Management Committees in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. The Guidelines will incorporate the plethora of changes to the emergency management arrangements since 2010 including changes to the act, risk assessment, and relief and recovery arrangements, among other things.

Andrea Heath has been engaged as the consultant to manage the project and consultation. Consultation with councils has begun and a draft of the new guidelines will be complete in the near future. The guidelines will be supported by video cases studies.

Registration in Evacuation Centres

One of the key issues identified by councils during the December and January fires, and which other councils have experienced in the past, relates to registration of evacuees and ensuring that the council has the appropriate information to run a safe and efficient evacuation centre.

To address these issues and to explore opportunities for improvement a workshop was facilitated by LGAT between councils, Red Cross and Police. The workshop discussed interim and long term opportunities to improve registration in evacuation centres. There was agreement from participants that a consistent approach across the state would be beneficial.

It was agreed at the workshop that a business case for funding should be prepared to develop an online registration process which will meet council needs in running an evacuation centre and hopefully enable the data to be shared with Red Cross and Police. Privacy considerations will be key to enabling this to happen successfully.

LGAT has established a working group to develop the business case.

State Government Policies and Projects

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Mitigation Project

The new federal arrangements for natural disaster funding are now being applied. Under these arrangements the Australian Government will provide funding for the restoration of Essential Public Assets (EPAs) based on the estimated cost of reconstruction works. If the

actual cost of restoring EPAs is lower than the estimated cost, the savings must be redirected towards:

- EPA restoration projects where the actual costs is more than the estimated cost; or
- Natural hazard mitigation activities in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The January fires in Tasmania will be the first event to be managed under these arrangements.

The Tasmanian Government is currently developing an agreed method for allocating realised efficiencies. Stakeholder consultation for this project is expected to begin soon, with the project plan aiming to have the approach signed off by Cabinet in October 2019.

Vulnerable People Framework

The Tasmanian Health Service is currently reviewing Tasmania's Emergency Management Framework for Vulnerable People. The framework was initially implemented in December 2014, and while it raised awareness of the issue of vulnerability in emergencies, it did not result in effective implementation in either the government or community sectors. Consequently, a 2017 review of the framework was undertaken, and a series of recommendations made, including a formal revision and update to the framework.

The update of the framework is currently occurring with a focus on orientating the document towards contemporary language and practical application to address the perceived barriers to implementation. Engagement with stakeholders on the draft framework is likely to begin in June. This will include consultation with Local Government.

Emergency Management Training Continuum

This Project is a whole of government collaborative approach to training and education in the Tasmanian emergency management sector.

There is little or no coordination of emergency management training across Tasmania.

The purpose of the project is to identify the educational units being delivered in organisations for Emergency Management (EM) workers. Once the educational units are understood a continuum will be crafted to outline the training pathways for workers with EM responsibilities. A survey has been designed to capture feedback from key stakeholders and the results of this survey will be used to shape the development of the Training Continuum. This will provide a centralised point of training, resources and links for EM practitioners in Tasmania.

Tasmanian Resilience Strategy and new State Emergency Management Strategic Directions Framework

The SEMC (State Emergency Management Committee) *Strategic Directions Framework 2013-18* describes the current strategic priorities of the Tasmanian Government and provides a basis for the existing governance structures including subcommittees.

The Office of Security and Emergency Management is working closely with Tasmanian Government agencies and key external stakeholders to:

- Renew the SEMC *Strategic Directions Framework*; and
- Develop a public-facing *Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy*, consistent with other states and national and international frameworks.

The Strategy and Framework will ensure strategic alignment between existing disaster resilience activities and help to prioritise the allocation of available resources.

The *SEMC Strategic Directions Framework* will be further reviewed and refined by the SEMC and agencies from July, following consultation and development of the draft Strategy. If approved, the final Strategy will be released in late 2019.

Fire Services Act

The State Government is currently reviewing the *Fire Services Act 1979* and all subordinate legislation. An issues paper was released in June last year with several councils and LGAT providing submissions. The Independent Chair of the Steering committee, Mr Michael Harris, resigned from his position on 30 January 2019 and has been replaced by Mr Michael Blake.

Mr Michael Blake met with LGAT in February to discuss the LGAT submission and Local Government issues. It is expected that a further discussion paper with a range of options will be released to stakeholders for consultation in the next couple of months.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Strategic plan

Facilitating Change

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

9.15 Local Government Community Health and Wellbeing Project
Contact Officer – Lynden Leppard

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on LGAT's Community Health and Wellbeing Project.

Background

A new position combining overall social policy and the Health and Wellbeing Project (the Project) was filled in March this year. The new officer is Lynden Leppard.

The Project is now one year in to the three year plan and the latest six monthly report has been provided to the Department of Health (DOH), the funder of the project. A focus last year was on supporting the development of council community health and wellbeing plans and highlighting health and wellbeing actions within council strategic plans. This included regional forums and information sharing about what councils are doing to promote health and wellbeing in their communities. This focus on support for planning will continue in 2019.

The [Project webpage](#) includes a wealth of resources for councils. This includes examples of council health and wellbeing plans, videos describing practical approaches to planning, and describing playground and playspace builds in Wynyard, Hobart, Bridgewater, Brighton, Longford, Dunalley, Launceston and Meander. Materials from *Building Great Communities for Tasmania's Children* forums in Hobart and Campbell Town are also available through the link.

Information on the Walkability Project is also available on the webpage. This Liveable Communities Program project will develop further in 2019-20 with the focus remaining on how LGAT can support councils making walking easier in their communities and linking to public transport opportunities.

Actions for 2019

Planning for years 2 and 3 of the health and Wellbeing Project is well underway, with a draft shared with the Advisory Committee in May. Key DOH stakeholders and some council officers have been consulted about how the Project's vision and objectives might best be interpreted based on last year's experience. Our focus will include supporting councils interested in practical projects such as playgrounds and food security while also supporting councils to address health and wellbeing issues guided by local data.

Developing a shared understanding across the state about the positive actions councils are already taking to sustain and improve health and wellbeing will also be a priority for 2019-20. Council staff everywhere are taking all sorts of positive actions that may not be contained in a formal plan and we want to capture this in case studies acknowledging the strengths and capacity that already exist. This knowledge will inform LGAT and other organisations about

how to tailor their support to better suit particular council needs and improve our overall understanding of how councils work within their communities. Forums in Burnie, Devonport, Launceston and Hobart in late July will explore these themes and feature discussions led by local council officers.

Budget Implication

The Health and Wellbeing Project is funded by the Department of health, although LGAT is also providing significant in-kind support.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

- Facilitating Change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial capacity
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

9.16 LGAT Peer Advisor Program * **Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson**

Decision Sought

That Members note the Peer Advisor Program has been extended until the end of 2019.

Background

Following the Local Government elections in 2018, LGAT implemented a Peer Advisor Program for new councillors (refer **Attachment to Item 9.16**). This was the first time such a program had been put in place. Three Peer Advisors were appointed (one for each region) with training and resource kits provided to each. The program was widely promoted.

While the funding of the program concluded at the end of April all three Peer Advisors have agreed to continue on the program for no fee until the end of the year.

In evaluating the program in early May it was noted that program uptake had been slow to begin with but was starting to climb and that key matters being raised were around meeting procedures and practice, dealing with personal conflict/behaviours and relationship management. On occasions issues were too difficult or significant to be dealt with by Peer Advisors and in those instances the councilor was referred elsewhere (e.g. to the Director of Local Government or the Integrity Commission).

In general Advisors agreed:

- Councillors may need longer after an election to know what it is they might want to take advice on and to build program awareness;
- Managing personalities/conflict is often the issue;
- It appears that Code of Conduct may be being used inappropriately as a tool to threaten new councillors;
- There is clearly a role in training of candidates to build understanding and awareness of the reality of the role;
- It is hard for Peer Advisors to deal with intractable conflict – they have no authority. They can only be a trusted ear; and
- The training and support provided to Peer Advisors by LGAT was sufficient and does not need to change.

Budget Implications

The program was fully funded through the 2018/19 budget at \$15,000.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Priority Area 4 Further build sector resources and support, particularly for new Elected Members

9.17 State Budget *

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the 2019-20 State Budget.

Background

The State Budget was handed down on 23 May. LGAT circulated highlights to councils that day and are at **Attachment to Item 9.17**. A media release was also issued and is at **Attachment to Item 9.17**.

LGAT made a budget submission at the end of last year see <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Budget%20Priority%20Statement%202019-20.pdf>.

Our priority request was for additional resources to be based in the Planning Policy Unit, and a positive outcome was achieved in this regard with \$500,000 per annum allocated for planning reform. However, no funding was identified in the budget to support implementation of the soon to be released State Waste Action Plan. While the budget had a significant infrastructure focus, with \$2.8 billion to be invested in community infrastructure over the forward estimates period, there was not a specific allocation for cycling infrastructure. LGAT's capacity building proposals were not funded, but there will be further opportunity to advocate in these spaces during the review of the Local Government Legislation Framework and ahead of the next Local Government elections.

Other items of Interest to Local Government

Other expenditure for the budgeted year:

- \$1.6 million to support the ongoing recovery of communities impacted by the bushfires in January and February 2019;
- \$650,000 to deliver the Flood Mapping Project;
- \$450,000 to finalise the Local Government Legislation Review; and
- \$1.2 million for the Southern Tasmania Community Recovery Fund.

At the Budget Breakfast in Hobart, the Treasurer noted the context 'headwinds' likely to impact on Tasmania's "strong economy and growing population", these included a reduction in state revenue of around half a billion dollars (a combination of a smaller total GST pool in the face of a national retail slow down and reduced stamp duty revenue associated with market growth occurring in areas where property values are not as high). He also noted that the state public service will be looking for efficiency savings to the order of 0.75c per \$100 of expenditure. The Government has projected that the budget, in particular the infrastructure spend, will create 10,000 jobs in Tasmania over the four year forward estimates period. Some concern has been raised by the opposition and other stakeholders about the movement into net debt, but the Treasurer remarked that the cost of servicing the debt was relatively low and supported equitable, intergenerational funding approaches for infrastructure. There has also been comment on the lack of focus on Tasmania's disadvantaged, particularly as relates to housing affordability. The Treasurer responded by noting initiatives around home ownership, infrastructure investment in growth areas and investment in transport.

As further detail emerges on the budget, LGAT will continue to update Members as appropriate.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

9.18 Federal Election
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the outcomes of the 2019 Federal Election.

Background

The Federal election took place on 18 May and on 29 May, new Ministers under the Morrison Government were sworn in.

Of particular interest to the Tasmanian councils are:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development	The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management	The Hon David Littleproud MP
Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government	The Hon Mark Coulton MP
Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport	The Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister	The Hon Andrew Gee MP
Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories	Mrs Nola Marino MP
Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure	The Hon Alan Tudge MP

There will be two Tasmanian Ministers in the new Government:

<i>Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries</i>	<i>Senator Jonathon Duniam</i>
<i>Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians</i>	<i>Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck</i>
<i>Minister for Youth and Sport</i>	<i>Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck</i>

The ALGA National General Assembly 2019, to be held in Canberra 16-19 June, will include an address from the Local Government Minister and Shadow Minister.

ALGA President, David O'Loughlin will discuss the implications of the Federal Election outcome at the LGAT conference. He says –

“while the election has ended, many of the initiatives for which ALGA has campaigned since September 2018 are yet to be realised. There was progress in some areas, increased Roads to Recovery and Bridges Renewal funding, continued local roads funding for South Australia, more funding for local sports infrastructure, some funding for waste and recycling initiatives and greater commitments in the areas of Indigenous well-being. But we still have a mountain to climb in terms of achieving a better federal funding deal for Local Government through FAGs, combating climate change, and really coming to grips with mounting recycling and waste management problems”.

David will talk to delegates about the second phase of the Fairer Share campaign. This will need the support of all councils in contacting their new or returned local members and senators to congratulate them and also remind them of the importance of fairly funding local communities. It will be important to have as many councils involved as possible.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

9.19 Communications, Events and Training Update

Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

Decision Sought

That Members note the following update regarding LGAT’s communications, events and training.

Communications

LGAT’s monthly e-newsletter the Pulse continues to bring you information regarding Local Government activities, policies, legislation and LGAT’s advocacy activities as well as upcoming LGAT events and training. The Pulse includes links to the LG Noticeboard and stories about Member achievements at the Better Councils Better Communities page. Sign up for the Pulse [here](#).

The first online only edition of [LG Tas](#) was released in April. Previously posted in hard copy to around 1000 recipients, digital only publication is resulting in financial savings and waste reduction. Tracking indicates that opening rates for LG Tas are 16.7% above the industry

standard which is pleasing. The purpose of LG Tas, produced bi-annually, is to promote the Local Government sector with a focus on Members' achievements and activities to a range of stakeholders and influencers.

Overview of Activities

Proactive communications activities since the last General Meeting in addition to media queries include:

- Opinion Editorial - LG Taking the lead on waste (submitted yet to be published);
- The Pulse March, April, May editions;
- LG Tas April 2019; and
- Six Media queries.

Since the last General Meeting LGAT has facilitated key events and training activities including:

- Internal Audit Panel Training (6/7 March 2019);
- International Women's Day Awards Luncheon (8 March 2019);
- Elected Members Professional Development Weekend (23/24 March 2019);
- Engagement Champions Leadership (1 April 2019);
- General Managers Workshop (3/4 April 2019); and
- LGAT Breakfast Series with UTAS Devonport 9 May, Hobart 16 May (Launceston event postponed due to low numbers)

Upcoming Events and Training

The LGAT Events Calendar can be found on our website [here](#)

Upcoming Training and Development opportunities include:

May 2019	Date	Location	Information
Statewide Waste Study Consultation Workshop	29-May	Hobart	Click here
Mayor's Professional Development Day	30 May	Launceston	Click here
June 2019			
Statewide Waste Study Consultation Workshop	7 June	Launceston	Click here
July 2019			
AURIN Workshops	1 July	Launceston	Click here
AURIN Workshops	2 July	Hobart	Click here
LGAT General Meeting	3 July	Hobart	Click here
LGAT AGM	2 July	Hobart	Click here
LGAT Annual Conference	4-5 July	Hobart	Click here

August 2019			
Storytelling for leaders	15 August	Hobart	TBC
2IC Forum	4 September	Launceston	TBC
Regional Breakfast (UTAS)	4 September	Launceston	TBC

We have started preliminary work scoping a forum that looks to marry issues around planning, tourism impacts and housing affordability. Similarly, we are investigating a potential partnership to deliver an understanding of council financials workshop for elected members. More information on those will be provided in due course.

LGAT Annual Conference

We hope you have registered for the 107th LGAT Annual Conference from 3-5 July at Wrest Point, Hobart. We think we have a great event lined up and look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to visit the trade exhibition and talk to the exhibitors and sponsors that help support our event.

- Conference Wifi Password: lgat2019
- Join the conversation on Twitter: #LGATconf2019
- Dinner theme: Splash of Colour

Your feedback about the conference helps us deliver you a better event. Be sure to complete the feedback form that will be emailed to you on conference completion.

We are striving to reduce waste at the 2019 LGAT Annual Conference. All eating and drinkware will be washable. The coffee corner will have washable cups.

Don't forget to bring your own reusable coffee cup and last year's conference bag

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan

Building Local Government's reputation

Fostering collaboration

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

Motions For Which Notice Has Been Received

10 ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10.1 Reinstatement of Heavy Vehicle Road Tax Council – Circular Head

Decision Sought

That Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government provides an immediate commitment to reinstatement of the equitable distribution of the total heavy motor vehicle road tax collected, to the percentage distribution at the time of inception of the scheme in 1996/1997.

Background Comment

The State Grants Commission Act 1976 also requires the Commission to recommend the distribution amongst councils of State motor taxes collected on the registration of heavy vehicles. This function of the Commission is separate from its responsibility to recommend the distribution of Australian Government FAGs. The distribution of the HVMTR is not governed by the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995, and the funding is not a component of the FAG pool.

Since 1996-97, the State Government has allocated \$1.5 million per annum of heavy vehicle motor taxes for distribution to councils.

From the State Government published budget documents the total Motor tax in 1997-98 (no 1996-97 document online) was \$39 million with an estimated \$32.1 million being the heavy vehicle tax component (82% estimation based upon the number of licences issued and cost of licencing per vehicle class).

In 2018-19 this figure grew to \$89.9 million total Motor tax with an estimated \$73.9 million being the Heavy vehicle component (based on the above 82%).

Local Government may also be in position to lobby for a stronger proportion of the heavy vehicle tax than stated originally thought based upon a detailed read of the States 2016-17 Freight Survey report.

It is revealed (screenshot below) that the local government road network is providing carriage for 6% of all freight land movement which equates to 7.6% of all freight movement via road.

The 1997-98 distribution of Heavy vehicle tax (and original basis for lobbying) was 4.7%

If we recast the estimations in the original email using 7.6% as the total distribution to Local Government of the estimated total \$73.9 million collected by the state we arrive at \$5.6 million being distributed to Local Government. The CHC share via the SGC 18.64% distribution is then recalculated to be nominally \$1,046,000 annually.

This recast estimate would be a nominal \$767,000 increase to above the current \$279,000 fixed per annum contribution and would involve a .09% change to the State Governments annual revenue of \$5,874 million (still an immaterial change). This is equivalent to a 10.9 rate rise in the general rate.

Overview

In 2016-17, Tasmania's road and rail freight network carried 25.7 million tonnes, which travelled around 2.2 billion tonne-kilometres. The majority of the task moved on the road network – 88 per cent by mass and 78 per cent by tonne-kilometres, compared to 12 per cent by mass and 22 per cent by tonne-kilometres for rail¹.

Table 1 - Freight movements by road owner

Road ownership	Total length (km)	Tonne-kilometres travelled	per cent of total tonne-kilometres travelled
National Land Transport Network – Road	454	913 million	42%
State Roads ²	3,700	612 million	28%
Local Government Roads ³	14,470	131 million	6%
Roads under other ownership ⁴	55,448 ⁵	42 million	2%
Total Road	74,072	1.7 billion	78%
Tasmanian Rail Network	411	473 million	22%

42 per cent of Tasmania's total freight task, in tonne-kilometres, is carried on the National Land Transport Network (National Network)⁶, the majority by road (Table 1). While this Network comprises only a small proportion of Tasmania's total land freight network by length, it underpins the State's land freight network,

LGAT Comment

LGAT has received two similar motions dating back thirteen years:

2005

That Local Government lobby the State Government to increase the amount of 'heavy vehicle licence fees' that are distributed to Local Government.

2006

Heavy Vehicle Funding: That LGAT lobby the State Government to provide a greater share to Local Government in Tasmania of the heavy vehicle registration fees to enable Councils to develop a sustainable model for more adequate maintenance to their roads.

LGAT also made budget submissions in 2004, 2008 and 2010 seeking redress for the elimination of previous sources of Local Government road maintenance funding for heavy vehicles, the equitable distribution of road taxation to improve local road maintenance capability and for such measures to keep pace with the considerable increase in the freight task and growth in heavy vehicle usage and demands on local roads.

This issue has a long history and is part of a larger issue of Local Government funding. At the heart of it is a small and dwindling (in real terms) distribution of the heavy vehicle motor tax to Local Government, when demands on the roads are increasing. This declining Local Government revenue in the face of increasing demands is a familiar story, recognised by councils across the nation⁶.

With roads, it is a particularly acute problem. Using the metric of “tonne kilometres” to assess roads and distribute funding to components gives a skewed sense of the complete road network. This metric tends to very favourably emphasise the role of the State and National road networks because of the distance travelled by a bulk of freight⁷, but these roads are not complete networks because they service a very small proportion of properties and land uses. Instead, it is the local road network that completes the transport task, delivering goods and services door to door and servicing the overwhelming majority of economically productive land uses.

It can be argued that although the State road network may be superior in providing kilometres driven, volume and the big figures that look impressive on paper, the local road network is far more critical for delivering actual completed trips that are fundamental to economic productivity. Effort and resources therefore need to be focused on Local Government roads and capacity to ensure the best transport outcomes.

In addition, local roads are typically constructed and maintained to a more economical standard and so can be more susceptible to suffering the impacts of heavy vehicle traffic.

The Tasmanian Government response does not attempt to address the issue at the heart of this motion, which is equity in road maintenance capacity. It does not take a whole-of-network approach so does not acknowledge the critical role of Local Government roads in facilitating economic productivity by providing complete transport trips. It also does not attempt to demonstrate equitability in funding distribution, appropriate to the transport outcomes sought, which should be a smooth, safe and efficient journey, from door to door.

⁶ See also: <https://alga.asn.au/policy-centre/financial-sustainability/background-on-local-government-funding/>

⁷ See: https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/infrastructure_tasmania/freight/data/tasmanian_freight_survey2

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government does not support the motion to increase its \$1.5 million annual contribution to supplement local council road maintenance programs.

While the cost to local councils of maintaining roads will have grown over time, the \$1.5 million annual payment is only a small part of road-related funding that Tasmanian local councils receive.

Many of these payments will contribute to maintenance of roads used by heavy vehicles, including:

- Roads to recovery funding;
- Black spot funding;
- Urban congestion funding; and
- State Government funding for specific roads and bridges projects.

Treasury has been unable to find evidence to support linking the grant to the quantum of State Government heavy vehicle motor tax revenue collections. The grant appears to have been primarily designed to compensate local councils for the abolition of local council heavy vehicle road tolls in 1996.

10.2 Compensation for No Indexation of Heavy Vehicle Road Tax Council – Circular Head

Decision Sought

Member Councils of LGAT recommend that the State Government make to all Local Councils a one off additional annual payment allocation of the heavy motor vehicle road tax distribution as compensation for 24 years of no indexation of the funding allocation.

Background Comment

From the State Government published budget documents the total Motor tax in 1997-98 (no 1996-97 document online) was \$39 million with an estimated \$32.1 million being the heavy vehicle tax component (82% estimation based upon the number of licences issued and cost of licencing per vehicle class).

In 2018-19 this figure grew to \$89.9 million total Motor tax with an estimated \$73.9 million being the Heavy vehicle component (based on the above 82%).

Just let that sink in for a moment: -

- The distribution of \$1.5 million of the total heavy vehicle tax collected by State government to Local Government has remained fixed at \$1.5 million without increase for 24 years.
- The total heavy vehicle tax collected by State Government has grown from an estimated \$32.1 million to \$73.9 million (a 230% increase to the state revenue with a 0% increase to the Local Government share).

From the same SGC publication referenced above CHC's share of the \$1.5 million in 2017-18 was 18.64% of the total; \$279,552. In 2017-18 the \$1.5 million represents 2.08% of the total Heavy vehicle tax collected by State Government. If the 1997-98 comparative distribution was used (4.67% to Local Government) the total distribution to Local Government would rise from the fixed \$1.5 million to \$3.36 million across all Councils.

It should be noted that the total State Government revenue in 2017-18 was \$5,874 million, so the suggested correction to 1997-98 distribution proportion would represent only a 0.03% reduction in revenue (\$1.86 million reduction).

Despite the small margins involved for State Government, in all likelihood LGAT (if lobbying on Local Government's behalf) wouldn't achieve a full correction upfront but lobbying for increases to the fixing of the \$1.5 million distribution given the 230% growth of the revenue since 1996-97 over a period of say 3 years (0.01% revenue reduction to State Government) would have a very material effect for the high road use repair costs for Councils.

For interest, the current SGC \$1.5 million Heavy vehicle tax distribution is shown below for all 29 Councils.

Table 16: 2016-17 Heavy Vehicle Motor Tax Revenue Distribution by council

	Tonne-Kilometres (1)	Share of State Total	2016-17 Distribution \$
Break O'Day	5 551 751	4.84%	72 642
Brighton	1 261 299	1.10%	16 504
Burnie	3 790 995	3.31%	49 603
Central Coast	5 219 775	4.55%	68 298
Central Highlands	1 989 652	1.74%	26 034
Circular Head	21 365 189	18.64%	279 552
Clarence	1 663 315	1.45%	21 764
Derwent Valley	5 633 386	4.91%	73 710
Devonport	4 339 139	3.79%	56 775
Dorset	11 387 792	9.93%	149 003
Flinders	728 258	0.00%	0
George Town	2 559 709	2.23%	33 493
Glamorgan Spring Bay	32 878	0.03%	430
Glenorchy	2 235 666	1.95%	29 253
Hobart	5 036 370	4.39%	65 898
Huon Valley	3 877 835	3.38%	50 739
Kentish	4 529 823	3.95%	59 270
King Island	1 357 427	0.00%	0
Kingborough	700 584	0.61%	9 167
Latrobe	1 165 783	1.02%	15 254
Launceston	11 974 969	10.45%	156 686
Meander Valley	4 956 200	4.32%	64 849
Northern Midlands	5 670 606	4.95%	74 197
Sorell	1 085 585	0.95%	14 204
Southern Midlands	898 102	0.78%	11 751
Tasman	724 531	0.63%	9 480
Waratah-Wynyard	4 569 630	3.99%	59 791
West Coast	140 024	0.12%	1 832
West Tamar	2 279 083	1.99%	29 821
Total	116 725 356	100.00%	1 500 000

(1) Source: Tonne-Kilometres from the 2014-15 TFS

LGAT Comment

Refer to comments above in relation to Motion 10.1 - Reinstatement of Heavy Vehicle Road Tax). Distribution of road funding, that is, the resourcing and capacity of road management should be distributed and allocated strategically according to the transport outcome sought.

The Tasmanian Government comment on this motion below gives no explanation for the absence of indexation and how it supports their road management goals for the Tasmanian road network, nor why, when motor tax revenue is increasing, Local Government distribution should be declining (in real terms).

Tasmanian State Government Agency Comment

The State Government does not support the preceding motion 4.1 to increase its \$1.5 million annual contribution to supplement local council road maintenance programs, and therefore also does not support this motion.

11 SECTOR PROFILE AND REFORM

11.1 Amend Meeting Procedures Council – Break O’Day

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the State Government requesting changes be made to Part 3, Sections 27 and 28 – Voting as well as the inclusion of reasons to be listed in Section 32 – Minutes of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 with regard to elected members voting against an “Officer’s Recommendation” or “Motion”.

Background Comment

That if a Councillor votes against an “Officer’s Recommendation” or “motion” it must be recorded in the minutes that particular Councillors reason for voting against the recommendation. This should be done for all decisions of Council not just when acting as a “Planning Authority”.

The main reason for this amendment is to ensure complete transparency and accountability to the community. An elected member must be accountable to the community and the only way transparency can work is if the community knows why a Councillor has voted “no”.

LGAT Comment

There has been one previous motion that is related to this matter, tabled at the July 2015 Meeting -

That all Councillors be encouraged to undertake training courses ie Planning, Legislation, Code of Conduct, Meeting Procedures etc.

Members would be aware that the State Government has recently commenced a review of the *Local Government Act*. Please refer to the separate agenda item for a full update. If this motion is carried, then the current review offers the ideal opportunity for this motion to be progressed.

Tasmanian State Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of Tasmania’s Local Government legislation (including supporting regulations). Proposed changes to enhance transparency in council decision making, including meeting procedures, are being actively considered as part of the review.

12 SECTOR CAPACITY

No Motions Received

13 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

No Motions Received

14 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

14.1 Climate Change Council – Devonport City

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania investigate opportunities for the sector to develop a position on climate change including acknowledging:

- There is a climate emergency that requires action by all levels of the government;
- Human induced climate change is at the forefront of the climate emergency; and
- The State Government has a particular role in assisting local governments in dealing with the impacts of climate change.

Background Comment

There is a view that climate change is impacting on the environment at a rapidly increasing rate. All levels of government need to be working closely together to address the issue.

A number of local governments around the world have passed motions which acknowledge that in their view, there is a climate emergency (refer <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/category/news/>).

The Municipal Association of Victoria recently passed a motion as follows:

That the MAV recognise that:

- a) We are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, including councils;*
- b) Human induced climate change stands in the first rank of threats to humans, civilisation and other species;*
- c) It is still possible to restore a safe climate and prevent most of the anticipated long-term climate impacts – but only if societies across the world adopt an emergency mode of action that can enable the restructuring of the physical economy at the necessary scale and speed.*
- d) The MAV has a role in assisting local governments in this regard.*

Council acknowledges that individual councils are actively pursuing their own responses to climate change however, the climate emergency is more than an individual council responsibility. It could reasonably be argued that there is a responsibility for all levels of government and the community to work together.

This motion seeks LGAT to develop a sector wide position on climate change which is supported by the State Government to ensure that it can demonstrate that Tasmania is serious about tackling the issue and are prepared to work together to identify and implement positive action.

LGAT Comment

LGAT has had one historical motion carried specifically relating to climate change:

November 2010 – Seeking strengthening of the State-wide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change

The Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilisation campaign is a growing movement who's stated goal is "...for governments to declare a climate emergency and mobilise society-wide resources at sufficient scale and speed to protect civilisation, the economy, people, species, and ecosystems."

It is an awareness campaign seeking action that gives special consideration to Local Governments and their role in addressing climate instability. Nineteen Australian Governments, including the ACT and eighteen councils, and 106 British Local Governments have declared a climate emergency⁸.

⁸ See: <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>

Decision Sought

That the LGAT call upon the Federal and Tasmanian State Governments and Parliaments urging them to:

- a) Acknowledge the urgency created by climate change that requires immediate and collaborative action across all tiers of government;**
- b) Acknowledge that the world climate crisis is an issue of social and environmental injustice and, to a great extent, the burden of the frontline impacts of climate change fall on low income communities vulnerable groups and future generations; and**
- c) Facilitate emergency action to address the climate crisis, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet or exceed targets in the Paris Agreement.**

Background Comment

There is concern from young people within Tasmania in relation to the impacts of climate change as is now occurring and for the future. These impacts are wide reaching including environmental, social and economic impacts.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C, concluded that urgent action needs to be taken to prevent global temperatures exceeding 1.5°C.

Tasmania and particularly the Huon Valley is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly sea level rise, bushfires, floods and drought.

There is a strong feeling that climate change is not being addressed by Governments in a collaborative and effective manner.

The Federal and State Governments have the potential for the greatest influence on climate change related matters and yet they do not provide adequate resources and direction to addressing climate change impacts and often pass down responsibility to Local Government and local communities to find their own solution.

LGAT Comment

LGAT has had one historical motion carried specifically relating to climate change:

November 2010 – Seeking strengthening of the State-wide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change

Tasmanian communities are increasingly feeling the effects of extreme weather events, resulting in severe bushfires in 2013, 2016 and 2019, severe flooding in 2016 and 2018 and, ongoing coastal erosion. Each instance cannot casually be correlated to altered climate but taken together they form a pattern in people's minds that match the climatic patterns predicted by a large body of global scientific investigation.

The number of positive initiatives undertaken by the Government is acknowledged (as detailed in the Tasmanian Government comment below) however, members should be aware that the 2019-20 State Budget Papers indicate an end to State Government funding for its Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2021 from the end of the 2021 financial year (only two years away) resulting in a significant reduction in forecast funding from that period onwards. This coincides with the end of the Action Plan however, funding has not been forecast or allocated for a replacement plan or what continuation past the point might look like.

Table 9.1: Key Deliverables Statement

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Forward Estimate	2021-22 Forward Estimate	2022-23 Forward Estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Bushfire Recovery	1 560
Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2021	750	750

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

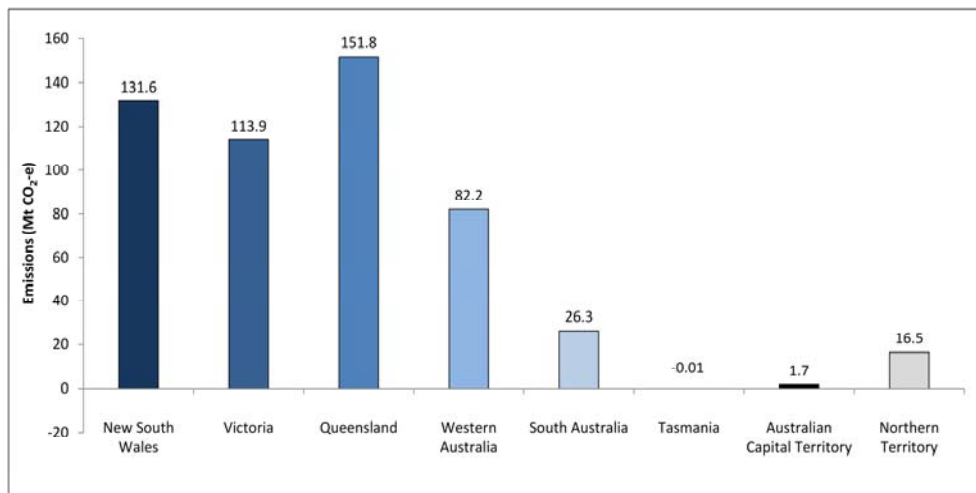
The *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the Act) sets the Tasmanian Government's legislative framework for action on climate change.

Following the most recent independent review of the Act, completed by Jacobs Australia in 2016, the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Tasmanian Climate Change Office is currently leading a project to amend the Act.

Amendments to the Act are scheduled to be tabled in Parliament this year. The proposed amendments include setting a new greenhouse gas emissions target for Tasmania in line with international agreements.

It is important to note that Tasmania's total contribution to national carbon emissions is the lowest of any state or territory and, according to the *State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories 2016*, represented a net negative contribution of -0.01 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (see Figure 1, below).

Figure 1: State and Territory total emissions (including those from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry), Financial Year 2016, (Mt CO₂-e)



Note: The NSW inventory includes ACT emissions from the *stationary energy* sector.

Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2021 (Climate Action 21) sets the Tasmanian Government's policy framework for action on climate change through to 2021. It reflects the Government's commitment to addressing the critical issue of climate change and articulates how Tasmania will play its role in the global response to climate change.

Through the implementation of Climate Action 21, the Tasmanian Government has worked closely with councils on a number of key projects in relation to electric vehicles, risk management, and coastal issues.

Key initiatives being delivered by the Tasmanian Government to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions include:

- \$850,000 for Power\$mart Homes, a program aimed at helping low income households reduce their energy costs through support and education, energy efficiency audits and low cost upgrades;
- \$150,000 for Power\$mart Businesses, a program to provide assistance to businesses to improve energy efficiency;
- \$450,000 to commence the rollout of a statewide electric vehicle charging network by offering grant funding to install both fast and destination electric vehicle charging stations; and
- The Smarter Fleets Program to work with councils, State Government departments, and heavy vehicle fleets for improved electric vehicle preparedness and fleet efficiency.

Additionally, the Tasmanian Government:

- Has committed to becoming 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable energy generation by 2022 and has facilitated major windfarm developments to help achieve this;

- Will invest up to \$30 million to take the first phase of Battery of the Nation to investment stage by 2022;
- With support from the Australian Government, will invest \$56 million to the development of the second interconnector between Tasmania and the mainland;
- Has delivered the \$40 million Tasmanian Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme to provide no-interest loans for households and small businesses to purchase energy efficient equipment and appliances;
- Continues to support vulnerable customers through Aurora Energy's 'Your Energy Support' and 'No Interest Loan Scheme' programs, which help customers manage their energy bills through tailored payment plans and access to energy efficient products;
- Delivered a Climate Change Health Roundtable (April 2019) with experts and policy makers to identify policies, programs and research in climate change and health, specific to the Tasmanian context;
- Is undertaking research to help the Tasmanian Government, Local Government, industry and communities build their capacity to prepare for and respond to coincident (also known as multi-hazard) extreme events;
- Is supporting local councils to understand and actively assess climate risks to ensure they make decisions in the best interests of their community; and
- Is working with coastal managers across Local and State Government to identify key issues in coastal hazards management for existing settlements and values.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to work collaboratively with councils, communities and all stakeholders to further reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions, grow a climate-ready economy and build climate resilient communities across Tasmania.

14.3 Single Use Plastics/Waste Strategy Council – Huon Valley

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobbies the State Government to complete a state-wide Waste Strategy that includes Policy and Legislation that will phase out single use plastics across the State and support the establishment of regional composting facilities.

Background Comment

The issue of single use plastics is under active discussion within the Tasmanian community.

The Hobart City Council has recently announced a by-law proposing to ban single use plastics within the Hobart City. The By-law will not though apply to any other Council area.

There is substantial evidence that single use plastics and takeaway packaging is a major contributor to the litter stream in Tasmania.

There is considerable public momentum for the reduction in availability of plastic products to reduce environmental impact. Alternative and compostable packaging is readily available and it is considered important that the strategy considers and supports the development of regional composting facilities to ensure that maximum benefit can be achieved from use of alternative packaging.

This is not a matter simply confined to an individual Council but is a matter that should be considered by the State Government on a statewide strategy basis with some following action.

LGAT Comment

There have been a significant number of previous motions related to waste management and resource recovery at LGAT General Meetings. Starting with July 2004, seeking the State Government to develop a policy for the preferred disposal of green waste.

In July 2012 and again in November 2016 the sector confirmed its commitment to the introduction of a state-wide statutory waste levy.

In November 2017 the sector reaffirmed its commitment to improving waste management and raised concerns over the lack of a State Waste Strategy and action on plastics in particular.

In July 2018 the sector moved that LGAT lobby the State Government for the introduction of legislation to phase out the provision of petroleum-based single-use take-away food packaging, and also that LGAT lobby councils to adopt the use of reusable and compostable items for use in council sponsored events.

LGAT has been actively lobbying the State Government for the development of a State Waste Action Plan since July 2016, when the Government announced it would not be introducing a statutory waste levy. This has included the development of the LGAT Waste and Resource Management Strategy in 2017, which details a suite of initiatives which address key state-wide issues faced by Local Governments across Tasmania, for consideration by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in developing a new waste action plan. Since that time LGAT has advocated directly to Government and also via a number of media statements and opinion editorials for the urgent need for state-wide policy. At the most recent Premier's Local Government Council Meeting the failure of the State Government to produce a State Waste Action plan was discussed.

The LGAT Waste and Resource Management Strategy 2017 did not contain a recommendation to phase out single use plastics as at that time stakeholder feedback did not highlight it as a key issue. However, this issue emerged as a significant concern of the sectors (and the

community more broadly in 2018) and since that time LGAT has been advocating that the State Government introduction of legislation to phase out the provision of petroleum-based single-use take-away food packaging. It is further worth noting that the work LGAT is currently undertaking on the feasibility of state-wide waste arrangements indicates that single use plastics and packaging was highlighted as one of the four top waste priorities identified by stakeholders. Please see the separate agenda item for a full discussion.

The State Government response to this motion is typical of their response over the past 12 – 18 months on all aspects of LGATs advocacy related to waste and resource recovery. The long awaited for State Waste Action Plan will need to be a comprehensive road map with an implementation plan for addressing the many significant and unresolved waste issues at a state-wide level. Anything otherwise would fall well short of what the Tasmanian community requires.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that there is a high level of interest from the community on reducing the impact of single-use plastics. The Tasmanian Government is currently working at the national level through the Meeting of Environment Ministers to develop an implementation plan for the recently endorsed *National Waste Policy*. The Policy includes consideration of how to reduce and eventually move away totally from the use of single-use plastics and has a key commitment from Ministers to having 100 per cent of Australian packaging being recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025.

The Government has committed to releasing the Draft Tasmanian Waste Action Plan by the end of June 2019. The Waste Action Plan and the national policy will help to establish an environment that will result in a reduction in single-use plastics. It is important that potential impacts on business and the community are assessed and the Waste Action Plan will help to set a broader framework that tackles these kinds of waste and resource recovery issues.

14.4 Single Use Plastics Council – Break O’Day

Decision Sought

Request that LGAT lobby the State Government to take leadership in developing a consistent state wide approach to banning the use of single use plastics in takeaway food packaging.

Decision Sought

Break O’Day Council completely agree with the initiative of the Hobart City Council to ban single use plastics but we think that having up to 29 Council By-Laws which could all be different or only having some Councils doing this would be confusing. A more logical way to go is for a state wide approach which sends a message from Tasmania on this issue.

The City of Hobart has integrated the banning of single-use plastics into their current by-laws. We believe there is community support for this to happen in the Break O’Day municipality and that this Council should support the Hobart Council in their motion to LGAT and commence our own lobbying of sector businesses and State Government.

We believe many of our community members are increasingly concerned about plastics entering the Tasmanian marine environment and the impacts of micro-plastics on both human health and the environment.

We believe that Break O’Day should tackle the distribution of single-use, petroleum based plastic packaging, like straws, cutlery, lids and containers, from takeaway food outlets, working with local businesses.

We also believe that Council should request LGAT to lobby the State Government to broaden the scope of its current plastic bag legislation to include non-compostable single-use takeaway food packaging.

A number of our local food outlets have already commenced on this pathway to reduce waste and have joined the Responsible Café movement (<https://responsiblecafes.org>) to eliminate disposable coffee cups. Disposable coffee cups are lined with plastic polyethylene, which is tightly bonded to the paper making the cups waterproof and therefore able to contain liquid. In St Marys there are three (3) cafes who are participating and in St Helens there are two (2) participating cafes.

LGAT Comment

Please refer to the comments provided on the Huon Valley Council Motion above.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that there is a high level of interest from the community on reducing the impact of single-use plastics. The Tasmanian Government is currently working at the national level through the Meeting of Environment Ministers to develop an implementation plan for the recently endorsed *National Waste Policy*. The Policy includes consideration of how to reduce and eventually move away totally from the use of single-use plastics and has a key commitment from Ministers to having 100 per cent of Australian packaging being recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025.

The Government has committed to releasing the Draft Tasmanian Waste Action Plan by the end of June 2019. The Waste Action Plan and the national policy will help to establish an environment that will result in a reduction in single-use plastics.

It is important that potential impacts on business and the community are assessed and the Waste Action Plan will help to set a broader framework that tackles these kinds of waste and resource recovery issues. It is the view of DPIPW that the scope of the *Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act 2013* could not be amended to address takeaway food packaging. New legislation would be required for any agreed statewide approach.

14.5 State Weed Management Council – Break O’Day

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the heads of the Tasmanian Government’s Departments and GBEs with responsibilities for management of public lands or works on public lands to have new increased and sustained resourcing levels committed in government agency budgets to manage weeds on public land in coordination with the efforts of others in local areas.

Background Comment

Break O’Day Council is concerned that Tasmanian Government agencies responsible for weed management on public land and conducting public infrastructure and works are not allocating sufficient resources for their duty care to the community.

The Spanish heath, gorse, pampas grass and many other weeds causing our problems have no regard for whose land they spread over. It is the property owner/manager who is responsible for preventing the spread of weeds and their eradication under the state’s Weed Management Act. Without coordinated strategic efforts by all land holders and managers and matching efforts, the weeds win.

Break O'Day Council is concerned that the resources being provided to public land managers locally are often not enough to match the coordinated efforts and progress by Councils, land owners and communities and is undermining their collective efforts.

Break O'Day Council recognises the area of public land government agencies are responsible for is extensive and fragmented, and the diverse range of public infrastructure and works in Tasmania they manage. Our experience is that government agencies generally do locally as much weed management as they can. Council also acknowledges the support of Biosecurity Tasmania and the government's Weed Action Fund and appointment of Mr Ian Sauer a State Weeds Advocate to chair the Fund and coordinate priorities for these new weed management resources.

However we are increasingly concerned that government agencies across Tasmania are failing to keep up with significant progress being made by Councils with farmers, community groups and residents, government agencies locally and Biosecurity Tasmania. And levels of weed management resources must be sustained over years, the key to success with weed management is follow-up.

The government's relatively short term Weed Action Fund is a welcome boost but it is not a substitute for the responsibilities government agencies share with other owners and managers of property in Tasmania to manage their weed problems. They should be engaged with local strategic weed management communities and allocate and apply appropriate levels of resources to support and not undermine coordinated local efforts.

If state agencies are not legally bound by legislated responsibilities, they are bound by their duty of care to the public whose land they use and manage, and as weed management role models.

LGAT Comment

LGAT has had number of motions in relation to weeds (2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2017).

Key issues identified in relation to weeds have included the need for more resourcing to support weed management and greater collaboration to address strategic weed management. It is noted that Parks and Wildlife and State Growth (roadside weeds) work collaboratively with councils and other agencies and this is essential to the strategic management of weeds which do not observe land tenure. This cooperation must extend to Crown Land, other agencies and GBEs.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) works collaboratively with councils, regional and local Natural Resource Management groups, Wildcare Inc friends groups and non-government

organisations and the community to target and prioritise weeds that have impact on areas of high conservation values or habitats.

The Working Neighbours program also contributes through the PWS working together with adjoining neighbours (predominantly in and around the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) to identify and collaboratively manage cross-boundary issues of mutual concern such as weeds.

In the Break O'Day and adjoining municipalities, the practical application of weed eradication and management is represented through the following programs:

- Sea Spurge (Euphorbia): twice a year sweep of the 140 km coastal strip between Cape Naturaliste and Chain of Lagoons, pulling individual plants and undertaking spray treatment of larger infestations.
- Spanish Heath: control on reserves at Mt William/Wukalina National Park, Musselroe Bay and Ansons Bay, including targeted spraying to remove it from the last remaining stronghold of the critically endangered Davies' Waxflower at Mt Pearson State Reserve.
- Blackberry: removal from the area between Dianas Basin and Four Mile Creek, in conjunction with local community weed groups.
- Foxglove: removal from St Columba Falls and Poimena.
- Gorse: removal from Falmouth to Four Mile Creek.

The St Helens PWS field centre also partners with the Falmouth Foreshore Group, the Four Mile Creek Community Association, and the Wildcare Inc Friends of the Larapuna Coast (who undertake an annual three day weed and rubbish blitz on the Larapuna coast). Other areas where the PWS is active regarding weed control and eradication include Scotts Peak/Ryans Point helipad (biosecurity risk); Blackberry control - the Neck Game Reserve; continuous monitoring for infestations resulting from the 2013 Stormlea and Forcett wildfires; Serrated tussock - Sloping Island, Maria Island and numerous sites throughout the Northwest and the West Coast.

Crown land in Tasmania is managed by various Government Agencies and GBEs. Land managed under the *Crown Lands Act 1976* may be actively managed under either a Lease or Licence Agreement to a third party, or directly by the PWS.

The PWS routinely works with groups and individuals under Works Authorities to undertake weed management works on both Reserved and Crown land. The PWS also works with Local Government and other Government Agencies to coordinate and strategically collaborate on the most appropriate weed treatments/programs, including permit works approved by Biosecurity Tasmania.

The PWS is bound by the *Weed Management Act 1999* and adopts the statutory weed management plans for weed species declared under the Act.

14.6 Waste Management Storage & Collection Council – West Tamar

Decision Sought

That Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the Tasmanian Government for:

Reform of multiple dwelling standards in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to require consideration of:

- **Waste management storage and collection impacts for multiple dwelling developments; and**
- **Allowing for alternative waste storage and collection means such as site skip bins.**

Background

The placement of bins on the road for collection is an issue within the community and for Councils in their role as a waste management provider for residents.

Recent unit developments in Legana highlight this issue, with the placement of significant numbers of refuse bins in a row on collection days. The following image provides an example of this problem.



More unit developments are underway in the same area, which will make the existing problem worse.

Some Councils have previously addressed this issue through planning scheme standards for unit developments, which regulate the unit developments on internal lots and allowed

consideration of the ability to have bins collected. Those provisions have been removed by the State as a result of the standardised State Housing provisions.

Councils can no longer consider this problem through their planning schemes.

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme allows consideration of the ability to store bins within the curtilage of a dwelling in the General and Inner Residential zones, it does not allow consideration of the ability to collect bins from a site or the adjoining roadway.

Government departments did consultation as part of the preparation and assessment of the standard State Housing provisions as used in current Planning Schemes and also the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. This issue was raised during the development and ongoing review of those provisions. The State determined that standards were not required to consider the ability of a site to allow collection of the bins under both the State Housing Provisions and Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Despite repeated submissions from West Tamar Council, the State has not altered this position. This suggests that an alternative approach is required and that an industry based response from LGAT may be appropriate.

It is clear that the collection of waste, recycling and now FOGO bins has an impact on the immediate area of unit complexes. Recent development trends demonstrate unit complexes have continued to increase over the last years and are expected to continue. This suggests that impacts will continue to increase as more unit complexes are built.

Councils can deal with this matter through their waste management and road functions, which rely on a response after the problem exists. While it may be possible to identify this problem with the design of unit complexes, it is practically impossible to require a response through that process without standards in a planning scheme.

Planning scheme standards need to consider the ability to collect and empty bins as part of the design process. Standards in the current and pending planning schemes do not allow that to occur.

Triggers for assessment need to address:

- Internal lots;
- Large numbers of units;
- Collection of bins, rather than simply storage; and
- Use of alternative waste storage and collection means such as skip bins.

Given that the efforts of Council staff have not resulted in change to development standards, it is time to seek an industry based response on this matter through the LGAT.

LGAT Comment

There have been no previous motions on this matter.

The State Government comment has failed to note the Government's commitment to review the standards for residential development (Planning Directive 4.1) in the General Residential Zone. As part of this, the Government has committed to include the development of new provisions for medium density and gentle infill housing.

LGAT is currently supporting Meander Valley Council in their LPS Hearing related to the Natural Assets Code and utilising S.35G of LUPAA. It should be noted that while LUPAA does have this mechanism, it has not been used before, the process is not articulated and there is confusion regarding its application.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The State Planning Provisions (SPPs) and the current PD4.1 provisions in the Interim Planning Schemes both provide controls and requirements for dealing with waste storage. The SPP is set out below.

Despite the motion indicating that previously there have been planning scheme standards for unit developments that allowed consideration of the ability to have bins collected, and the claim that these were removed by the planning directive process, there does not appear to be any record of such provisions in older schemes. Notwithstanding this, there is a process that allows councils to make submission to the Planning Commission as part of its Local Provisions Schedule process, to the effect that it considers the State Planning Provisions need to be amended (s.35G of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*).

It is recommended the issue is raised through the LPS process (in accordance with s.35G), preferably with some suggested standards that are derived from local council knowledge of the issue.

8.4.8 Waste storage for multiple dwellings

Objective:	To provide for the storage of waste and recycling bins for multiple dwellings.	
Acceptable Solutions		Performance Criteria
A1 A multiple dwelling must have a storage area, for waste and recycling bins, that is not less than 1.5m ² per dwelling and is within one of the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) an area for the exclusive use of each dwelling, excluding the area in front of the dwelling; or (b) a common storage area with an impervious surface that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has a setback of not less than 4.5m from a frontage; (ii) is not less than 5.5m from any dwelling; and (iii) is screened from the frontage and any dwelling by a wall to a height not less than 1.2m above the finished surface level of the storage area. 		P1 A multiple dwelling must have storage for waste and recycling bins that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) capable of storing the number of bins required for the site; (b) screened from the frontage and dwellings; and (c) if the storage area is a common storage area, separated from dwellings on the site to minimise impacts caused by odours and noise.

14.7 Feral Cats *

Council – Burnie City

Decision Sought

That LGAT calls on the State Government as matter of urgency to set up, resource, and authorise a program within the relevant State agency of a kind equivalent to the former Fox Eradication Taskforce with a specific purpose of taking and coordinating immediate and continuing long-term direct action to control and reduce the population of stray and feral cats in all parts of Tasmania.

Background Comment

The State Government introduced the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017 as a framework on which to develop a more direct approach to improved cat management.

The Plan proposes a three pronged approach to reducing the population and impact of cats on the natural and human environment by –

- (a) Increasing the responsibility and accountability on cat owners to control the breeding and movement of cats;
- (b) Increasing the powers and responsibilities of Local Government to effectively manage cats and enforce compliance to the obligations on cat owners within their municipal areas; and
- (c) Increasing programs to reduce the number of stray and feral cats with natural and human environments.

The Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment website states -

“The Tasmanian Cat Management Plan represents the first comprehensive and collaborative approach to managing cats in Tasmania. The Plan recognises that cat management is a shared responsibility across all levels of government, business and the community and includes actions under seven objectives:

Objective 1: Tasmanian pet cat owners manage their cats responsibly

Objective 2: Increased community awareness, participation and commitment in cat management

Objective 3: Best practice techniques are used to guide the planning, management and control of stray and feral cats

Objective 4: Improved knowledge about feral, stray and domestic cats to better inform management

Objective 5: Minimise impacts of cats in areas with important conservation values and agricultural assets

Objective 6: Undertake legislative change to create an effective framework for managing cats and support other objectives

Objective 7: The roles and responsibilities related to cat management are clearly defined and understood by the Tasmanian community.

Implementation of the Plan will be guided by a shared understanding that there is a need to both: encourage responsible cat ownership, acknowledging the positive role that cats can play in our community; and to understand and mitigate the negative impacts that cats can have on the environment, agriculture, and on human health.”

The Departments website states in relation to control of stray and feral cats –

Under the [Cat Management Act 2009](#) cats found in a prohibited, rural or remote area may be trapped, seized or humanely destroyed.

Stray and feral cats pose a risk to Tasmania's wildlife, environment and agriculture. Cats may also act as a vector for diseases that affect wildlife, livestock and humans.

While responsible pet ownership is important to prevent the introduction of more cats into the environment, the existing feral population is believed to be self-sustaining and eradication is not feasible. A Cat Management Strategy is being developed in consultation with key industry, community and research partners to better understand and mitigate these impacts. DPIPWE is also supporting ongoing research into the impact of feral cats by the University of Tasmania.

The Cat Management Act 2009 allows for cat management actions within prohibited areas including Crown Land, private timber reserves, reserved land and land subject to a conservation covenant under the [Nature Conservation Act 2002](#) and State Forests and Reserves. Cats found in these areas may be trapped, seized or humanely destroyed by managers of that land, or people working on their behalf.

The owner of private land, or people working on their behalf, may trap, seize or humanely destroy a cat found:

- on rural land used for primary production relating to livestock, or*
- on any land further than one km from any residence.*

Where a cat is trapped or otherwise seized, the cat should be transferred as soon as practicable to a [cat management facility](#).

All cat management activities must be conducted in accordance with the Cat Management Act 2009 and the [Animal Welfare Act 1993](#). Penalties apply for inhumane activities and other breaches of those Acts.

The Invasive Species Branch (ISB) was formed in July 2012 within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to:

- Facilitate research to increase knowledge of invasive species impacts;
- Provide technical support for the management of invasive species; and
- Develop community understanding of invasive species issues.

The ISB works with agencies such as Inland Fisheries, Wildlife Management Branch, and parks and wildlife Services, and utilises resources and expertise from a range of invasive animal and weed management programs to better coordinate the effort to protect Tasmania from the impacts of invasive species, including stray and feral cats.

The LGAT recently issued a policy update statement on cat management – a copy of which is at **Attachment to Item 14.7**.

The statement indicates the Local Government sector supports the initiative to develop a state-wide approach to cat management and is working with the State government and the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (including by an active participant on the State Cat Management Advisory Committee, and on regional working groups established in support of the government's regional Cat Management Coordinator) to ensure Local Government can appropriately participate in delivering the objectives of the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan.

The sector has no argument with the scientific data identifying the scale and impact of cats generally on the health and viability of native fauna, human health and food production systems or, with the importance of developing and implementing measures to address the problem.

The Local Government sector is concerned to ensure the expectations on Local Government are realistic, and within the capacity of most councils. In this regard the sector favours an approach to engage with communities to enhance awareness and observation of the responsibilities on cat owners rather than an increase in regulation to punish owners who do not comply.

There is already a large and extensive feral cat population in Tasmania. The risks associated with an uncontrolled and potentially growing feral cat population are significant and need to be addressed without delay.

Objective 3 in the TCMP is specific to planning, management and control of stray and feral cats in a manner that will deliver effective, efficient and humane control and management techniques based on sound ethical, scientific and technical principals that will produce outcomes superior to those achieved by other means.

The approach indicates a planned and managed approach will deliver the best outcomes but does not detail how, when or where it will occur.

Local Government does not currently have the necessary powers or resources to effectively conduct and enforce programs that will address the cause for and control the impacts of feral cat populations.

It is unreasonable and unrealistic to expect Local Government will or can unilaterally reduce the feral cat population by regulation and intervention.

The State Government has previously demonstrated a capacity to take immediate and significant action to address potential threats to the biosecurity of Tasmania. Local Government accepts it is essential such action be taken to prevent the introduction of new species with a capacity to create harm.

There are many existing feral species within Tasmania, the presence of which is acknowledged as a serious threat to biodiversity and the health of natural and human systems. (Feral Animals of Tasmania - https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Feral-Deck_Feral-Animals-of-Tasmania.pdf)

The risk of continuing and escalating damage by some species requires immediate action.

While it is important that Local Government has a role in preventing further increase in the stray and feral cat population, it is beyond the scope of Local Government to implement effective programs to control the size and range of the current feral cat.

There is no specific program for management of stray and feral cats with an equivalence in purpose and resource to the Fox Eradication Taskforce, notwithstanding the impact of stray and feral cats.

Stray and feral cats are known to exist and to cause significant damage in Tasmania. A concerted, directed and on-going effort by the State, combined with assistance from Commonwealth and Local Government and private land managers, and the community, has the ability to halt and turn back the destructive impact of stray and feral cats.

Planning will not of itself address the problem. It is necessary to take immediate action that will seek out and destroy stray and feral cat populations.

LGAT Comment

There have been a number of previous motions related to cats. These typically have related to compulsory de-sexing, micro chipping and education. However, in 2006 the following motion was raised:

That the LGAT initiate discussions with the State Government to address the issue of efficient and humane impoundment and disposal of feral and unwanted cats.

Feral (wild) cats are dealt with through the proposed Biosecurity Act and *The Biosecurity Bill 2019* is currently at the First reading stage in State Parliament.

Eradication of feral cats includes removing cats from an identified area and ensuring that they do not re-establish. Eradication and targeted reduction are possible in areas of high conservation values where it is considered feasible and cost effective. There are examples of eradication from islands including Christmas Island, Tasman Island and Macquarie Island and exclusion fencing and baiting have been used effectively in areas of Western Australia to protect critically endangered species.

Current research indicates that eradication is not possible in a place like Tasmania for two reasons. The cost of state-wide eradication would be prohibitive and there are gaps in

scientific knowledge about how it could be achieved. For a detailed research report on the eradication, go to:

https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/91832626-98e3-420a-b145-3a3199912379/files/tap-review-feral-cats_0.pdf

To date, LGAT's advocacy has been about enabling, but not compelling, councils to take an active role in managing feral cats and protecting high conservation assets, without a focus on eradication. Advocacy has also focussed on the need for the State Government to adequately resource efforts in this space.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The 'Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017-2022' (the Plan) proposes a regulatory framework where domestic and stray (unowned) cats in urban and peri-urban environments are dealt with under the *Cat Management Act 2009* (the Act) and feral (wild) cats through the proposed Biosecurity Act.

The Plan acknowledges that Tasmania has a self-sustaining feral cat population and state-wide eradication of feral cats is not feasible with current resources and techniques. The focus for feral cats is on 'asset protection' in areas containing important conservation values or priority assets.

The Plan aims to limit the number of cats entering the feral population through a range of community education and awareness programs and enforcement of effective cat management legislation.

Proposed amendments to the *Cat Management Act 2009*, to address management of domestic and stray cats, are being progressed and include compulsory microchipping and desexing of cats, limiting the number of cats allowed at a property without a permit, increased measures to protect private land from stray and feral cats (including trapping on private property, regardless of proximity to other residences) and improving arrangements for registered cat breeders.

To support implementation of the Plan, including legislative measures, the Tasmanian Government has provided \$1.44 million over four years for three regional Cat Management Coordinators. The Coordinators are working with Local Government and the community to encourage better levels of responsible cat ownership through education and awareness and compliance with the Act.

Local Government has similar enforcement powers as State Government under the Act. Councils are also able to make by-laws, allowing them to tailor the legislative needs to suit local community expectations with regards to cat management and the circumstances that are relevant to the particular council.

15 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

15.1 Certificate 337's Council - West Tamar

Decision Sought

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the Tasmanian Government for:

1. Urgent review of the 337 certificate form under Schedule 5 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* to address the following omissions from current regulatory regimes that impact the subject lands:
 - a) *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*
 - Codes (such as landslip);
 - Specific Area Plans;
 - Local provisions;
 - Applications for a new planning scheme - including the Tasmanian Planning Scheme;
 - or
 - Applications for amendments to local provisions under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
 - b) *Building Act 2016*
 - Submitted form 80's for low risk building work;
 - Whether any natural hazard considerations affect the lands;
 - Question 31 (a) add a new section (iii) asking about onsite waste waters systems approved prior to the Plumbing Regulations 1994
 - Questions 38-40 be revised to ask whether notifiable building work has been completed and then to provide details regardless of the answer; and
2. 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) Seeking full disclosure for properties as part of the listing process rather than the current process

Background

Landslip affects a significant number of properties across Tasmania. Recent experiences of some property owners has identified that the current 337 does not ask all questions *relevant* to the current regulatory processes for planning and building. In addition, the timing of the 337 has been raised as a potential issue.

Councils, in one of their many statutory roles, issues a statutory certificate under Section 337 of the *Local Government Act 1993* which provides advice to an applicant as part of a range of transactions that affect property. The questions within the 337 are set in the regulations to the

Act with very limited opportunity for input on other matters by Council staff. Questions within the 337 are based around 13 Acts that address functions of the Council operations.

Section 337 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides the following:

337. Council land information certificate

- (1) *A person may apply in writing to the general manager for a certificate in respect of information relating to land specified and clearly identified in the application.*
- (2) *The general manager, on receipt of an application made in accordance with [subsection \(1\)](#) , is to issue a certificate in the prescribed form with answers to prescribed questions that are attached to the certificate.*
- (3) *A certificate under [subsection \(2\)](#) relates only to information that the council has on record as at the date of issue of the certificate.*
- (4) *A prescribed fee is payable in respect of the issue of a certificate.*
- (5) *The general manager, on request, may provide in or with the certificate any other information or document relating to the land that the general manager considers relevant.*
- (6) *A council does not incur any liability in respect of any information provided in good faith from sources external to the council.*
- (7) *A person, with the consent of the occupier or owner of specified land, may request in writing to the general manager that an inspection be carried out of that land to obtain supplementary information relevant to that land.*
- (8) *If the general manager agrees to a request under [subsection \(5\)](#) or [\(7\)](#), the general manager may impose any reasonable charges and costs incurred.*
- (9) *In this section –*
land *includes –*
 - (a) *any buildings and other structures permanently fixed to land; and*
 - (b) *land covered with water; and*
 - (c) *water covering land; and*
 - (d) *any estate, interest, easement, privilege or right in or over land.*

The prescribed form identified in section (2) is defined at Regulation 45(a) and Schedule 5 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*.

Planning processes are regulated through the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, which establishes a process for implementation of the new *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* and for consideration of landslide hazards in normal planning applications through overlays and codes. In addition to this, Specific Area Plans can apply to any land within the Scheme. Under the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*, local provisions may also apply through a range of mechanisms.

Planning questions within the 337 require a range of answers on matters relating to the applicable planning scheme, zoning of land, planning permits and appeals on the land, enforcement actions and agreements.

Specifically, question 13 asks about zoning and planning scheme amendments to the subject or adjoining lands. Question 13 does not ask about:

- Codes that are identified as applying to the land (such as landslip);
- Specific Area Plans that apply to the land;
- Whether Council has applied for a new planning scheme – including the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*;
- What local provisions apply ; or
- Whether Council has initiated an amendment to local provisions.

These omissions from the 337 are significant because:

- The first two points relate to current controls that apply under the Interim Planning Schemes and affect people's opportunity and requirements to develop land;
- The third point is significant as:
 - All Councils are expected to have lodged Local Provisions Schedules with the Tasmanian Planning Commission for assessment by the end of June 2019; and
 - The *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* relies on a different regulatory regime to the current interim schemes, including local provisions schedules;
- The final two points are significant because they represent important controls that vary the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* that apply to land within every municipality in the State.

Question 20 on the 337 asks about landslip declarations and orders under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* and includes a note suggesting contacting Council to see if they have any other information. This reflects previous State policy regarding declaration of landslip with A or B as has happened at Beauty Point and other locations around the State. Question 20 remains relevant to the information provided on a 337.

Current State policy for management of landslip and landslides is through Natural Hazards and Landslide Hazard Bands (low, medium, medium-active or high). These are addressed through planning scheme codes and natural hazards within the *Building Act 2016* (discussed in detail further). These mechanisms are not reflected on the 337 questions.

Question 31 on the 337 asks about onsite waste water systems on the land that were approved from 1994 to the current day. The form does not ask about any onsite waste water systems that were approved before that time, many of which remain operational today.

The *Building Act 2016* came into operation on 1 January 2017 and regulates building works based on risk, simplified as follows:

- Low risk work which Council is generally not notified of (including two sub-categories);
- Notifiable work, where council is notified at commencement that a building surveyor has assessed work and then again when the work is completed;
- Permit work, which requires permits and certificates from Council;

- New assessment regimes for plumbing work; and
- A regime to consider natural hazards (landslip, flooding, inundation, erosion) which becomes operational with the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*.

Questions 34-48 relate to building processes but do not identify:

- Whether Council has any records of low risk work (Form 80's);
- Whether the land is identified as subject to any natural hazards; or
- At questions 37 to 40, whether notifiable building work has been completed (the current questions ask about incomplete works but not about any work that may have been completed under that process).

These questions are significant and relevant to regulatory processes because:

- They do not allow full disclosure of all relevant records because the questions are not asked; and
- The omission on landslide and other natural hazards information does not allow for full information to be provided that reflects current State policies for managing natural hazards and identify known requirements for consideration of building proposals on the lands.

At present, the Local Government Division is undertaking a review of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which includes the 337 certificate. Discussions with officers of the Local Government, Building and Planning Divisions of State have suggested raising these reforms as part of that process. Current discussions suggest that process will take approximately two years, with additional time to implement findings.

The identified issues justify an urgent response ahead of the general review of Schedule 5 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* as they relate to existing regulatory controls and have potential for significant impacts to property owners.

LGAT Comment

There have been no previous motions on this matter.

LGAT raised council concerns with the 337 Certificates with the Director of Local Government in late 2018, at which time some initial investigative work was commenced by the Planning Policy Unit of the Department of Justice (limited to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* aspects). However, beyond some initial consultation with LGAT in December 2018, there has been no further engagement with LGAT.

The *Building Act 2016* components were recently raised with the Acting Director of Building Control in a meeting and it was indicated that he had no issues with the suggested changes and in fact was supportive.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government recognises the need to amend the section 337 form under Schedule 5 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*, to address the issues that have arisen from the introduction of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (e.g. the need to refer to Local Provisions Schedules and the like) and other specific issues that certain councils and LGAT have raised (e.g. around landslip).

Relevant government agencies have been working closely with LGAT to identify, develop and draft the necessary amendments and these will be finalised soon. The Government has agreed that amendments to schedule 5 of regulations should occur this year, in advance of the broader Local Government legislation review.

15.2 Increased Penalties for Unlawful Use and Development. Council – Hobart City

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the State Government to amend *the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* to increase penalties and introduce alternative sentencing options for unlawful use and development consistent with the provisions in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* introduced by the NSW State Government in 2014/2015 by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 2014*.

Background Comment

The maximum fine in the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* of \$81,500 for using land or undertaking development contrary to a planning scheme or in breach of a condition does not send a sufficiently clear message to the community that a planning scheme is a serious matter and that a fine for breaching a planning scheme is not simply another cost to be added to the expense associated with a development. Further, where a breach of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* has been proven, the court has extremely limited power to require steps to be taken or that certain conduct cease. Significantly, a court has no ability to require someone to cease carrying out a use or activity in breach of a planning scheme, or that a person be restrained from doing certain works.

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* contains penalties 10 times the maximum penalty in the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* for works carried out on a THC listed property without approval. In addition the court also has the power to order the offender to repair any damage caused by the unlawful development and/or prohibiting the offender from carrying out any works on the heritage listed place. There is no reason for the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* to not contain penalties and sentencing options consistent with or greater than those in *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*.

The penalties in NSW include:

Tier 1:

An offence committed intentionally and caused, or was likely to cause, significant harm to the environment or the death of, or serious injury to, a person. These offences may include carrying out development without approval or breaching conditions of approval.

The maximum penalties are \$5 million for corporations, with a further \$50,000 for each day the offence continues and, \$1 million for individuals, with a further \$10,000 for each day the offence continues.

Tier 2:

Offences such as carrying out development without approval, or breaching conditions of approval where the offences were committed unintentionally (i.e. without the aggravating factors of Tier 1 offences).

The maximum penalties are \$2 million for corporations, with a further \$20,000 for each day the offence continues and, \$500,000 for individuals, with a further \$5,000 for each day the offence continues.

Tier 3:

Lesser procedural and administrative related offences (for example, knowingly providing false or misleading information in an environmental monitoring or audit report).

The maximum penalties are \$1 million for corporations, with a further \$10,000 for each day the offence continues and \$250,000 for individuals, with a further \$2,500 for each day the offence continues.

Alternative sentencing options in NSW:

Include orders to:

- Reverse or rectify any unlawful development or activity related to the commission of the offence; and/or
- Requiring the offender to pay back any monetary benefits gained by committing the offence.

Other sentencing options could include:

- Precluding an offender from carrying out any use or development in relation to the land in respect of which offence relates for a period specified by the court;
- Requiring the offender to forfeit the land in respect of which the offence relates.

LGAT Comment

In 2004 and 2008 there were motions raised that sought to have the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA) amended to provide a cost effective mechanism for dealing with non-compliance with planning schemes and planning permit conditions, including a scale of penalties which are commensurate with the seriousness of a breach.

LGAT understands the Minister for Planning has requested that the Planning Policy Unit look at the offences and enforcement provisions within LUPAA, but only as they relate to the powers of the Magistrates Court versus the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal and not the scale of the penalties.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

This motion was not received in time to allow for Agency Comment.

16 PUBLIC POLICY GENERAL

16.1 Smoke Free Areas Council – City of Hobart

Decision Sought

That the LGAT lobby the State Government to increase the smoking distance from doorways from 3 metres to 5 metres in support of local businesses

Background

It is acknowledged that health is affected by the inhalation of second hand smoke. Smoking in public presents a risk of exposure to non-smokers that they otherwise would not face, and is becoming more and more unacceptable in modern society.

Legislated smoke-free areas in Tasmania include within 3 metres of an entrance or exit to a building.

By increasing this distance to 5 metres we can provide an environment where the community can breathe clean air as well as enjoy public areas free of cigarette butt litter.

LGAT Comment

Local Government has a history of raising the matter of smoking in public places and making commitments to discouraging smoking, with four motions resolved at General Meetings between 2003 and 2011 and one in 2017. Smoking at major events and playground areas was raised in 2003 with a request that councils introduce similar policies to smoking in municipal buildings, major events, playgrounds and municipal controlled venues. A consistent approach to smoking policy and controls across Tasmania was considered in 2007. A 2010 motion that

LGAT request the State Government to introduce no smoking legislation for alfresco dining areas including consideration of entire designated public areas was lost but, in 2011 the motion that LGAT urge the State Government to commit to passing legislation banning smoking in all alfresco dining areas was carried.

In July 2017 a motion seeking “*LGAT lobby the State Government to amend the Public Health Act 1997 to declare that all school road crossings and surrounds, a smoke free area under 67B.*” was passed. LGAT acted on the motion and provided feedback from the then Department of Health and Human Services (Department) through the Follow up of Motions in May 2018.

In essence, the Department indicated that councils can make their own declarations under provisions of the *Public Health Act 1997* and DHHS could assist with wording of a declaration. The response noted that the broader issues of declaring smoking illegal near public buildings including hospitals was under consideration.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Government encourages all local councils to create new smoke-free areas in the public streets and footpaths they occupy, particularly near schools and hospitals, using the existing provisions under section 67B of the *Public Health Act 1997* (the Act).

This proposal for a modest increase in the smoke-free distance from entrances and exits will still result in incomplete and potentially contested smoke-free areas in many densely occupied streets.

Rather than a piecemeal approach to increasing the extent of smoke-free areas in such locations, the preferred approach is for councils to ban smoking in defined council-occupied streets of city centres. This is a comprehensive approach that is easy to understand, hard to contest, and straightforward to enforce.

Councils already have the power to declare such areas smoke-free under the Act.

Launceston City and Central Coast Councils have recently declared extensive urban areas smoke-free. Hobart City Council has announced their intent to take a similar approach in their CBD and near the Royal Hobart Hospital.

For these reasons the Government does not support this motion, but continues to encourage councils to use existing powers to provide extensive smoke-free environments in vibrant and busy urban settings.

16.2 Gun Control Laws Council – Kingborough

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the State Government to ensure any amendments to the *Tasmanian Firearms Act 1996* and associated regulations further align Tasmanian law with the National Firearms Agreement

Background Comment

Gun control laws have recently been discussed by Kingborough Council following the recent tragedy in New Zealand.

Our Council considered a Notice of Motion from Cr Richard Atkinson and resolved that Council:

1. Writes to the Prime Minister and the Tasmanian Premier affirming the Council's position for strong gun control laws;
2. Writes to the leaders of national and state political parties urging them to stand firm against efforts to weaken gun control laws and to reject any donations from the gun control lobby; and
3. Moves at the July 2019 Local Government Association General Meeting (LGAT) that LGAT lobby the State Government to ensure any amendments to the *Tasmanian Firearms Act 1996* and associated regulations further align Tasmanian law with the National Firearms Agreement.

Our Council seeks your support for its position that Australia's world-leading gun laws should be maintained.

LGAT Comment

There have been no previous motions on this matter.

Tasmanian Government Agency Comment

The Tasmanian Government has stated clearly over the past year that it will not do anything to undermine the National Firearms Agreement or to weaken gun laws in any way.

The Government understands that there are deeply held concerns about public safety, and in an area as important to Tasmanians as gun laws, public confidence in the laws is essential.

In August 2018, the Government clearly stated that it would not be progressing the previously announced firearms law proposals.

The Tasmanian Government continues to look forward to the findings and recommendations of the House of Assembly Committee into firearms laws, when the Committee is able to finish its work.

There may be practical improvements to be made to Firearms Laws recommended by the Committee. Should this be the case the Government will consider the recommendations.

Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy

**A Policy for the
naming of Tasmanian
geographic places and
features**

2019



Preamble

The following preamble provides background and context to the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy and is not part of the Policy.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the central role Tasmanian Aboriginal communities play in the Aboriginal and dual naming process.

Geographic features and places in the Tasmanian landscape, on both land and sea, were given names by the Aboriginal peoples of Tasmania and used extensively for over 40,000 years prior to the arrival of Europeans.

The names, which formed part of the multiple Aboriginal language groups that existed in Tasmania, signified the complex interlinked relationship between Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples and the land they lived on and cared for. The names were not arbitrary: they were integral to the places to which they were attached. They represented the deep practical and spiritual connection between people and place, and helped to communicate important cultural information between different groups and across generations.

The supplanting of Aboriginal Tasmanian place names by Europeans, beginning with Dutch and French visitors in the 17th and 18th centuries and dramatically accelerated by British occupation from the late 18th century, caused significant pain and cultural damage to the Aboriginal peoples of Tasmania. The past failure to officially acknowledge and use traditional place names, combined with the broader impacts of colonisation and historic efforts to prevent the use of Tasmanian Aboriginal languages, has resulted in a significant loss of cultural knowledge and understanding. While some contemporary Tasmanian place names are based on the names used by Tasmanian Aboriginal people, these names are often based on European interpretation and were co-opted without consent. Some of the names given to places by Europeans are also explicitly offensive to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

The Government is committed to working with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the wider community to encourage more Aboriginal place names in Tasmania. Part of this commitment is the establishment and use of the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy. This policy was first adopted in 2012, and was revised in 2019, the International Year of Indigenous Languages, to improve the framework for nominating and assessing Aboriginal and dual names for geographic features and places.

The Aboriginal and dual naming of places promotes broader community awareness of Aboriginal history and culture. It is expected that Aboriginal names, which may appear at first to be complex in spelling and/or pronunciation, will, over time, become familiar and easy to use within the Tasmanian community and furthermore, that Tasmanians will value using them.

The adoption of this policy is in line with approaches being taken across other Australian jurisdictions. As recognised by the Permanent Committee on Place Names, a working group of the Australia and New Zealand Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), 'the relationship between Aboriginal people and the land is still as prevalent today as it was more than 400 centuries ago – it is fitting then, to acknowledge Aboriginal footprints in the sands of time.' The ICSM Guidelines for the Consistent Use of Place Names in Australia have, since 1992, encouraged naming authorities in all Australian states and territories to acknowledge the continuing importance of the original Aboriginal place names, and to adopt more frequent official use of these names, drawn from both languages still spoken and languages no longer spoken.



Scholars believe that between 8 and 16 distinct Tasmanian Aboriginal languages may have been spoken prior to European settlement. In recent decades, a program of language reconstruction has been taking place, and is ongoing. This work is being undertaken by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation and the reconstructed language is known as *palawa kani*. The Policy now provides for names to be informed by *palawa kani* and other recorded Tasmanian Aboriginal languages.

The complexity of Tasmanian Aboriginal languages and the limited information available on recorded pronunciations and interpretative European spelling may result in assigned Aboriginal and dual names for geographical features or places being derived from different languages, adopting different spelling systems, pronunciations and syntaxes sitting alongside each other. The policy acknowledges that research into Tasmanian Aboriginal languages and placenames is ongoing.

This Policy provides for:

- giving Aboriginal names to geographic features or places that do not already have an official or assigned name (the naming of cities or towns is not covered under the Policy – see 4.9 below);
- replacing an existing official name with an Aboriginal name; and
- giving an additional Aboriginal name to a feature that already has an official name (dual naming).

The Policy is given effect by incorporation into appropriate administrative mechanisms such as the Nomenclature Board's *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines*.

Note on the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania

In Tasmania, the official naming of places is primarily the responsibility of the Nomenclature Board. The Board is regulated under provisions of the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944* (the Act) and undertakes research and investigation into the origin, priority and usage of place names and assigns official place names in accordance with the *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines*.

Under the Act, the Board consists of up to ten members, including the Surveyor-General as Chairperson. The role of the Board is, among other things, to:

- consider whether any unnamed place (road, locality, geographical feature etc.) warrants the assignment of a name, and the extent of the place, and;
- determine the appropriateness of any proposed name, based on the application of the *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines*, and subsequently approve or reject the proposed name. If there is an objection however, the Board makes a recommendation to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water who then has full discretion in making the final decision.



Policy

1. Purpose

To provide advice and direction to the Tasmanian community, Government Agencies, Local Government Authorities and the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania about the application of Aboriginal names for naming Tasmanian geographic features and places.

2. Principles

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that places in Tasmania were named by Aborigines long before the arrival of Europeans. The Tasmanian Government acknowledges prior Aboriginal ownership and is committed to preserving Aboriginal heritage and language by ensuring that Aboriginal place names can be restored to Tasmanian geographic features and places. This will be achieved by applying the following principles:

- 2.1 That preference is given to local Aboriginal place names for any geographic feature or place that does not already have an existing official place name, provided the proposed Aboriginal name can be authenticated to the satisfaction of the Nomenclature Board.
- 2.2 Where an existing official place name does not have community support, the name may be replaced by an Aboriginal name provided it can be authenticated to the satisfaction of the Nomenclature Board.
- 2.3 That the Aboriginal dual naming of geographic features and places that already have official names occurs when a complete name change is not possible or acceptable. Both will be official place names, and both names will be used together with the Aboriginal name occurring first and separated by a solidus, for example *kunanyi*/Mt Wellington.
- 2.4 That the renaming of geographic features or places where the existing place name may be offensive to the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities will be a priority for consideration by the Board.
- 2.5 Where previously assigned official place names are derived from Aboriginal names, or are Aboriginal names but have demonstrably incorrect spelling or form, names may be amended to ensure they are generally accepted by Aboriginal communities.
- 2.6 Where alternative names have been used for extended periods by Aboriginal people to identify geographic features or places as part of community and cultural tradition, consideration will be given to renaming those features. Sometimes, these names may not be from Aboriginal languages, for example Big Dog Island in place of Great Dog Island; Hummocky Island in place of Chappell Island.
- 2.7 That the Nomenclature Board will establish and maintain a reference group of people with expertise in Tasmanian Aboriginal history, languages or place naming. The Board may seek advice or comment from the reference group on:
 - proposals where more than one Aboriginal name is proposed for a geographic place or feature;
 - proposals where multiple names are given for parts of the one place or feature;
 - proposals where there is substantial community division about a proposed Aboriginal name, or when one Aboriginal name cannot be clearly prioritised from a number of known names; and
 - any other issue the Board determines.



- 2.8 If there is substantial community division about a proposed Aboriginal name, or when one Aboriginal name cannot be clearly prioritised from a number of known names, the Nomenclature Board may exercise discretion not to adopt an Aboriginal or dual name. Notwithstanding this, where more than one name for a geographical feature or place can be authenticated to the satisfaction of the Nomenclature Board, the Board may elect to record multiple names in its database, and select one name to be assigned for official publications. This reflects the practice of the distinct original Aboriginal groups who named features within different contexts from their neighbouring groups. Recording multiple names may assist in providing education about the complexity of Aboriginal languages.
- 2.9 It is not intended that Aboriginal place names previously made official under the Aboriginal and Dual Naming policy (since 2012) will be rescinded or substantially amended.

3. Register of Aboriginal Community Organisations

- 3.1 The Nomenclature Board will maintain, and make publicly available, a register of Aboriginal community organisations and groups to be consulted as part of an Aboriginal place-naming proposal. Interested Aboriginal organisations and groups can self-nominate for inclusion on the register, indicating the nature and scope of their interest (such as in relation to specific areas or places).

4. Naming Proposal Requirements

- 4.1 A naming proposal can be made by any individual, group or organisation.
- 4.2 The proposal must be made to the Nomenclature Board and be accompanied by:
- a description of the historical origins of the proposed Aboriginal name. The description must demonstrate adequate research and authenticity, including sources;
 - evidence that local Aboriginal communities have been consulted;
 - evidence demonstrating the support of local Aboriginal communities;
 - if the naming proposal is to replace an existing official name, a description of the level of support, or lack of support, for the existing name;
 - evidence that the local Council has been consulted; and
 - evidence that affected land owners and relevant statutory entities have been consulted.
- 4.3 The Nomenclature Board may reject the naming proposal if the requirements of clause 4.2 have not been met to the satisfaction of the Board.
- 4.4 The Nomenclature Board, or the Reference Group if so requested by the Board, may conduct additional enquiries and research as it sees fit in order to supplement a naming proposal.
- 4.5 The Nomenclature Board may, at its discretion, engage directly with Aboriginal communities, relevant land owners, local government and statutory entities to ensure appropriate consultation for a proposal has occurred.
- 4.6 Any naming proposal relating to a place, geographic feature or unbounded locality on 'Aboriginal Land' as described under the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* must, in addition to the requirements of clause 4.2, include evidence of the owner's consent.



- 4.7 The Policy may be applied to applications to name Tasmanian geographic features and places in accordance with the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*.
- 4.8 The Policy will not apply to Tasmanian features and place names assigned through legislation other than the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944* (e.g. Commonwealth Agencies).
- 4.9 The Policy does not apply to the naming or renaming of cities or towns which are governed in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- 4.10 The Policy is consistent with current legislation for nomenclature under the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*.
- 4.11 The Policy is also consistent with national standards as outlined in the International Committee on Survey and Mapping (ICSM) Guidelines for the Consistent Use of Place Names.

5. Process for Implementation and Administration of the Policy

- 5.1 The Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy will be incorporated into the *Tasmanian Guidelines for Place Naming* and published on the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and Department of Communities Tasmania websites.
- 5.2 The Nomenclature Board, working with the Department of Communities Tasmania, will make available templates and associated information to assist those preparing submissions for Aboriginal or dual names.
- 5.3 The Nomenclature Board will establish and publish an annual calendar for the consideration of Aboriginal and dual name proposals.
- 5.4 DPIPWE will inform naming and signing authorities about the Policy and encourage timely replacement/upgrading of signage and related products.
- 5.5 The Board will publish the names in accordance with the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944* and the *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines*.
- 5.6 The Nomenclature Board procedures will continue to provide for objections to proposed names. Under section 20G of the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*, the Nomenclature Board gazettes its intention to assign new names, following which there is a one month objection period. The Board considers all objections and makes a recommendation to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water. The Minister may confirm, modify or reverse the Board's decision.
- 5.7 The process for lodging objections is outlined in the *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines*. In general, objections must relate to the substance of the intended assignment of names, and not be lodged in opposition to the principle of Aboriginal and Dual Naming.
- 5.8 Where an Aboriginal name is intended to replace a non-Aboriginal name, the gazettal notice will include a notation about the name to be replaced. Where possible, the Tasmanian Government will utilise additional communication mediums to promote the Aboriginal and dual naming process to the wider community.
- 5.9 Both parts of a dual name are to be shown on all official signage, directories, maps and all official documents and publications without any distinction between the two, other than the sequence. The Aboriginal name will appear first, separated by a solidus.



- 5.10 Official signage, maps and other information products will be updated incrementally as maintenance budgets for signage allow, or as new editions of maps and visitor information publications are released.



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CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ENERGY USE AND
GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINT
SUMMARY REPORT MAY 2019

PUBLISHING DETAILS

The Southern Tasmanian Regional and Municipal Energy and Emissions Project 2018, was endorsed in the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) Action Plan 2017-2019, by the Board of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) in June 2017.

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The STCA acknowledges organisations that assisted with the finalisation of the community greenhouse gas and energy profile:

- City of Hobart developed and piloted the initial methodology for community emissions
- TasNetworks provided residential and commercial/industrial sector electricity data
- Australian Government, Clean Energy Regulator for commercial/industrial data to fact check final results

DISCLAIMER

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the contents of the Report are correct, the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority does not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of its contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the report.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL SUMMARY

Our local energy use patterns are changing - electric vehicles are a disruptive technology as are new models of electricity provision through rooftop solar, these influence change alongside many other factors such as government programs and incentives. A snapshot of the Central Highlands community energy use and greenhouse gas emission trends has been provided by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority's Regional Climate Change Initiative.

Central Highlands community energy use increased by 2% from 2006-07 to 2016-17. Greenhouse gas emissions increased by 7% over the same period. State-wide trends have contributed to decreasing transport sector energy use while price signals, greater energy efficiency measures and rooftop solar have also played a part.

Community energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions footprints

Central Highlands municipality 2016-17	1.5 petajoules (PJ)	90,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO ₂ -e)
Region (across 12 southern Tasmanian municipalities) 2016-17	43 petajoules (PJ)	2,580,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO ₂ -e)
Tasmania	109 petajoules (PJ) (2016-17)	3,980,000 (tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO ₂ -e) (2015-16)

Data sources (left to right, top to bottom): Regional Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Footprint, STCA, 2019; Australian Energy Statistics, Australian Government, 2018; Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Accounts, Tasmanian Climate Change Office 2018

Consumers are increasingly taking local energy generation into their own hands. Over 1.8 million electricity units (kilowatt hour) are returned to the grid annually, generated by local residential and commercial premises.

Harnessing the power of the sun is popular. Over 560 rooftops have solar photovoltaic (PV) and 130 rooftops have solar hot water systems in Central Highlands. While solar PV systems are the dominant renewable energy technology in the region, there are small wind generators registered in the area.

A key change in the commercial sector is the popularity of solar PV systems, with almost double the number of systems from 28 systems in 2013-14 to 58 systems in 2016-17.

Energy based technology shifts are occurring locally. Petrol vehicles are being replaced with diesel vehicles. A reduction in vehicle fuel use of 21% from 2006-07 to 2016-17 has seen the dominant trend of increasing yearly fuel use turn around.

Transport is a key focus area, encouraging low emission travel. The transport sector is responsible for at least a third of community emissions. Locally predominantly older vehicles are in use, which are generally more emissions intensive.

Annual electricity use has increased by 25% over the last decade from 59 to 76 million units or kilowatt hour (kWh) in 2016-17. In the Central Highlands municipal area, households and businesses are using more electricity in 2016-17 than a decade ago in 2006-07.

Average electricity use per household has levelled out over the last three years. Average residential electricity use per meter has been less changeable in recent times, and average household¹ electricity use decreased from 2013-14 to 2015-16.

Recent electricity use has been relatively flat compared to the earlier half of the decade, suggesting consumers have improved the energy efficiency of buildings or are responding to other factors that drive electricity use to find savings. Consumer behaviour in commercial premises and the home are considered influenced by increasing awareness of energy costs and actions as well as factors such as: local weather; price signals; and the use of energy efficient appliances and materials through government programs; in addition to the influence of population growth. Energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, buffer the impact of extreme temperature events reducing the demand for heating and cooling and decreasing electricity use.

¹ National Meter Identifiers (NMI)'s are used as a proxy for the number of households

INTRODUCTION

As discussions on how to reach zero emissions increase understanding our local community energy and emissions footprint becomes more important. Looking at where and why energy is used, and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions, is the first step to identify opportunities for savings and initiatives that benefit local communities.

Local governments have a key role providing up to date and reliable climate change information. The Southern Tasmanian Regional and Municipal Energy and Emissions Project (the Project) 2018 aims to provide insights into emissions intensive sectors of the community and changing technology trends in the local area. It informs the development of individual municipalities' community profiles. The Project was commissioned by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority's Regional Climate Change Initiative member councils:

- City of Hobart
- Brighton Council
- Central Highlands Council
- Clarence City Council
- Derwent Valley Council
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- Glenorchy City Council
- Huon Valley Council
- Kingborough Council
- Sorell Council
- Southern Midlands Council
- Tasman Council

Currently there is no common standard amongst Australian local governments for corporate and community energy and greenhouse gas reporting. The Australian Local Government Association has identified appropriate data and methods as the most common barrier to setting community emissions targets². This project provides a common and transparent methodology with local and national data inputs to construct accurate community energy and greenhouse gas profiles. It builds on the previous local government voluntary reporting scheme Cities for Climate Protection which ran from 2000 – 2010 and is consistent with National and State Government reporting standards and international reporting programs

² Australian Local Government Climate Review – 2018 Report p. 3.

such as the Carbon Development Program, the Compact of Mayors³ and the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The methodology uses public and government information that is reliable, credible and updated regularly, and involved the following:

1. Accessing [Australian Energy Statistics](#) to establish a baseline energy snapshot, which was then tailored to a local level.
2. Accurate metered data provided by energy service providers was used, where available.
3. Australian Government [National Greenhouse Accounts Factors](#) were then applied to each energy use type to determine total greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Additional records such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and Australian PV Institute (APVI) provided more detailed insights into local technology trends.

The scope of community data is limited to:

- a base year, 2006-07, when detailed electricity data is available, the transfer of water and sewerage assets to a regional body occurred and Tasmania joined the National Electricity Market⁴
- current data as of 2016-17, as up to date as the latest Australian Government, Australian Energy Statistics.
- energy based emissions only, excluding methane from agriculture/wastewater and carbon emissions from land clearing currently – as the greenhouse accounting for forest and agricultural emissions is not available in a format for local government reporting. This can be added retrospectively.
- highlights data from the residential, commercial, transport sectors at a municipal level and industrial, agriculture and forestry sectors at a regional level.

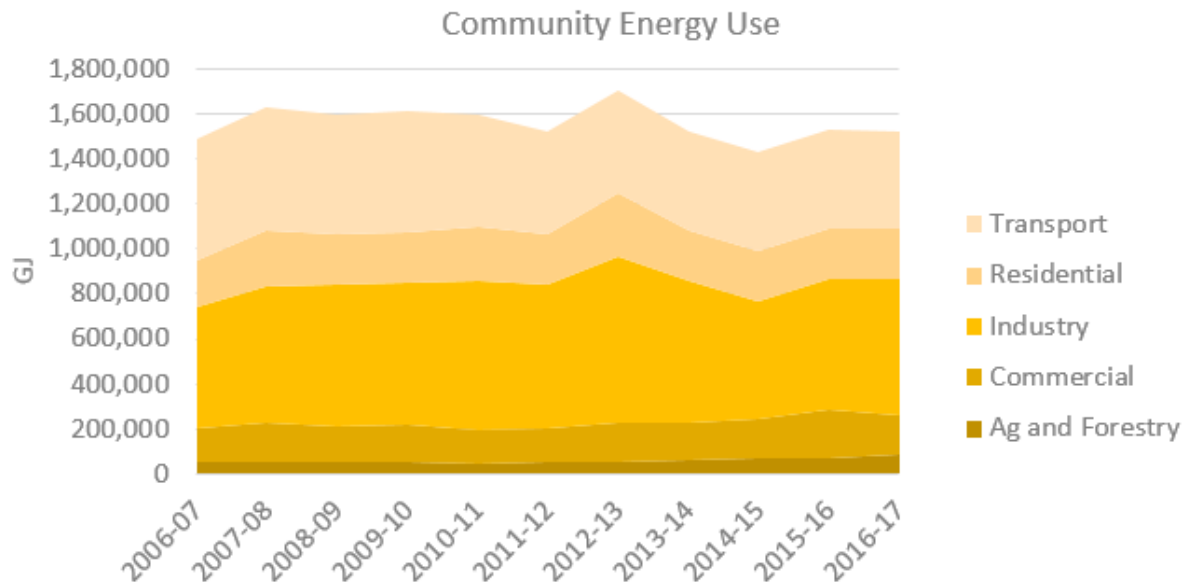
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

Community energy use has increased by 2% from 2006-07 to 2016-17, from 1.4 million gigajoules to 1.5 million (GJ) in the Central Highlands municipal area. A typical southern Tasmania household uses 25 GJ (7,000 kWh) per annum.

³ led by C40, ICLEI and United Cities and Local Governments, in close collaboration with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, UN Habitat, and the UN Secretary General's office

⁴ Data estimates for electricity and all energy uses are available from 2004-05 to align with the international reporting period stated in the Paris Agreement if preferred.

Figure 1: Central Highlands Municipal Area Community Energy Use.



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018. NB: All energy use is presented in gigajoules (GJ) as an industry standard and a format that is easy to convert with other energy values. The increase in 2012-13 is due to an increase in electricity use data provided by TasNetworks, due to additional Pay As You Go data being measured and added in that single year.

Energy reductions have occurred only in the transport sector (-100,202GJ). State-wide trends have contributed to decreasing transport sector energy use such as price signals, greater energy efficiency measures in newer vehicles and consumer technology preferences.

Central Highlands's industrial (includes manufacturing, mining and construction) sector is the largest energy user and is responsible for the greatest energy use and greenhouse gas emission increases from 2006-07 to 2016-17. Transport represents a third of community energy use.

Table 1: Central Highlands Municipal Area Community Energy Use

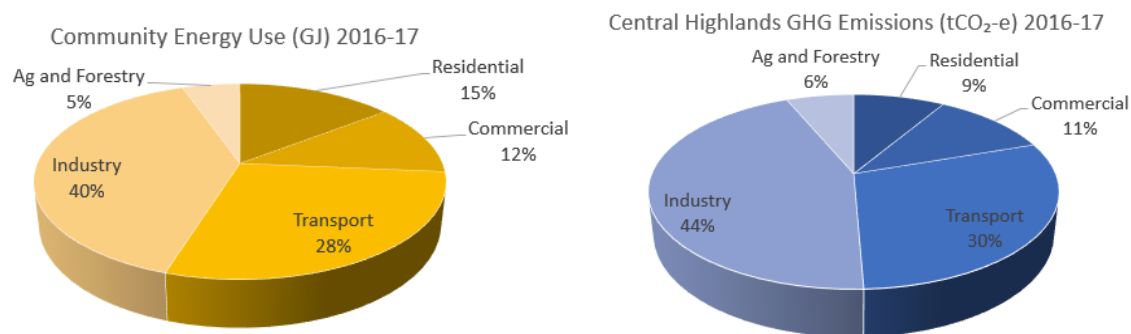
Energy use (GJ)	2006-07	2016-17	Growth %	Total difference between 2006-07 and 2016-17
Residential	214,083	222,370	4	8,287
Commercial	145,225	179,184	21	33,959
Transport	534,683	434,482	-21	-100,202
Subtotal	893,991	836,036	-7	-57,956
Industry	537,634	604,322	12	66,688
Agriculture and	55,475	82,300	39	26,825

Forestry

Grand Total	1,487,100	1,522,658	2	35,557
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Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018. NB: All energy use is presented in gigajoules (GJ) as an industry standard and a format that is easy to convert with other energy values. The Midpoint method for determining growth rates is used. The transport, industrial and agriculture and forestry sectors all use State-wide data, with results indicating general trends, while the residential and commercial sectors are mainly derived from metered data.

Figure 2: Central Highlands Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

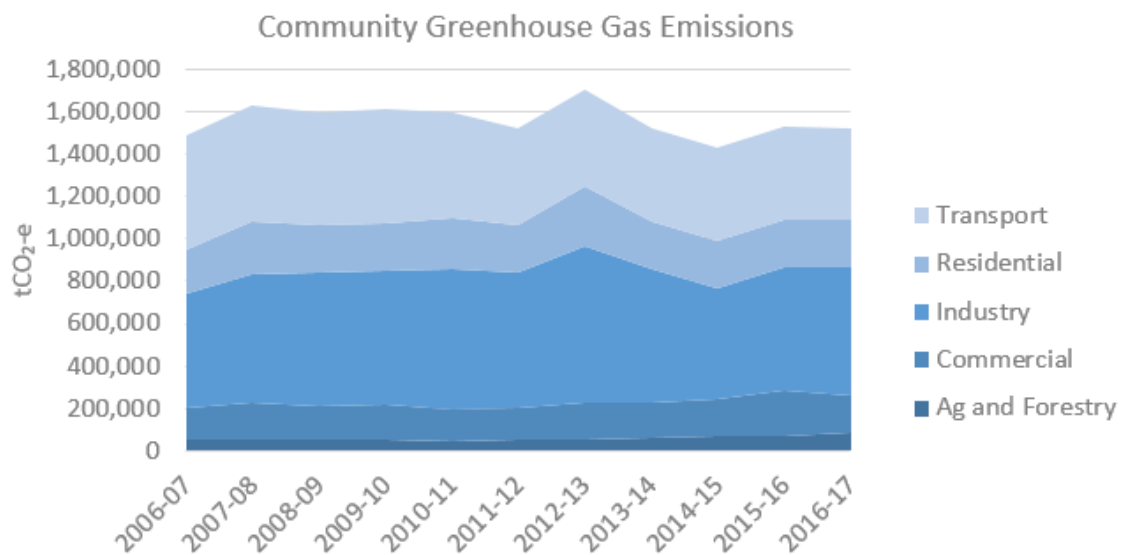


Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018, National Greenhouse Accounts Factors, 2016.

Greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 7% from 84,284tCO₂-e in 2006-07 to 90,204tCO₂-e (the equivalent of 19,000 vehicles driven for one year) in 2016-17. Increasing energy use in the industry, agriculture, forestry, residential and commercial sectors has contributed to higher emissions working against reductions achieved in the transport sector.

Central Highlands's industrial sector emissions have contributed to the greatest increase, adding an additional 6,482tCO₂e in 2016-17 than in 2006-07, mainly due to an increase in the use of emissions intensive fuels in the manufacturing sector such as coke, black coal, petroleum, diesel and natural gas. These fuel use trends are mainly based on per capita Statewide results.

Figure 3: Central Highlands Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions.



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018, National Greenhouse Accounts Factors, 2016. NB: All greenhouse gas emissions are presented in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) as an industry standard and a format that is easy to convert other values. The increase in 2012-13 is due to an increase in electricity use data provided by TasNetworks, due to additional Pay As You Go data being measured and added in that single year. The TasNetworks data is sourced from legacy business systems and includes a variation between 2006/07 and 2007/08 for reasons unknown.

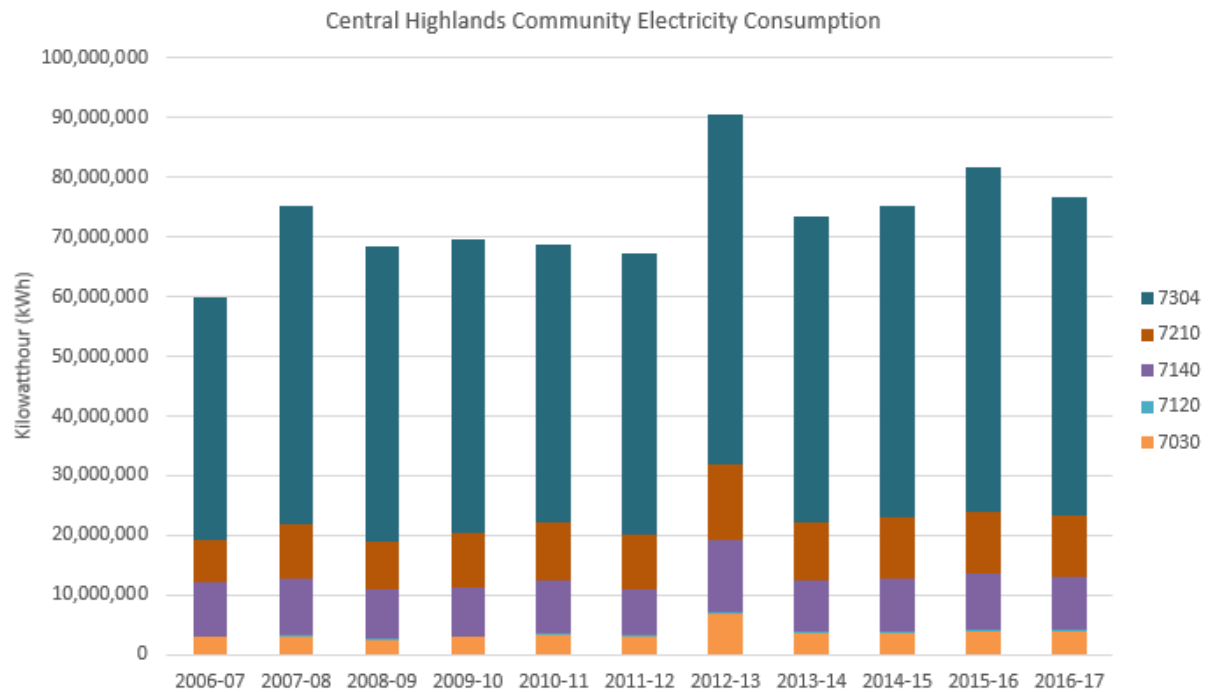
Table 2: Central Highlands Municipal Area community greenhouse gas emissions

GHG emissions -tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent (tCO ₂ -e)	2006-07	2016-17	Growth %	Total difference between 2006-07 to 2016-17(tCO ₂ -e)
Residential	5,814	7,756	29	1,942
Commercial	8,231	10,045	20	1,814
Transport	32,883	26,721	-21	-6,162
Subtotal	46,928	44,522	-5	-2,406
<i>Industry</i>	<i>33,471</i>	<i>39,953</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>6,482</i>
<i>Agriculture and Forestry</i>	<i>3,885</i>	<i>5,729</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>1,844</i>
Grand Total	84,284	90,204	7	5,920

Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018 and National Greenhouse Accounts, 2016. NB: Greenhouse gas emissions presented in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent as an industry standard. The Midpoint method for determining growth rates is used. The transport, industrial and agriculture and forestry sectors all use State-wide data, with results indicating general trends, while the residential and commercial sectors are mainly derived from metered data.

Annual electricity use has increased by 25% over the last decade from 59 to 76 million units or kilowatt hour (kWh) in 2016-17. Electricity use trends have a large impact on overall community energy use, particularly in the residential and commercial sectors where electricity use is responsible for more than half of all energy used.

Figure 4: Central Highlands Municipal Area Community Total Electricity Use

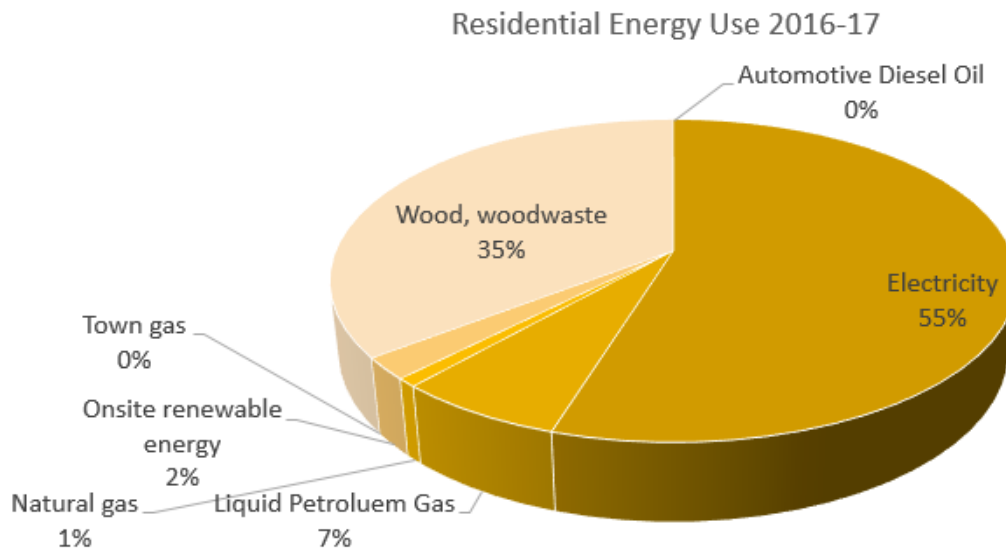


Data sources: TasNetworks, 2018. . The increase in 2012-13 is due to an increase in electricity use data provided by TasNetworks, due to additional Pay As You Go data being measured and added in that single year (with some historic data included). The TasNetworks data is sourced from legacy business systems and includes a variation between 2006/07 and 2007/08 for reasons unknown.

The postcodes with a larger population have consumed more energy.

Wood use has decreased by 32% from 2006-07 to 2016-17 and constitutes over a third of all residential energy use.

Figure 5: Central Highlands Municipal Area Residential Energy Use



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018

More consumers are generating and using their own solar rooftop power, decreasing electricity use from the electricity grid. Over 130 rooftops use solar energy to heat hot water⁵ in the local area. In Central Highlands, there are over 560 solar photovoltaic (PV) systems⁶, which means 1-in-10 premises have access to solar⁷.

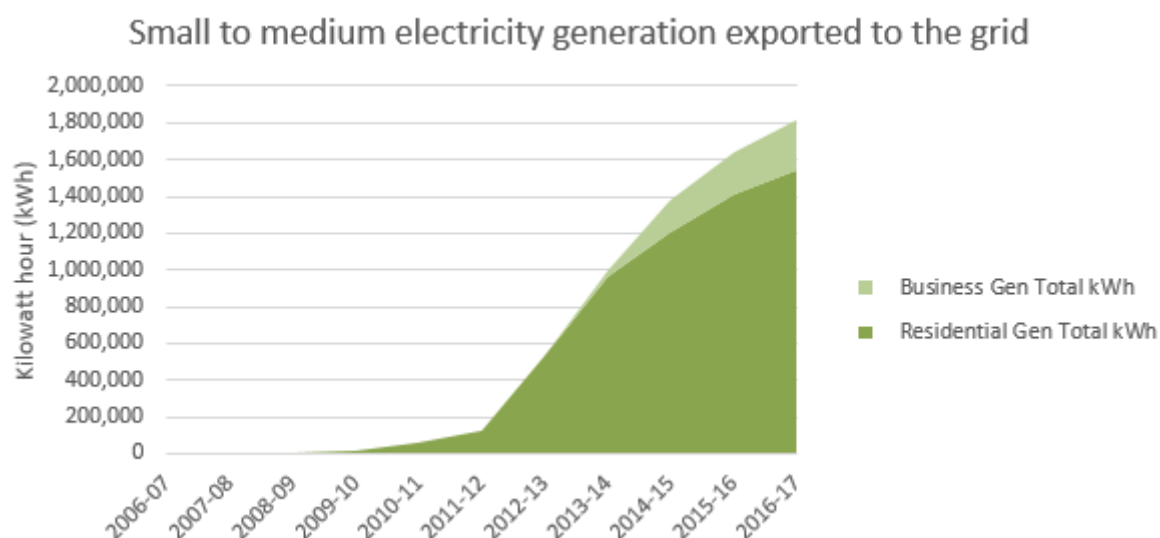
A key change in the commercial sector is the popularity of solar PV systems, with almost double the number of systems from 28 systems in 2013-14 to 58 systems in 2016-17.

⁵ Based on CER small scale technology data, accessed May 2018. There are shared postcodes with neighbouring councils so a conservative estimate has been used.

⁶ Based on TasNetworks meters that generate back to the electricity grid, 2018 data.

⁷ Total buildings based on number of meters (commercial and residential) in 2016-17, 5,718 NMIs divided by 566 renewable electricity generation NMI's

Figure 6: Central Highlands Renewable Electricity Generation Exported to the Electricity Grid



Source: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level.

Residential and commercial solar PV installations export over 1.8 million units (kWh) of emission free electricity back to grid each year from the Central Highlands municipal area⁸. While solar PV systems are the dominant renewable energy technology in the region, there are two 600W small wind generators registered in postcode 7030⁹.

Postcode 7304 (Brandum, Breona, Central Plateau, Doctors Point, Reynolds Neck) has the highest number of commercial and residential solar PV systems¹⁰ and the highest residential solar PV systems in the Central Highlands municipal area.

Table 3: Central Highlands renewable energy systems by postcode in 2016-17

Postcodes	Business meters (NMIs) that generate electricity	Residential meters (NMIs) that generate electricity	Total number of meter connections generating electricity (NMIs)
7030	1	32	33

⁸ As of end of 2016-17

⁹ Based on postcodes allocated to the area and possibly shared across council boundaries

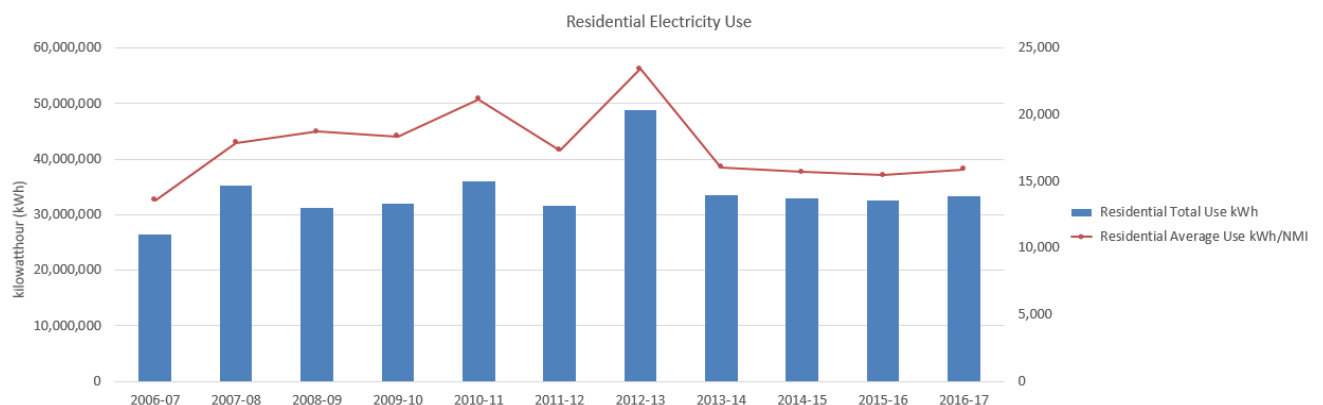
¹⁰ As this postcode borders other local governments the results have been allocated on a per capita basis

7120	0	2	2
7140	3	44	46
7210	8	47	55
7304	46	384	430
Grand Total	58	508	566

Data sources: TasNetworks, 2018

Overall, residential electricity use has increased by 23%¹¹ over the last decade, from 2006-07 to 2016-17. Average electricity use per household has levelled out over the last four years, as has total consumption, despite 297 new residential connections. This follows a period of high electricity consumption variability, from 2006-07 to 2012-13.

Figure 7: Central Highlands Municipal Area Residential Electricity Use



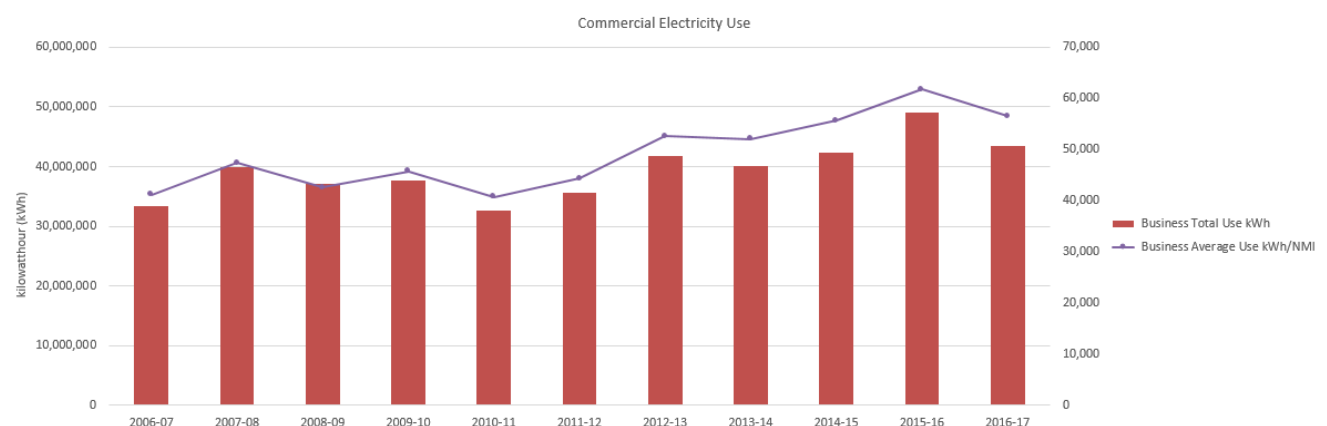
Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level. The increase in 2012-13 is due to an increase in electricity use data provided by TasNetworks, due to additional Pay As You Go data being measured and added in that single year. The TasNetworks data is sourced from legacy business systems and includes a variation between 2006/07 and 2007/08 for reasons unknown.

Residential electricity use per meter decreases from 2013-14 to 2015-16 are likely to be influenced by factors such as price signals, the implementation of the carbon price (2012 to 2015) and increasing electricity costs, as well as the use of more energy efficient appliances and materials through Commonwealth and State Government information and grant incentives. These drivers increase consumer awareness of energy costs and energy actions to drive bill savings in the office and home.

¹¹ Midpoint method has been use for estimating growth for consistency

Total commercial annual electricity use has increased by 26%¹² from 33 million to 43 million units (kWh) over a decade (2006-07 to 2016-17). Average electricity use per meter increased in the commercial sector from 2009-10 to 2016-17, indicating that regardless of the growth in commercial connections, which resulted in net growth of three commercial connections, electricity consumption per business has steadily increased.

Figure 8: Central Highlands Municipal Area Commercial Electricity Use

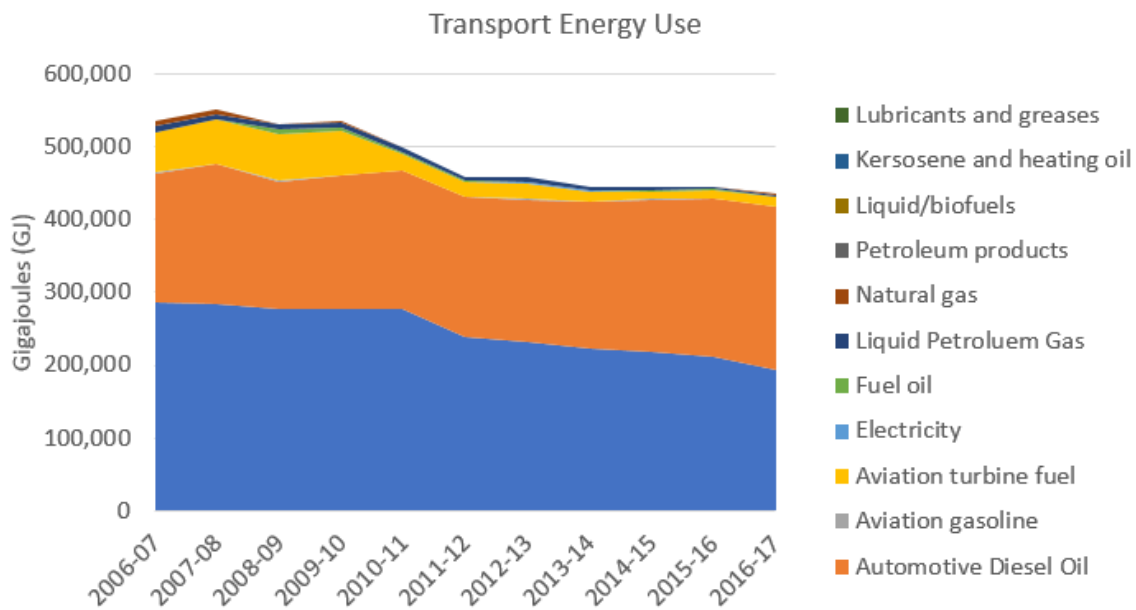


Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level.

A key change in the transport sector has been the turnaround from increasing energy use to a decreasing trend over a decade (2006-07 to 2016-17). Transport energy use has decreased by 21% from 2006-07 to 2016-17, as a result greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 21% for the same period.

¹² Midpoint method has been use for estimating growth for consistency

Figure 9: Central Highlands Municipal Area Transport Energy Use



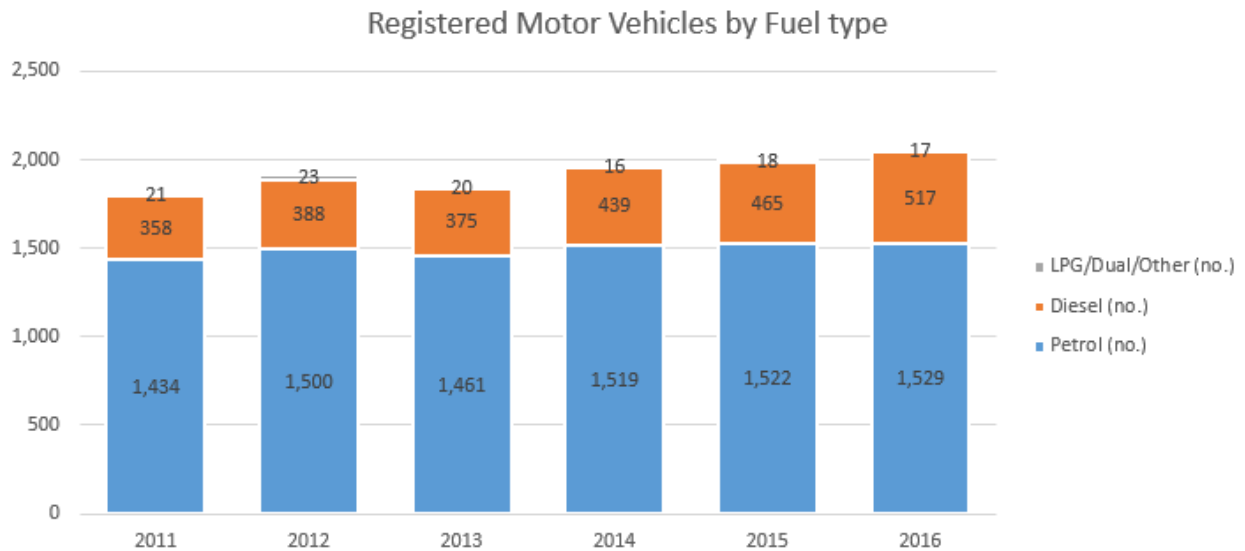
Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics 2017, TasNetworks, 2018.

Passenger vehicle petrol and diesel fuel use are the primary source of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector¹³.

The main technology shift occurring is a consumer preference for diesel light vehicles over petrol light vehicles, as shown by an increase of 52 diesel vehicles versus an increase of seven petrol vehicles between 2015 to 2016. No electric vehicles are registered in the area

¹³ Road transport is the largest energy user and ABS motor vehicle registrations (Table 12) indicate predominantly 71% passenger vehicles and 19% light commercial vehicles in Central Highlands LGA, Regional Statistics by LGA2016, Annual (2010-11 to 2015-16)

Figure 10: Central Highlands Municipal Area Motor Vehicle Registrations

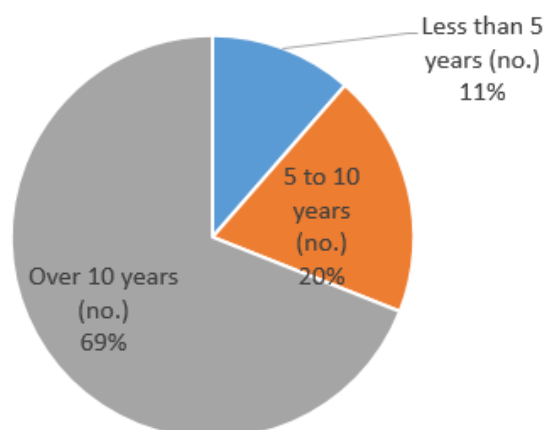


Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016.

One of the challenges in Central Highlands's community profile is the high percentage of older more emissions intensive vehicles and relatively low use of newer vehicles, which are generally more fuel efficient.

Figure 11: Central Highlands Municipal Area Motor Vehicle Registrations – year of manufacture

Motor Vehicle Registrations 2016 - Year of Manufacture



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016

FURTHER INFORMATION

A regional summary paper, titled *Southern Tasmania's Changing Energy Use: Information Paper: Regional Greenhouse Gas and Energy Use Trends*, provides a snapshot of national, state and regional greenhouse footprints as well as energy trends across the region, representing 12 southern Tasmanian municipalities.

Each council has been provided with detailed data, some of which is subject to strict confidentiality terms of use to address privacy concerns and commercial sensitivities.

In addition, a step by step guide provides additional support to explain the methodology further, increase transparency and facilitate future updates.

This guide and the regional paper outlines the scope of the methodology, with consideration for time and resources available to councils and includes consideration for other factors influencing the final results.

SOUTHERN TASMANIA'S CHANGING ENERGY USE

**INFORMATION PAPER:
REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS AND
ENERGY USE TRENDS APRIL 2019**



PUBLISHING DETAILS

The Southern Tasmanian Regional and Municipal Energy and Emissions Project 2018, was endorsed in the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) Action Plan 2017-2019, by the Board of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) in June 2017.

First published by Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, Regional Climate Change Initiative April 2019.

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The STCA acknowledges organisations that assisted with the development of the community greenhouse gas and energy profile:

- City of Hobart developed and piloted the initial methodology for community emissions
- TasNetworks provided residential and commercial/industrial sector electricity data
- Australian Government, Clean Energy Regulator, for commercial/industrial data to fact check final results

DISCLAIMER

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the contents of the report are correct, the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority does not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of its contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the report.



CONTENTS

- 5 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** The Regional and Municipal Energy and Emissions Project 2018 provides insights into emissions intensive sectors of the community and changing energy technology trends across southern Tasmanian municipalities.
- 7 KEY MESSAGES** Our energy use is changing; emerging technologies such as solar photovoltaics and electric vehicles are becoming more dominant, price changes and government energy efficiency programs are altering consumer behaviour.
- 9 REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINTS** In 2016-17 southern Tasmania was responsible for a total of 68% of Tasmania's energy sector based emissions (from sources such as electricity, LPG, coal, wood, diesel and petrol).
- 11 INCREASE IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** Community greenhouse gas emissions have risen by 5% over the last decade.
- 13 INCREASE IN ENERGY USE** Most southern Tasmanian municipalities increased energy use, particularly in the industry sector with increasing coal and natural gas use, creating an overall energy use rise of 2% from 2006-07 to 2016-17.
- 15 INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY USE** Electricity use increased by 24% over the last decade, across southern Tasmania.
- 17 POPULAR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC** Consumers are taking power generation into their own hands. There are 14,000 more onsite renewable energy (mostly solar photovoltaic) systems than there were a decade ago.
- 19 EASY ACCESS TO ENERGY AND EMISSIONS DATA** Tasmania's energy and greenhouse results for municipal areas are provided in an open and transparent manner.
- 20 WHO DOES WHAT** Local government has a clear and unquestionable role in making available trustworthy energy and greenhouse data and information so the community can make informed decisions about their energy use.
- 21 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE STCA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Local governments have a key role providing up to date and reliable climate change information.

Southern Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Footprint

Emissions across the southern region increased by 6%, 147,239 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂-e) between 2006-07 and 2016-17. Total southern Tasmanian greenhouse gas emissions were 2.6 million tCO₂-e or 9.7 tCO₂-e per person in 2016-17.

In terms of community energy use this increased by 2% from 42 million gigajoules (GJ) in 2006-07 to 43 million GJ in 2016-2017.

Industry energy use contributed the most to community energy use, followed by the agriculture and forestry sector, commercial and residential sectors.

Transport was the only sector which decreased in its energy use over the last decade indicating significant changes are occurring in the transport sector.

Whilst there were savings in the transport sector all other sectors such as industry, agriculture and forestry, residential and commercial sectors, released greater emissions.

Factors include population growth, changing consumer technology preferences, such as from petrol to diesel in the light vehicle sector improved tail pipe emissions, and increased energy savings awareness, price signals and various government programs and incentives.

Understanding what we can do

As discussions on how to reach zero emissions increase, understanding our local community energy and emissions footprint becomes more important.

Looking at where and why energy is used, and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions, is the first step to identify opportunities for savings and initiatives that benefit local communities.

Providing local insights

Local governments have a key role to provide up to date and reliable climate change information to enable their communities to make informed decisions.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas and Energy Use Trends 2018 aims to provide insights into emissions intensive sectors of the community and changing technology trends across municipal areas. This project was commissioned by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA)'s Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) member councils:

- Brighton Council
- Central Highlands Council
- Clarence City Council
- Derwent Valley Council
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- Glenorchy City Council
- City of Hobart
- Huon Valley Council
- Kingborough Council
- Sorell Council
- Southern Midlands Council
- Tasman Council

Setting the foundations

This project builds on previous work undertaken as part of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) local government voluntary reporting scheme and is consistent with National and State Government reporting standards and international reporting programs such as the Carbon Development Program and the Compact of Mayors¹.

Since the CCP ceased to be funded by the Australian Government in 2010 there has been no common standard amongst Australian local governments' for corporate and community energy and greenhouse gas reporting.

¹ The Compact of Mayors is led by Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40), International Councils for Local Environmental Initiatives and United Cities and Local Governments, in close collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, UN Habitat, and the UN Secretary General's office.

Recognising this gap, the STCA developed a standardised methodology to guide and support councils to align with international, national and state reporting frameworks.

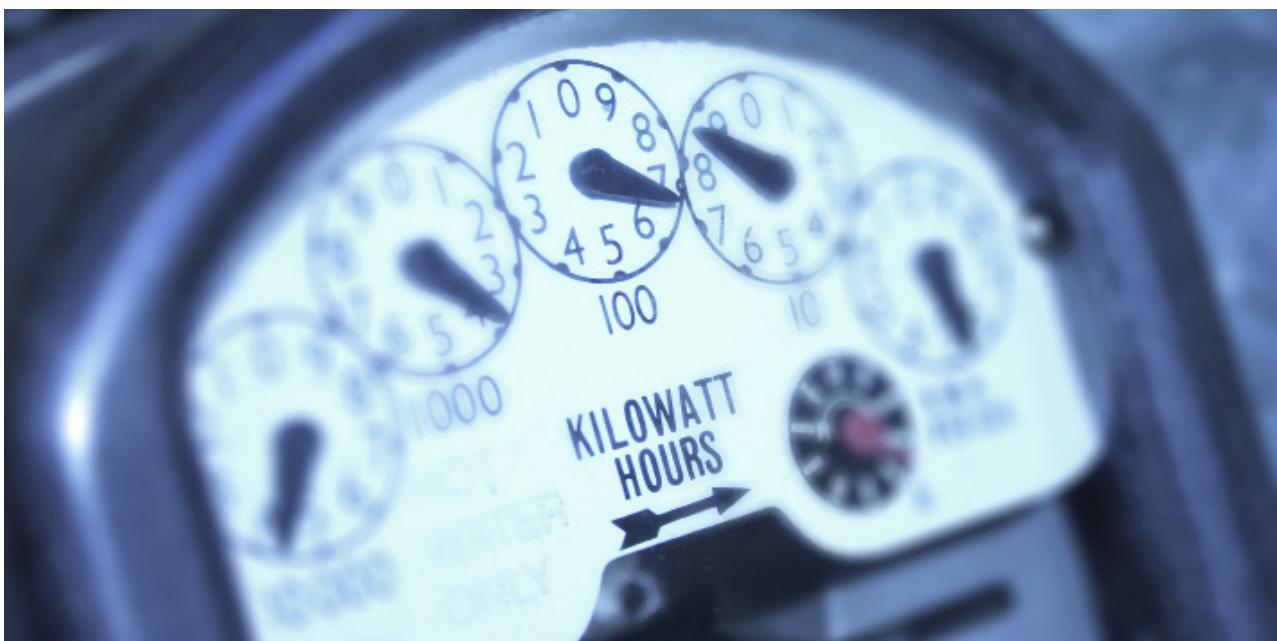
The methodology uses public and government information that is reliable, credible and updated regularly, and involved the following:

1. Accessing Australian Energy Statistics to establish a baseline energy snapshot and tailoring to a local level.
2. Sourcing accurate metered data provided by energy service providers where available.
3. Application of Australian Government National Greenhouse Accounts Factors to each energy use type to determine total greenhouse gas emissions
4. Value adding of additional data-sets such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and Australian PV Institute (APVI) statistics to provide more detailed insights into local technology trends.



The scope of community data is limited to:

- 2006-07 was selected as a base year following on from the transfer of water and sewerage assets from councils to a regional body and Tasmania joined the National Electricity Market².
- Current data as of 2016-17, as up to date as the latest Australian Government, Australian Energy Statistics³.
- Energy based emissions only, excluding methane from agriculture/wastewater and carbon emissions from land clearing currently – as the greenhouse accounting for forest and agricultural emissions is not available in a format for local government reporting. This can be added retrospectively.



² Data estimates for electricity and all energy uses are available from 2004-05 to align with the international reporting period stated in the Paris Agreement if preferred.

³ The Australian Energy Statistics are based on historical data with information collected from a range of sources including industry and the Clean Energy Regulator(CER), which requires large energy users in Australia to report energy and greenhouse gas emissions via the National Greenhouse Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS)

KEY MESSAGES



For the first time, local communities can access energy and greenhouse information for their local area in an open and user-friendly way. The impact of our energy choices are changing energy use over time.

LOCAL ENERGY USE PATTERNS ARE CHANGING Locally emerging and disruptive technologies such as electric vehicles and solar impact energy use, alongside many other factors such as government programs and incentives are changing energy usage. A snapshot of each of the 12 southern Tasmanian councils' community energy use and greenhouse gas emission trends has been provided in separate reports as part of this project.

ENERGY STATISTICS Energy and greenhouse gas information has been made easier to understand. By applying statewide statistics at a local level and presenting each municipal area's data through comparable benchmarks, key information has been made more accessible. For the first time highly accurate metered electricity data shows the contribution of small to medium scale renewable electricity generation. It also provides new insights into the residential and commercial sectors, as average household and average business electricity use provides a clearer picture of what's happening at a business or household level.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 6% or 147,231 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂-e), comparing 2006-07 results with 2016-17 results. Savings occurred in the transport sector, however, all other sectors released greater emissions.



COMMUNITY ENERGY USE Community energy use has increased by 2% from 2006-07 to 2016-17. Increasing industry energy use contributed the most to rising community energy use, followed by the agriculture and forestry sector, commercial and residential sectors. Transport was the only sector which decreased energy use over the last decade indicating significant changes are occurring in the transport sector. Factors include population growth, changing consumer technology preferences, such as from petrol to diesel in the light vehicle sector and improved tail pipe emissions, and increased energy savings awareness, price signals and various government programs and incentives. Electric vehicles are gaining in popularity with 117 registered in the southern region.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES LEADING Many local communities and the private sector are leading the way, whether it be high amounts of rooftop solar, overall emissions savings, or the shift to electric vehicles. The commercial sector has demonstrated leadership, across the region, doubling the amount of commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) installations since 2013-14.

CONSUMERS ENERGY-GENERATION Consumers are increasingly taking local energy generation into their own hands. There are 14,000 more onsite renewable energy electricity generation systems than there were a decade ago in southern Tasmania, including solar photovoltaic, micro wind and hydro. Over 39 million electricity units (kilowatt hour – kWh) are returned to the grid annually, generated by local residential and commercial premises, the vast majority of this electricity generation comes from rooftop solar PV.

POWER OF THE SUN Harnessing the power of the sun is popular. Solar photovoltaic (PV) are the most popular renewable energy technology. Solar hot water systems are also a common technology with over 3,500 systems across the southern region.

ELECTRICITY USE INCREASING Electricity use has increased across southern Tasmania over the last decade, due to factors such as population growth, technology preference changes (from heating fuels to electrically powered heat pumps) and heating level preferences. Commercial sector electricity use across southern Tasmania has grown by 27% from 2006-07 to 2016-17, while the number of commercial meter connections has remained relatively similar, suggesting each business is using more, while residential sector electricity use grew by 21% with 20,000 new residential meter connections across the region, and each household uses roughly the same amount of electricity as a decade ago.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES Recent electricity use has been relatively flat compared to the earlier half of the decade, suggesting consumers have improved the energy efficiency of buildings or are responding to other factors that drive electricity use to find savings. Consumer behaviour in commercial premises and the home have been influenced by increasing awareness of energy costs and actions as well as factors such as the weather, price signals and the use of energy efficient appliances and materials. Energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, buffer the impact of extreme temperature events, reducing the demand for heating and cooling and decreasing electricity use.

FOSSIL FUELS Such as petrol, diesel and coal create more greenhouse gas emissions for every unit of energy used compared to zero or low emissions from renewable energy sources, such as hydro, solar and wind.

Table 1: Energy intensity and greenhouse gas emissions by energy type across southern Tasmania 2016 - 2017

Fuel type	Energy (Gigajoules GJ)	Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent - tCO ₂ -e)	Emissions kilograms of carbon dioxide (kgCO ₂ - e)per unit of energy used (Gigajoules GJ)
Automotive diesel oil	9,900,000	690,000	70.2
Aviation turbine fuel	400,000	20,000	67
Black coal	4,400,000	390,000	90.2
Coke	2,000,000	190,000	93.5
Electricity	7,000,000	380,000	55.2
Liquid petroleum gas	800,000	50,000	60.6
Natural gas	6,600,000	340,000	51.5
Onsite renewable energy	200,000	0	0
Petroleum products	2,400,000	160,000	70
Wood, wood waste	3,500,000	4,000	1.3
Petrol - auto gasoline	6,200,000	410,000	67.8
Liquid/biofuels	1,000	<100	0.9
Southern Tasmania total	43,400,000	2,600,000	N/A

Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018, National Greenhouse Accounts Factors, 2018

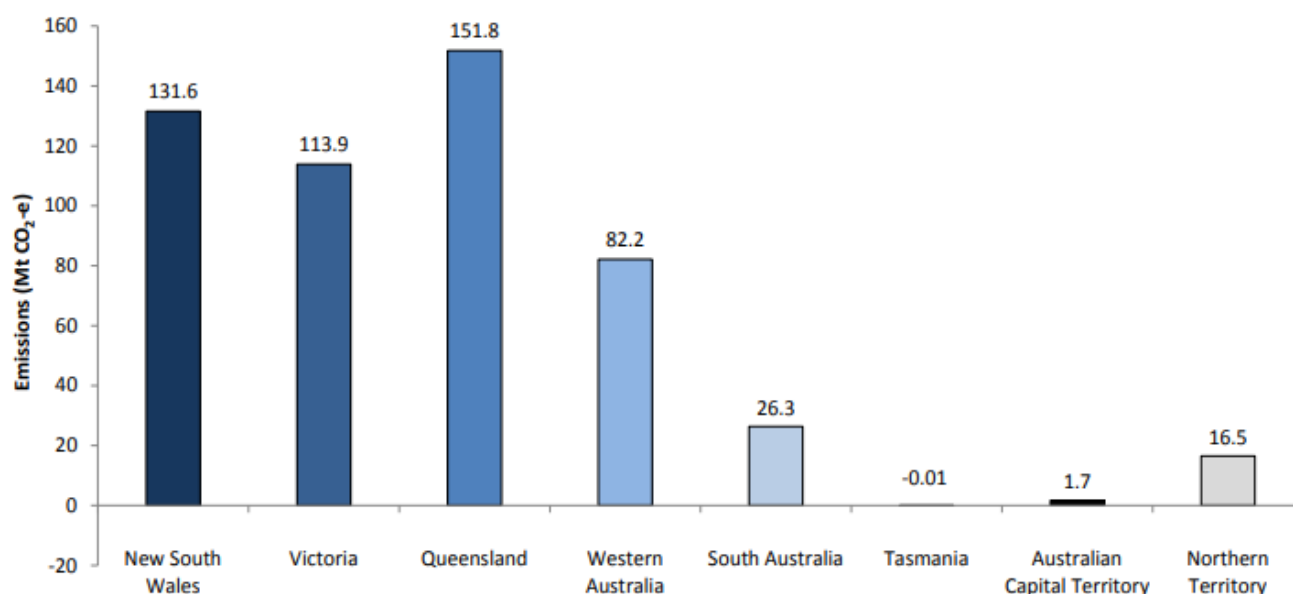
GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINTS



The Regional Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Paper and Energy Use Trends 2018 focuses solely on energy use (such as petrol, diesel, wood, electricity) and their associated emissions.

Overall Australia's energy sector greenhouse gas emissions were 428.9 million tCO₂-e in 2016⁴ and Tasmania's were 3.98 million tCO₂-e in 2015-16⁵ or - 0.01%.

Figure 1: Total (all sectors) greenhouse gas emissions across Australia



Source: Department of Environment, Australian Government, 2018. Retrieved from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a97b89a6-d103-4355-8044-3b1123e8bab6/files/state-territory-inventories-2016.pdf>

⁴ Megatonne (Mt), standard metric used as outlined pg 50. Including energy sub sectors; electricity, stationary energy excluding electricity, transport, fugitive emissions pg 7. Department of Environment, Australian Government. Retrieved from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/c2af8dab-b4cf-40a4-85bc-3a09657d9284/files/nggi-quarterly-update-december-2016.pdf>

⁵ Tasmanian Climate Change Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Accounts State Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2015-16. Retrieved from: http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/375858/Tasmanian_Greenhouse_Gas_Accounts_2016_Report.pdf pg 9 State and Territory total emissions (including those from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) Financial Year 2016, mega tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂-e)

GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINTS

CONT...

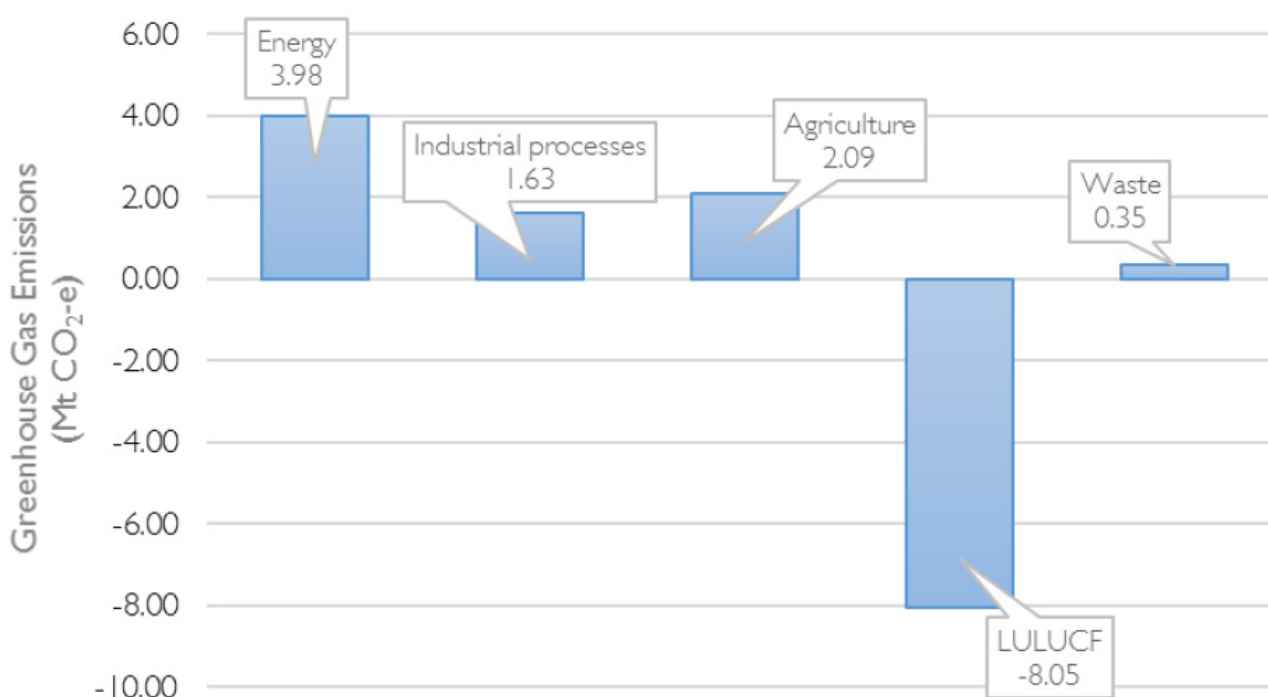


Overall Tasmania's electricity use per capita is higher than other states⁶.

Whilst Tasmania comprises -0.01 MtCO₂-e, its emissions need to be considered in the context of:

- Tasmania's population is 2% of the Australian population,
- Most of Tasmania's baseload electricity is hydro renewable energy, and
- The inclusion of offsetting from the forestry sector (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF))⁷.

Figure 2: Total (all sectors) greenhouse gas emissions across Tasmania



Source: Department of Environment, Australian Government, 2018. Retrieved from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a97b89a6-d103-4355-8044-3b1123e8bab6/files/state-territory-inventories-2016.pdf>

⁶ Electricity use in Tasmania is 7,975kWh/annum by DNSP compared to 4,627kWh/annum in Victoria or 5,910/kWh/annum in ACT. Retrieved from Table 3.7 : <https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/ACIL%20Allen%20Energy%20benchmarks%20report%202017%20-%20updated%205%20June%202018.pdf>. Tasmania's energy sector – an Overview. retrieved: http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/141803/Tasmania_s_Energy_Sector_-_an_Overview.PDF

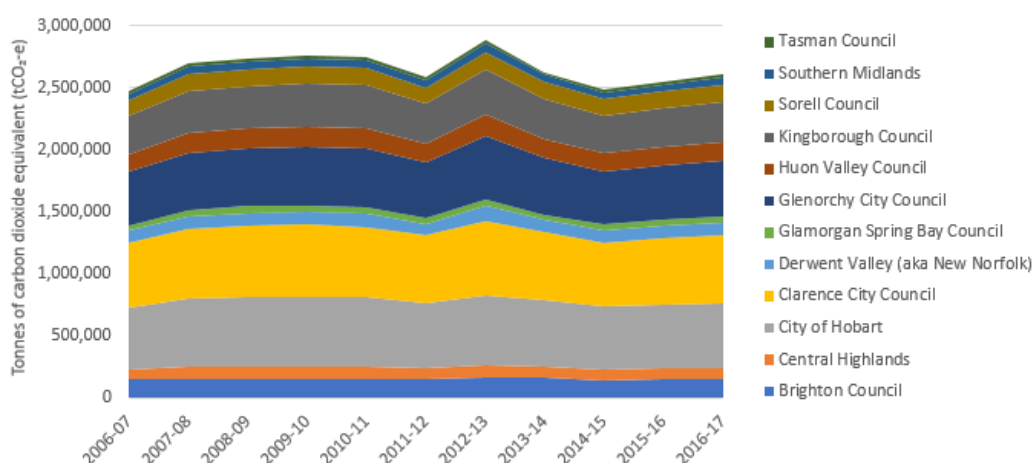
⁷ The majority of Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions reduction can be attributed to the State's forestry industry and the resulting decrease in emissions from activities in the LULUCF sector. It is noted that this sector is highly complex and there are evolving understandings of the nature and characteristics of carbon sinks and the variables that affect these.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



Southern Tasmanian community greenhouse gas emissions⁸ increased by 6% or 147,231 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e), from 2.4 million tCO₂-e to 2.6 million tCO₂-e, from 2006-07 to 2016-17. These emissions make up almost 70% of the total energy emissions for Tasmania.

Figure 3: Community greenhouse gas emissions across the southern Tasmania



Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018. NB: All greenhouse gas emissions are presented in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) as an industry standard. Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018.

The industrial sector has seen the greatest emissions increase (189,872tCO₂-e), followed by the agriculture and forestry sector (54,003tCO₂-e), commercial (39,025tCO₂-e) and residential sectors (44,842 tCO₂-e). This report focuses on emissions in the community domestic sector (transport, commercial and residential) as this is where councils have the greatest influence and jurisdiction to encourage and support change to low carbon economies.

Table 2: Southern Tasmanian municipal sector community greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂-e)

Municipal area/community	2006-07 (tCO ₂ -e)	2016-17 (tCO ₂ -e)	Growth (%)	Total difference between 2006-07 and 2016-17 (tCO ₂ -e)
Brighton Council	148,503	154,986	4	6,482
Central Highlands Council	84,284	90,204	7	5,920
* City of Hobart	495,185	525,775	6	30,591
Clarence City Council	484,214	516,458	6	32,244
Derwent Valley (aka New Norfolk) Council	98,117	100,617	3	2,500
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	45,969	50,238	9	4,269
Glenorchy City Council	425,594	446,325	5	20,731
Huon Valley Council	142,832	156,481	9	13,648
Kingborough Council	309,549	327,726	6	18,177
Sorell Council	125,425	132,928	6	7,504
Southern Midlands Council	56,776	60,615	7	3,839
Tasman Council	21,083	22,411	6	1,328
Total	2,437,532	2,584,763	6	147,231

Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018. NB: All energy use is presented in gigajoules (GJ) as an industry standard and a format that is easy to convert with other energy values. The Midpoint method for determining growth rates is used. * City of Hobart is constantly reviewing and updating its emissions profile as part of its international reporting obligations

⁸ Covers electricity, gas, wood use, coal, petrol, diesel use across the residential, commercial, transport, agriculture and forestry and industry sectors, and does not include emissions from waste or land use change.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

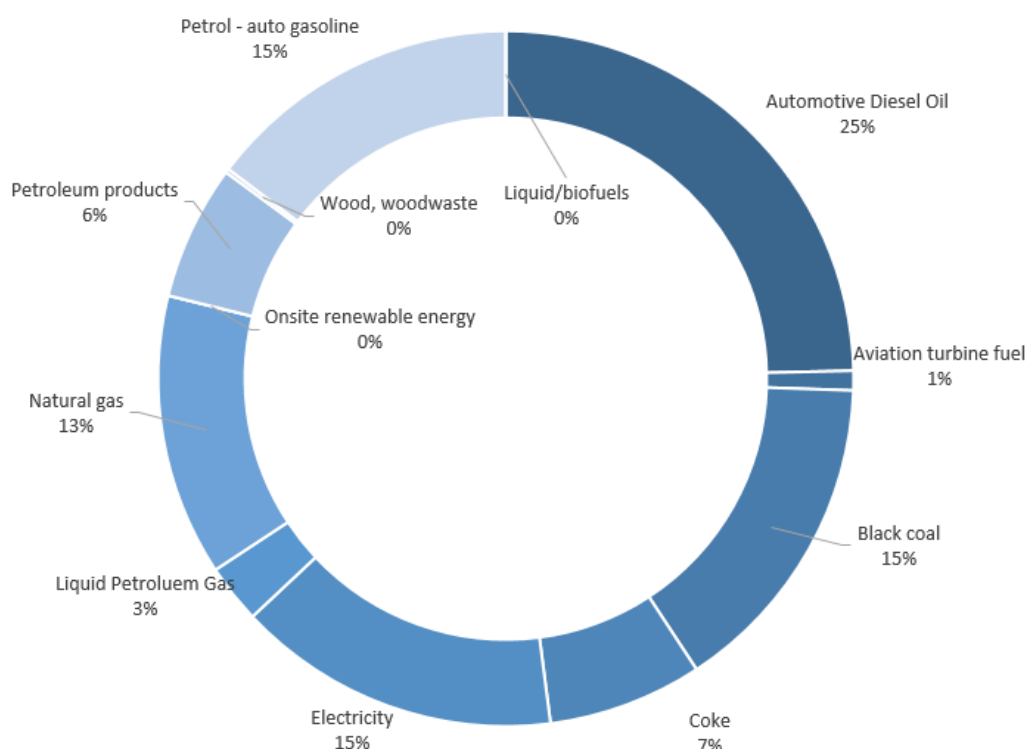
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Greenhouse gas emission reductions have only occurred in the transport (-21%) sector. Australian Energy Statistics for Tasmanian transport data shows decreasing fuel consumption in the road transport sector, despite the number of vehicles remaining relatively similar. This decrease is considered to be due to improved vehicles and tail pipe emissions standards.

Coal and diesel fuel use are responsible for the greatest share of greenhouse gas emissions across Southern Tasmania. Coal and associated products (including coke, which is made from coal) are mainly used in the manufacturing sector principally for the production of cement, lime and plaster⁹. They are included in the community profiles as energy use in the mining, manufacturing, wood paper, printing, non-metallic mineral products subsectors under the 'industry' sector. Diesel is predominantly used in the transport sector, however, some is used as energy production for onsite generators for electricity production and to power other machinery on farms in the agricultural sector as well as in manufacturing and mining processes.

Figure 4: Regional greenhouse gas emissions by fuel types 2016-17



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018, Australian Government, National Greenhouse Accounts, 2019

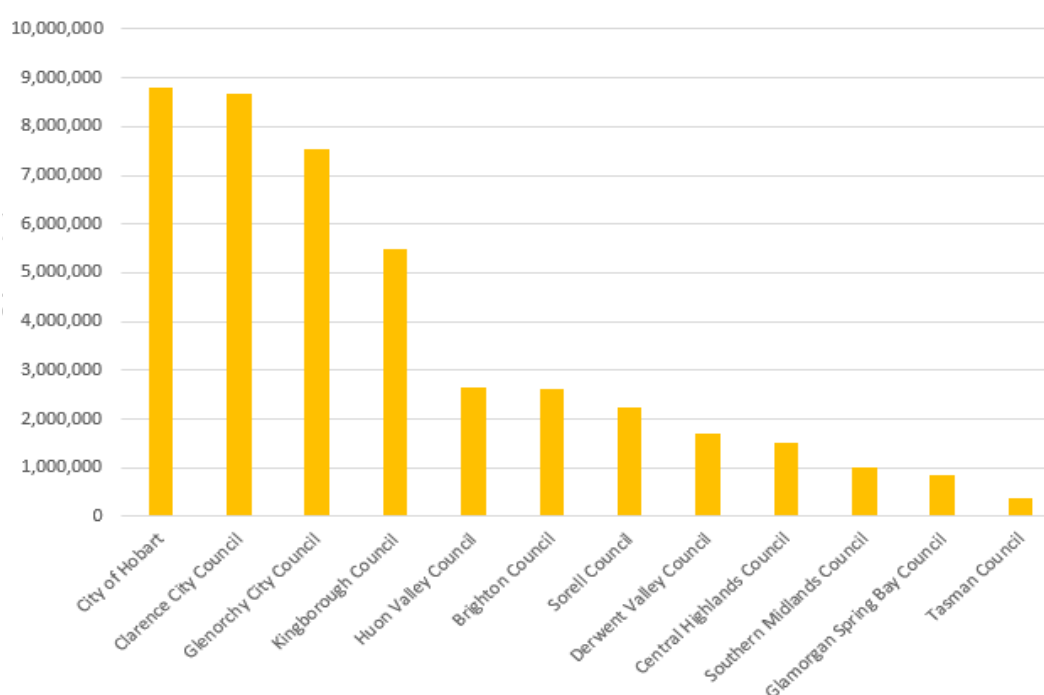
⁹Data sources: Clean Energy Regulator (CER) data, collected via the National Greenhouse Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS)

INCREASE IN ENERGY USE



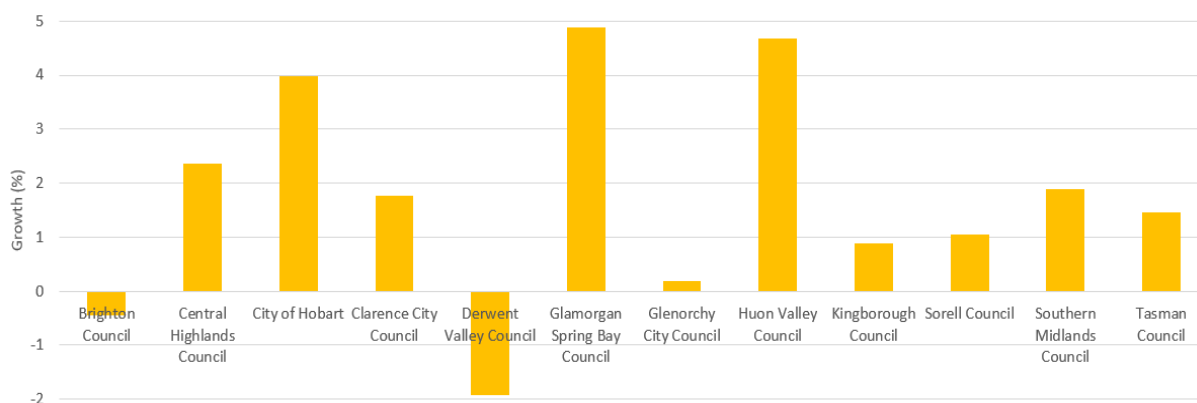
Across Southern Tasmania community energy use increased by 2% from 42 million GJ to 43 million GJ, from 2006-07 to 2016-17. Though electricity use increased in the industry sector, the rise in greenhouse gas emissions was mostly attributed to an increase in other fuel sources (such as coke, coal etc). Energy reductions were made in the transport (-21%) sector, all other sectors increased their energy consumption from 2006-07 to 2016-17.

Figure 5a: Community energy use across southern Tasmania



Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018. NB: All energy use is presented in gigajoules (GJ) as an industry standard and a format that is easy to convert with other energy values. Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018.

Figure 5b: Southern Tasmania regional energy use growth 2006-07 to 2016-17



Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018. NB: All energy use is presented in gigajoules (GJ) as an industry standard and a format that is easy to convert with other energy values. Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018.

INCREASE IN ENERGY USE

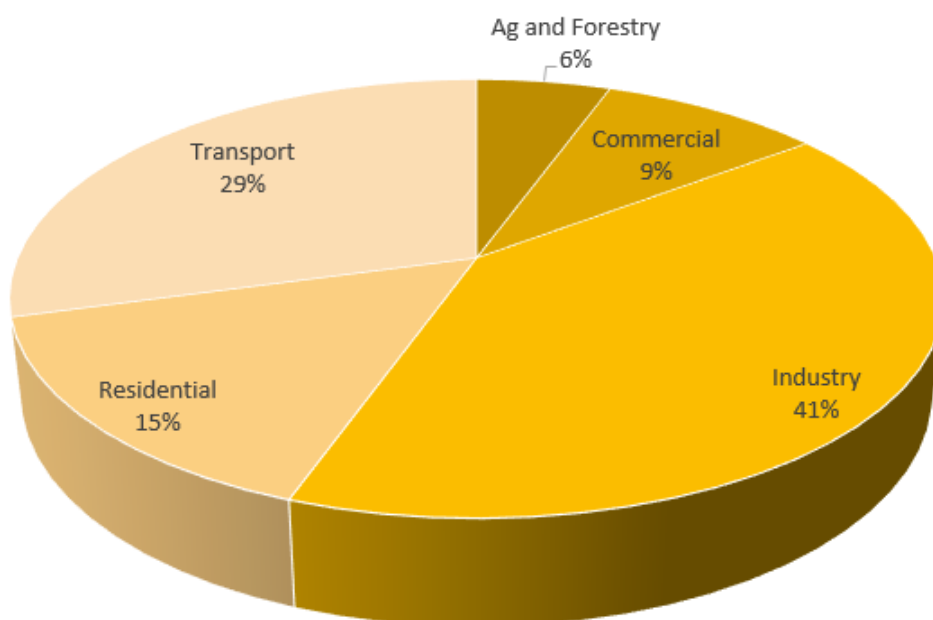
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Most municipalities in the southern region experienced increases in energy use. The exceptions to this were Derwent Valley (-33,052GJ) and Brighton (-11,725GJ) councils, who experience a decrease in energy use.

Industry fuel use is over a third (41%) of total community energy use, with the transport sector also responsible for a third (29%), residential sector 15%, commercial sector 9% and agriculture and forestry sector 6%.

Figure 6: Community energy across southern Tasmania (GJ) 2016-17



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2018. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2018, TasNetworks, 2018.

In every sector electricity use comprises the largest amount of energy use, with the exception of the transport and industry sectors where diesel and coal, are respectively, the predominant fuel source.

It is considered that increasing consumer awareness, price signals, solar photovoltaic (PV) uptake and government incentives are encouraging energy savings in businesses and the home.

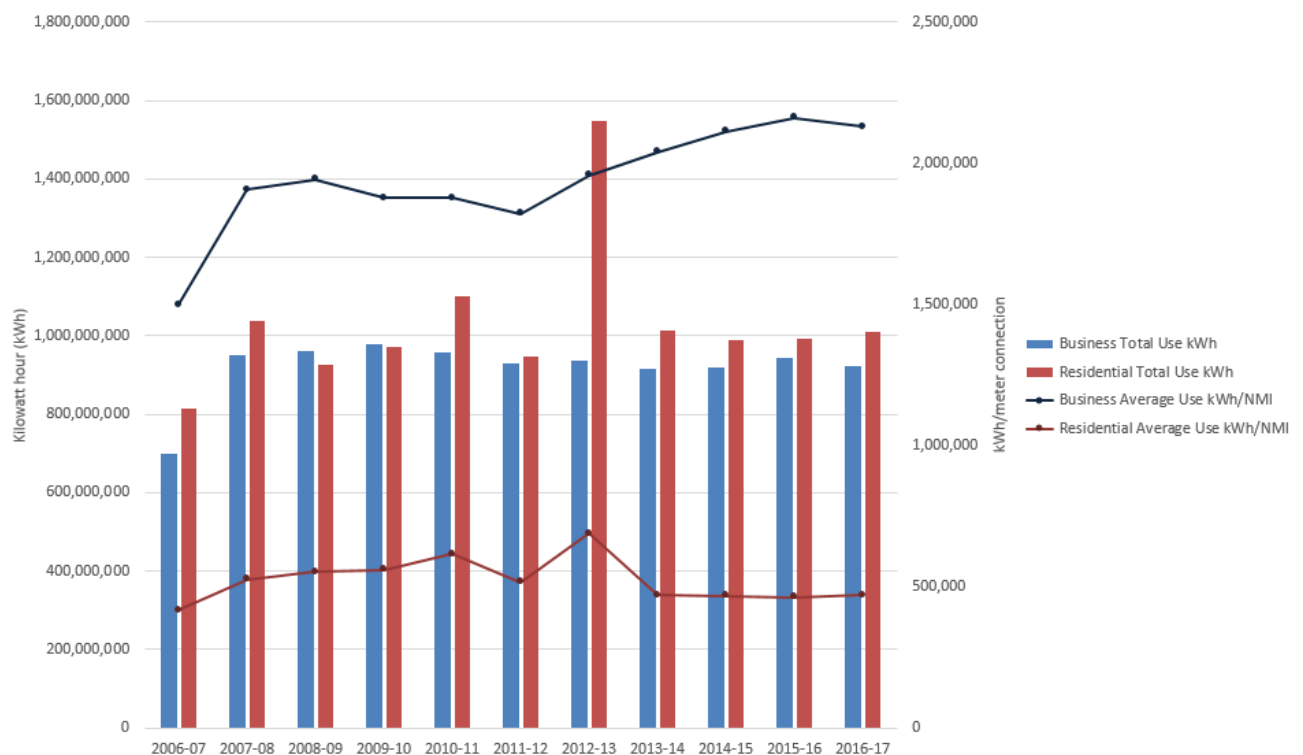
INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY USE



Electricity use increased by 24% in the last decade from 2006-07 to 2016-17 across southern Tasmania.

Increasing commercial sector electricity use (221 million units or kWh¹⁰) contributed to most of this growth. The residential sector increased demand by 193 million units (kWh) of electricity during this period with contributing factors such as population growth.

Figure 7: Regional electricity use southern Tasmania



Data source: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity meter connections are based on National Meter Identifier (NMI) data. Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level. The increase in residential electricity use 2012-13 is due to an increase in electricity use data provided by TasNetworks, due additional Pay As You Go data being measured and added in that single year. The TasNetworks data sourced from legacy business systems includes a variation between 2006-07 and 2007/08 for unknown reasons.

Average household electricity use has remained relatively constant from 2013-14 to 2016-17, indicating that despite strong growth in the number of households, each households electricity use remains relatively similar.

Average commercial electricity use has risen from 2011-12 to 2015-16, whilst the commercial sector had 56 less business in the region in 2016-17 than in 2006-07.

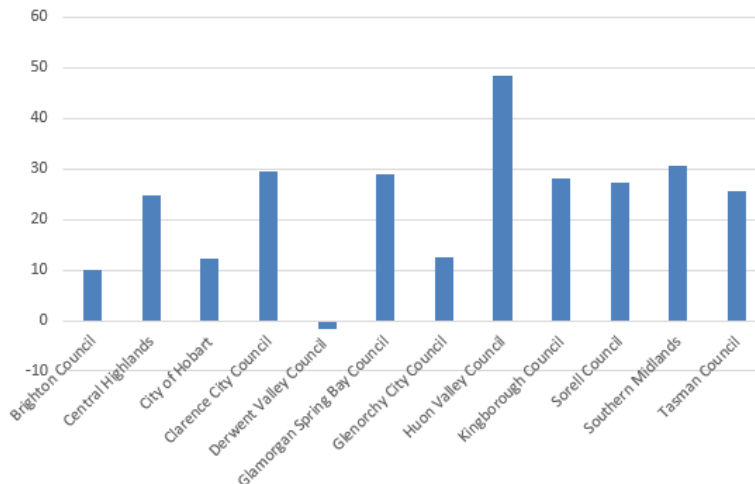
¹⁰ Kilowatt hour (kWh) is the primary way of measuring electricity use

INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY USE

CONT...



Figure 8: Southern Tasmanian electricity use growth by municipality 2006-07 to 2016-17



Source: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level.

Table 3: Commercial and residential electricity consumption per person for 2016-17

Municipal area community	Business electricity use per capita (kWh/pp/day)	Residential electricity use per capita (kWh/pp/day)
Brighton Council	5.4	10.7
Central Highlands	13.0	10.0
City of Hobart	18.1	10.7
Clarence City Council	6.0	10.6
Derwent Valley Council	14.3	10.8
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	17.1	17.0
Glenorchy City Council	9.3	10.4
Huon Valley Council	10.2	9.7
Kingborough Council	3.8	8.9
Sorell Council	3.9	9.9
Southern Midlands	6.6	9.8
Tasman Council	6.7	10.3
Average	9.5	10.7

Source: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level.

Other factors such as socio-economic demographics influence electricity use, alongside behavioural factors, for example:

- Older people and families tend to be at home more often.
- Areas with a high percentage of holiday homes are likely to experience greater electricity use in peak seasons and lower than average use when homes are vacant.
- Rural and remote areas are likely to have a higher reliance on wood and other non-electric forms of heating.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC

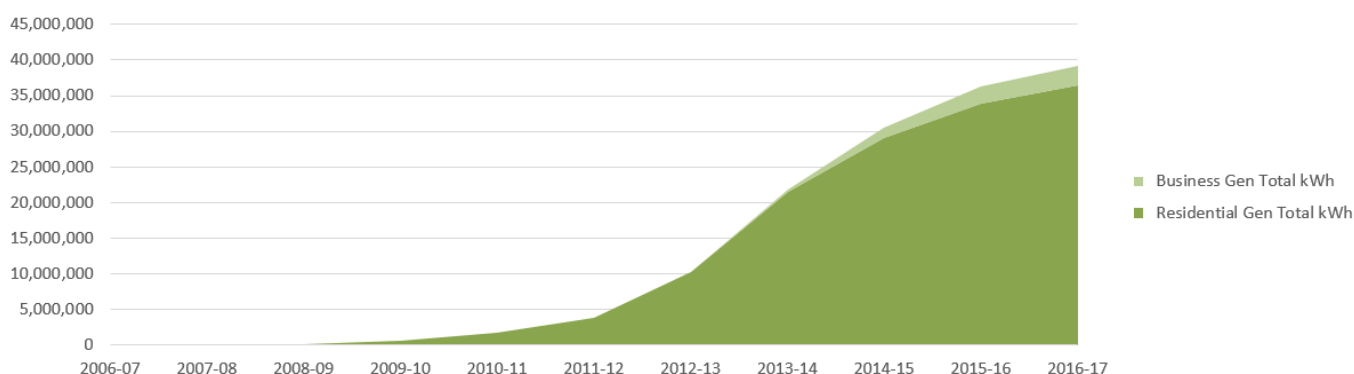


More than 14,000 Solar photovoltaics (PV) renewable energy systems have been installed over the last 10 years (2006-07 to 2016-17) across southern Tasmania.

Consumers are taking power generation into their own hands. Over 39 million electricity units (kWh) are returned to the grid annually (in 2016-17), generated by renewable energy technologies from local residential and commercial premises.

Commercial renewable energy systems have doubled in the last four years to over 500 systems across the Southern region.

Figure 9: Community renewable electricity generation across southern Tasmania



Source: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are the most dominant technology and solar hot water systems are also commonplace, with over 3,500¹¹ systems. The STCA's Home Energy Bulk Buy in 2018 saw 148 households install 637 kW of solar panels and 54 solar hot water systems across southern Tasmania.

Over 40 small scale wind and hydro systems are also registered in the southern Tasmania.



¹¹ Source: Clean Energy Regulator, Small Scale Data, accessed April 2018

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC



Renewable Energy Leader Board

Clarence community exports the greatest residential electricity generation back to the grid, followed by Kingborough, Hobart and Glenorchy.

Brighton municipality's commercial sector, in 2016-17, exported the most renewable electricity back to the grid, followed by Clarence, Glenorchy and the Central Highlands.



Table 4: Community renewable electricity system statistics across southern Tasmania in 2016-17

Municipal area community	Total generation (kWh)	Number of renewable energy systems	Premises(residential or commercial) with access to rooftop solar PV in the population
Brighton Council	3,594,719	944	1 in 9
Central Highlands	1,818,003	566	1 in 10
City of Hobart	5,377,914	2,175	1 in 13
Clarence City Council	7,863,266	2,821	1 in 9
Derwent Valley Council	1,357,238	470	1 in 13
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	2,029,274	678	1 in 10
Glenorchy City Council	4,723,781	1,823	1 in 13
Huon Valley Council	2,973,364	1,205	1 in 8
Kingborough Council	5,614,044	2,064	1 in 7
Sorell Council	2,305,804	929	1 in 9
Southern Midlands	1,153,328	338	1 in 12
Tasman Council	413,723	179	1 in 14
Total	39,224,458	14,191	Average - 1 in 10

Source: TasNetworks, 2018. NB: Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. The 'Commercial' sector includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level.

ENERGY & EMISSION DATA



Population: Population growth is lower in Tasmania compared to other parts of Australia. It is anticipated that as more people move to the State energy use is expected to increase. Fixed Census 2016 figures have been used. The use of electricity data at a household level provides a means for comparing energy use from year to year, however, analysis of population growth is an area for further research.

Seasonal change: Heating Degree Days indicate whether there have been seasonal changes to heating needs. Project data is received on an annual basis, which does not allow for more detailed analysis of the impact of seasonal changes from year to year. It is a significant challenge to identify a single factor influencing yearly electricity use results - this is an area for further research.

Emerging technologies: Electric vehicles and solar photovoltaic (PV) technology are changing energy use. As consumers use more electric vehicles, electricity becomes another energy type in the transport sector. Rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) is enabling consumers to use electricity onsite and ultimately reduce total demand on the electricity network.

Transport choices: The southern Tasmanian region has predominantly older vehicle stock. Australian Government regulations require greater fuel efficiency in newer vehicles. There is a clear shift from petrol to diesel vehicles, the price of fuel, popularity of vehicle brands and their associated efficiency and reduced fuel costs are all influencing consumer preferences. Commuter choices such as public transport, walking or cycling reduce energy use.

Industry: Statewide energy statistics have been used for sectors such as industry, suggesting any change in large industry stakeholder energy use impacts results in all communities.

Energy mix: Tasmania's emissions factors fluctuate due to variations in our energy mix (for example an increase in natural gas due to the Basslink failure saw an increase in the emissions factor for Tasmania) so a fixed emissions factor has been used for estimating greenhouse gas emissions. It is based on the average emissions factor over the last 10 years.



WHO DOES WHAT



All levels of government, the community and private sector have roles in the progression of emission reductions and the realisation of the co-benefits of energy savings, as we transition to a low carbon economy. Key to enabling this is the establishment of baseline greenhouse gas and energy footprints and the measurement of energy savings and emission reductions against this.

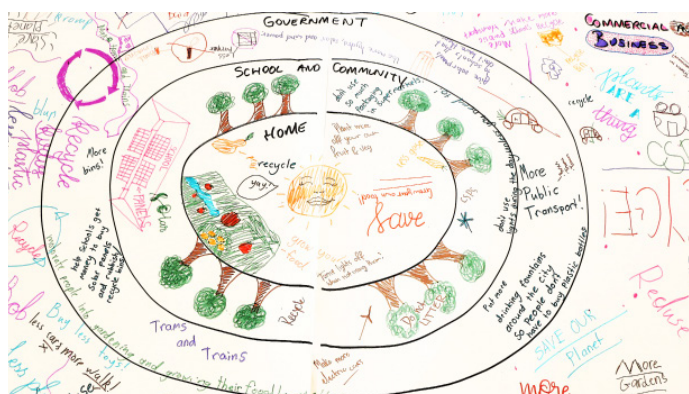
The Australian Government's emissions reduction target of 26-28% on 2005 levels by 2030 is part of its global commitment to the International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 'Paris Agreement' to limit climate warming to 1.5C. To support and monitor progress against these goals it has established energy and greenhouse gas reporting agencies to provide state-by-state data through the National Greenhouse Accounts, the Clean Energy Regulator and the Australian Energy Statistics. It has also developed policy settings for nationwide market mechanisms and schemes, and manages the Renewable Energy Target and Australian Renewable Energy Agency to increase renewable energy generation and the Emission Reduction Fund to support the community and private sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Tasmanian Government, through the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, uses the Australian Government greenhouse statistics and reports annual state-wide results: Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Accounts. This supports the State Government's legislated target to achieve the zero emissions by 2050 target.

Local governments, the closest level of government to communities, and Tasmanian councils have a responsibility under the Local Government Act 1993 to provide for community health, safety and welfare. This unquestionably includes action on climate change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and associated energy use. Councils not only have a responsibility to reduce emissions from council managed buildings and assets, but also to work with their communities and business sectors through the provision of accurate energy and greenhouse gas emissions information to support informed decision making.

Local government groups, such as the STCA, also have a key role to play providing appropriate data and methods for councils to set corporate and community targets and support effective and efficient emissions monitoring and evaluation programs.

The community sector, businesses and households are responsible for their actions to reduce energy use and increase the installation of renewable energy technology such as solar and wind. Local information on changing technology preferences, and the greenhouse footprint of our energy choices, supports the community to make well founded decisions and realise the co-benefits of savings from doing so.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why is the Regional Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Project 2018 important?

For the first time communities across the southern region of Tasmania can access energy and greenhouse gas information compiled at a local level. This includes detailed and accurate electricity data measured at the meter by TasNetworks which provides insights into electricity use and onsite renewable energy generation trends at a household and business level.

Completing an initial energy and greenhouse gas snapshot provides a starting point whereby targets can be set, plans developed and community projects can be evaluated over time. This reflects a well-established international framework for driving and documenting community climate change action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What do the changes identified mean for our communities?

The results show common ground and unique energy and greenhouse trends across communities. Common findings across municipalities show:

- Energy use has increased slightly with 0-5% growth (though -2% growth occurred in Derwent Valley Council) from 2006-07 to 2016-17 across most municipalities.
- Emissions across the southern region increased by 6% or 147,239 tonnes of carbon dioxide between 2006-07 and 2016-17.
- Recent electricity use has been relatively flat compared to the earlier half of the decade, suggesting consumers have improved the energy efficiency of buildings or are responding to other factors that drive electricity use to find savings. Consumer behaviour in commercial premises and the home have been influenced by increasing awareness of energy costs and actions as well as factors such as the weather, price signals and the use of energy efficient appliances and materials, through government programs. Energy efficiency measures, such as insulation buffer the impact of extreme temperature events reducing the demand for heating and cooling and decreasing electricity use.
- Renewable energy is expanding in every municipality, with solar photovoltaics (PV) the most popular technology.
- Electric vehicles are gaining in popularity with 117 registered in the southern region

For unique trends in each municipality see the individual summary papers or regional summary document.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONT...



How does our situation compare with other communities in Tasmania and Australia ?

Tasmanians generally consume more energy for heating, due to the colder climate, technology and fuel choices, than other parts of Australia. However, the emissions from our electricity use is lower. Tasmania's southern region has a higher per capita electricity demand than the northern regions. A factor that contributes to varying regional results is the higher wood use for heating in northern regional areas, which means less demand for electricity as the households energy needs are being met by other energy sources.

How else can this information be used?

Each municipality has been provided with more detailed information and data. Data can only be shared publically that does not identify specific households and entities for privacy reasons. Postcode level data and information can be used to develop better programs and services, for example if some postcodes are out performing the rest in terms of energy use and renewable energy generation then they might not require the same level of program support to deliver further savings.

How else can this information be used? (cont)

Electricity use data is metered, so it can be used to measure the effectiveness of programs following the installation of energy saving measures such as insulation, efficient heating and draught proofing. This evidence can then be used to justify program priorities or the development of improved programs. By outlining how energy and greenhouse estimates are made, and providing a clear methodology, the energy and greenhouse gas footprints can be repeated over time. This is a nationally and internationally accepted process. Developing a baseline energy and greenhouse summary is one of the first steps to taking effective mitigation action.

Why are local governments involved in providing climate change information?

Tasmanian councils are required by the Local Government Act to provide for the health, safety and welfare of their communities. Although not specifically detailed, it is self-evident that climate change impacts on communities not only in terms of increased temperatures and weather related events but also in terms of efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions as we transition to low carbon future.

Therefore councils, as well as considering climate matters in their programs and services, also have a key role in supporting communities to ensure relevant information is available to enable informed decision making. The provision of current and accurate energy and greenhouse data by councils helps the community to know where they can most effectively act as society transitions to a low carbon future such as whether to invest in an energy upgrade or renewable energy technologies or participate in activities within their communities to facilitate change.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONT...



And what roles do the State and Commonwealth have?

Whilst there is a clear role for local government to provide trustworthy climate change information at the community level, the same is also true of State and National Governments at their relevant levels of governance. The Australian Government has responsibility for the provision of energy and greenhouse gas statistics at a national and state level, available at: Department of Environment, Australian Government: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/c2af8dab-b4cf-40a4-85bc-3a09657d9284/files/nggi-quarterly-update-december-2016.pdf>.

These inform broader national policies and regulatory settings as well as providing 'market signals' for investments that effect our national economy and support our transition to a low carbon society. It also has a core responsibility to fund the science that enables the necessary understanding and creation of solutions to achieve low carbon transitions.

The Tasmanian Government similarly provides energy and greenhouse gas statistics at a statewide level to inform statewide policies and local regulatory settings. It has a key role in making information available that can be used by local councils in its service delivery and decision making processes. The State provides a summary of state-wide greenhouse gas emission trends as an annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory and is available from: http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/climate_change_in_tasmania/tasmanias_emissions

And what is the role of STCA?

Whilst national and statewide statistics are available this information is not currently provided at a municipal level in Tasmania. There is no consistent standard of reporting available for local government. To this end the STCA RCCI developed the Regional Energy and Greenhouse Gas Project 2018 to provide assistance to southern Tasmanian councils and to ensure transparent, easily understood information was available to local southern communities.

How accurate are the results using this method?

This method is a robust and sound approach as it relies on government verified energy statistics and substitutes estimates with more accurate local data, where available. The accuracy of the results has been significantly increased by using the metered electricity data from TasNetworks. In the residential and commercial sectors this means around half of the energy information provided is very accurate, as electricity use is a large portion of the results.

Standard government determined emissions factors for all energy uses, such as electricity, diesel and petrol have been used to calculate greenhouse gas emissions. As with any method for estimating energy use and greenhouse gas emissions there are areas that can be improved over time. These include estimates for wood use and non-energy related emissions such as industrial chemical emissions, forestry and agricultural emissions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONT...



Why do some results show a decrease in energy use, yet an increase in greenhouse gas emissions?

Statewide energy statistics have been used as an estimate for the industry and transport sectors (as there is no comprehensive municipal level data on this, only bits and pieces of the picture). The State results are allocated by population. In some of the smaller municipalities the portion allocated from the State for the bigger energy using sectors (transport and industry) was greater than the local electricity results, for example.

Slight increases in the industrial sector ended up increasing emissions overall. In the industry sector there have been increases in fuels such as coal, which have a big greenhouse footprint associated with every unit of energy used. Energy and greenhouse gas emission results in 2016-17 in some areas are also very similar to the results reported for 2006-07, which has led to growth figures that are slight increases or decreases.

What are the next steps?

Developing an energy and greenhouse footprint is the first step in the process of developing a climate change strategy. The STCA RCCI has committed to the development of a Regional Climate Change Strategy and corporate and community action plan templates, to be delivered in 2019.

What is meant by 'energy use'?

Energy is power derived from the utilisation of physical or chemical resources, such as providing heat to work machines.

Community energy use is made up of all the different fuels used to keep us warm, cook with, burn in vehicles and drive machinery such as farm equipment and lawn mowers. A variety of fuels are burnt including coal, LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas), wood, petrol, diesel and kerosene.

In Tasmania, fuels such as natural gas are burnt to create electricity, alongside high amounts of zero emission energy sources such as hydro, wind and solar in Tasmania, creating low greenhouse gas emissions from every unit of electricity used.

Energy can be measured in electricity units known as kilowatt hour (kWh) or in joules, a universal system of measuring and comparing energy use.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



CONT...

What are 'greenhouse gas emissions'?

A greenhouse gas is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range. Greenhouse gases cause the greenhouse effect, which act like a blanket to stop heat escaping into space and keep the earth warm. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and water vapour.

The universal unit for comparing and combining different emissions is the weight (in kilograms or tonnes) of carbon dioxide emissions equivalent denoted by the following sign (-e).

To work out our greenhouse footprint we firstly need to know what energy we use and the associated emissions released from each fuel. For example, LPG creates 60.6 kilograms of greenhouse gases equivalent for every unit of energy (gigajoule) burnt.

For further information visit <http://stca.tas.gov.au/cc/>



Policy No. 2014- 24

Work Health & Safety Policy

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Work Health & Safety Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 1 of 4

1. OBJECTIVE OF POLICY

Central Highlands Council is committed to ensuring a safe, healthy work environment and work activities in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (the Act), its amendments, regulations, related Codes of Practices and Australian Standards. It is designed primarily to ensure that all parties understand their responsibilities and duties under the Act.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all paid workers, volunteers, councillors, contractors and visitors while visiting or conducting business or any other activities that are under the management, control, influence of, or in participation with Council.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Workers will be consulted and encouraged to assist in the provision of a safe and healthy work environment and to comply with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012. Council aims to develop and maintain a culture that supports the highest standard of health and safety within all Council work areas and activities.

Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination are contained in a separate policy.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012, s19, s28, and s29 the duties are outlined as follows:

4.1 DUTIES OF COUNCIL

Council must ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers engaged, or caused to be engaged by Council and workers whose activities in carrying out work are influenced by Council while the workers are at work.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Work Health & Safety Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 2 of 4

Council must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the health and safety of other persons is not put at risk from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business.

Furthermore, Council must as far as is reasonably practicable:

- provide and maintain a work environment without risks to health and safety;
- provide and maintain safe plant and structures;
- provide and maintain safe systems of work;
- the safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures and substances;
- the provision of adequate facilities for the welfare at work of workers in carrying out work for the business, including ensuring access to those facilities;
- the provision of any information, training, instruction or supervision that is necessary to protect all person from risks to their health and safety arising from work carried out as part of the conduct of the Council; and
- that the health of workers and the conditions of the workplace are monitored for the purpose of preventing illness or injury of workers arising from the conduct of the business.

4.2. DUTIES OF WORKERS

While at work, a worker must:

- take reasonable care for his or her own health and safety;
- take reasonable care that his or her acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons;
- comply, so far as the worker is reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by Council to allow the person to comply with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012;
- cooperate with any reasonable policy or procedure of Council relating to health and safety at the workplace that has been notified to workers;
- wear personal protective equipment and clothing where necessary;
- report all accidents and incidents on the job immediately, no matter how trivial; and
- report all known or observed hazards to their supervisor or manager.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Work Health & Safety Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 3 of 4

4.3. DUTIES OF OTHER PERSONS AT THE WORKPLACE

A person (e.g. contractor, visitor, volunteer) at the workplace must:

- take reasonable care for his or her own health and safety;
- take reasonable care that his or her acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons; and
- comply, so far as reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by Council to allow Council to comply with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

- Workplace Health & Safety Act 2012
- Workplace Health & Safety Regulations 2012
- Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988 (Tasmania)
- Any Codes of Practice in place for Work Health & Safety which may apply to the operation and work practices of Council
- Local Government Act 1993
- Central Highlands Council Policy 2015-41 Risk Management Policy & Strategy
- Central Highlands Council Policy 2013-14 Manual Handling Policy
- Central Highlands Council Policy 2013-19 Asbestos Policy
- Central Highlands Council Policy 2013-16 Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Central Highlands Council Policy 2013-15 Occupational Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids
- Central Highlands Council Policy 2017-51 Staff Code of Conduct Policy

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Work Health & Safety Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 4 of 4



Policy No. 2014- 27

Donations and Financial Assistance Policy

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Donations and Financial Assistance Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 1 of 5

1. DEFINITION

This policy applies to various forms of financial assistance provided by Council to assist organisations and individuals within the Central Highlands by providing assistance, which may comprise cash or 'in kind', support.

The policy aims to support local clubs & organisations, local educational facilities, and individuals in an open, equitable and accountable manner.

2. CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT

Individuals

A donation, to the maximum value as per the Central Highlands Donation Program Guidelines, may be provided to:

- (a) Individual residents living within the Central Highlands that are chosen to represent Tasmania in interstate or international competition or activity. The donation shall be to contribute towards the cost of travel, accommodation or entry fees. The following qualifications will apply:
 - Donations only apply to individual participants or competitors. Applications from teams or team officials are ineligible.
 - The applicant must be an established resident of the Central Highlands municipal area.
 - The participant must be participating as an amateur.
 - A maximum of one donation per individual per financial year applies.
- (b) An individual resident living within the Central Highlands that is suffering a medical condition that requires ongoing medical treatment or rehabilitation. The donation shall be to contribute towards the cost of recognised medical treatment or rehabilitation as a result of a medical condition.

Local Clubs and Organisations

Applications for funding to support community organisations and sporting clubs will be assessed on the following criteria and only following receipt of the organisation's annual statement:

- Benefit to the community;
- Projects or services for which there is a demonstrable community need;

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Donations and Financial Assistance Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 2 of 5

- Have a significant benefit for a wide range of Central Highlands residents and businesses;
- Are unique within the Central Highlands;
- Are supporting Community projects; and
- Are a Central Highlands representative sporting team.

The Maximum funding available per application is as per the Central Highlands Community Grants Program Guidelines.

Applications will not be accepted from State or Federal Government Departments or Agencies.

Council will provide assistance towards Public Liability Insurance for community events to a maximum of \$500 per financial year. An example of an eligible event is the Hamilton Show.

“In kind” support, although free to a group or organisation, does have a cost to Council. In-kind support will be taken into account when applications for funding are assessed. In-kind support includes provision of photocopying facilities, laminating, typing of community brochures, fliers. etc., use of Council sporting or community facilities at subsidised/no cost, provision of council labour or plant hire for projects or events, delivery or collection of bins, erection of barricades etc. The cost to Council of any in-kind assistance will be calculated and costed against the application.

Community Church Grants

Council will make an annual budget allocation to provide financial assistance to church parishes to assist with conserving the heritage value of churches within the Central Highlands municipal area.

Funding will be provided for the church building only.

Separate applications must be lodged for each church.

The maximum funding available per application is as per the Central Highlands Community Grants Program Guidelines.

Educational

Council will make an annual allocation of an amount to be determined at each budget to Bothwell District High School, Ouse District School, Glenora District High School and Westerway Primary School to assist with providing activities, materials or support for the

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Donations and Financial Assistance Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 3 of 5

pupils. Council will not consider any further funding requests from schools or associated parent groups for assistance.

Council will provide a Further Education Bursary of an amount to be decided at each budget to a Central Highlands Council student continuing to higher education from the following schools:

- Bothwell District High School;
- Glenora District High School; and
- New Norfolk High School.

The recipient of the award will be advised by the school.

Council will provide a Bursary of an amount to be decided at each budget to assist a primary student continuing secondary education from the following schools:

- Ouse District Primary School; and
- Westerway Primary School

The recipient of the award will be advised by the school.

Council will provide a Mayors Citizenship Award each year to a student from the following schools:

- Bothwell District High School;
- Ouse District Primary School;
- Glenora District High School; and
- Westerway Primary School

Council will provide a book to the following schools to commemorate Anzac Day:

- Bothwell District High School;
- Ouse District Primary School;
- Glenora District High School;
- Westerway Primary School

Other Donations/Support

Council will provide a Bi-annual grant towards the International Highland Spin-in provided the event is held at Bothwell.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Donations and Financial Assistance Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 4 of 5

Council will provide an annual allocation of cash and in-kind support to Ouse Online Community Access Centre to be used towards the printing and distribution of the "Highlands Digest".

Requests for funding or in-kind support that fall outside the above guidelines will be considered by Council only if sufficient funds are available in Council's budget.

Note: The above levels of support are to be reviewed annually at each budget.

3. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING OR SUPPORT

- Education allocations will be made automatically by Council.
- Applicants should read the relevant guidelines before lodging an application.
- Applications will only be considered if submitted on the approved form.
- The applicant must complete all questions on the application form.
- Council will not consider any application for funding that is retrospective.
- Council will only consider applications as per the schedule included in the relevant Guidelines.

4. ACQUITTAL

Recipients of donations and funding (excluding educational and medical funding) assistance from Council under this policy will be required to complete an Evaluation Form.

The Evaluation Report is to be submitted within 60 days of the completion of the project/activity.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Donations and Financial Assistance Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 5 of 5



Policy No 2014 - 22

Customer Service Charter

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 1 of 8

This Customer Service Charter is in compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and outlines Central Highlands Council's commitment to customers in accordance with our vision and mission statement articulated in the Strategic Plan. It outlines customers' rights, the standards customers can expect when dealing with Council and what a customer can do if dissatisfied with Council decisions or actions including providing a formalized process for making complaints.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Central Highlands Council is committed to the provision of timely, efficient, consistent and quality services provided by polite and helpful Officers that meet our customers' expectations.

The Central Highlands Council places great emphasis on the efficient handling of complaints. Our aim at all times is to provide a quality service. We may not be able to provide complete satisfaction but we will be trying for the best possible solution.

To achieve this customers are encouraged to voice their complaints and for Council to work toward increasing customer satisfaction and continuously improve our services by responding to customer complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.

WHO IS A CUSTOMER

A customer is any person or organisation having dealings with the Central Highlands Council.

OUR SERVICE STANDARDS

At all times we aim to:

- Treat customers courteously and with respect;
- Deal with customers in a polite and helpful manner;
- Listen to customers and take their views into account;
- Provide customers with necessary and relevant information;
- Treat customers fairly and take account of the customer's particular needs;
- Act on our commitments in a timely manner;
- Value customer's privacy by treating all personal information confidentially;
- Leave a "visit card" with our name and contact number following a visit to a customer's residence if that customer is absent at the time; and
- Be punctual for meetings and appointments.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 2 of 8

When a customer visits or telephones the Council

We will attend the counter and answer the telephone promptly, courteously and deal with an enquiry directly without unnecessary referrals or transfers. If we cannot deal with the enquiry we will provide the customer with the name of the person the request or enquiry will be referred to or, if that information is not readily available, will request the relevant person to contact the customer directly. Telephone calls will be returned at the first opportunity however where information is not readily available verbal enquiries will be answered within 5 (five) working days. The person concerned will be informed of the reason (s) for the delay.

When a customer writes or emails

We will acknowledge all written requests or enquiries within 3 (three) working days. Such acknowledgement will generally be in writing but may be by telephone if appropriate. We will respond to these written requests as promptly as circumstances allow taking into account the Council meeting cycle and the complexity of the information sought and its availability. Most requests will be answered within 15 (fifteen) working days. All correspondence will be as prompt as possible, courteous and written in plain English.

OUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER

To help us assist you, our customer, in providing our services we ask you to:

- Treat Council Officers with respect;
- Respect the privacy, safety and needs of other members of the community;
- Have a note pad and pen by the phone;
- Provide accurate and complete details;
- Phone to make an appointment for a complex enquiry or a need to see a specific Officer; and
- Phone the Officer nominated on correspondence sent to the customer and quoting the reference on the letter.

Abusive Customers

No Council employee is required to abide threatening, abusive or insulting conduct from customers. In cases where a customer behaves in such a way, the Council employee may immediately terminate dealings with them.

If dealing with a customer face to face, we will advise you that we are terminating the conversation with you due to your behaviour, ask you to leave the premises and then the Officer will walk away.

If on the telephone, we will advise you that we are terminating the conversation with you due to your behaviour, and then the Officer will terminate the call.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 3 of 8

If it is an email, the address you sent the email from may be blocked to prevent further contact after advising the customer that this will happen.

The General Manager may decide to limit or cease responses to any person, who is abusive in his or her dealings or refuses to accept that Council has done all that it can to assist. A decision of this nature will be communicated in writing to the person.

If an Officer feels threatened by the language or behaviour of the customer, they may notify the Police.

COMPLAINTS

What is a complaint?

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction with a decision (outside of a structured process), level or quality of service, or behaviour of an employee or agent, which can be investigated and acted upon.

A structured process is where legislation (Act, Regulation, Rule or By-law) specifically makes provision for an appeal, internal or external review of a decision.

What is not a complaint?

- A request for service (unless there was no response to a first request for service);
- A request for information or an explanation of a policy or procedure;
- Disagreement with the policy of a Council;
- An appeal or request for internal or external review of a decision for which a structured process applies, other than that made as a result of a complaint;
- An expression concerning the general direction and performance of Council or its Councillors;
- An expression of dissatisfaction with the behaviour of a Councillor;
- Reports of damaged or faulty infrastructure; and
- Reports about neighbours, noise, dogs, nuisances, unauthorised building work or similar issues that fall into the regulatory aspect of our service.

Many of the issues above are called 'complaints' when a customer contacts us. They are called complaints because a customer is unhappy about the situation and wants something done. The actions we take to resolve many 'complaints' are an everyday part of organisational life due to the nature of services we provide and will be dealt with apart from the formal complaints management process.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 4 of 8

Complaints Management Process

The Manager of each Department of the Council is responsible for handling complaints relevant to that Department.

Whilst most problems can usually be solved at an early stage, there are times when they require detailed investigation. If a complaint is of a very serious nature, it will be referred to the General Manager.

Irrespective of the manner in which the complaint was received a response to the complaint can be expected within 20 (twenty) working days. If a Councillor has submitted a complaint on a customer's behalf we will also respond to the Councillor within 20 (twenty) working days.

There are times when it's not possible to meet this deadline, e.g. where a complaint is a complex one and Councillors are to be briefed on the outcome of the investigations. In these cases we will endeavour to keep the customer informed of progress.

Form of Complaint

A complaint may be lodged orally (by telephone or at the counter) and may be responded to orally by phoning or by meeting with the Manager of the relevant Department to discuss the complaint.

If the complaint relates to a complex matter or there is no resolution from discussing the matter with the relevant Manager a statement should be made in writing setting out the complaint as simply as possible.

To assist Council in dealing with your complaint a customer should include the following if relevant:

- (a) dates, times and location of events
- (b) what happened
- (c) to whom the customer has spoken (names, position in Council and dates)
- (d) copies or references to letters or documents relevant to the complaint
- (e) state what the customer hopes to achieve as an outcome to the complaint.

Internal Review

Whilst most complaints can usually be resolved quickly by the relevant Officer, there are times when a detailed investigation is required.

If a person is not satisfied with the outcome, they may request, in writing, a review of the complaint by the General Manager.

The General Manager will inform the customer of the findings on completion of an investigation.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 5 of 8

Consideration of a Complaint

In considering a complaint the relevant Manager or General Manager will:

- Examine and analyse the information already available and follow up points requiring clarification;
- Look at the Council Policies which might have a bearing on the complaint;
- Consider whether or not the Council is at fault;
- Consider any necessary action to be taken to correct the faults identified; and
- Consider a review of the Council's procedures to avoid recurrence of any similar complaint in the future if necessary.

The relevant Manager or the General Manager may enter into informal discussions or mediation on a complaint with a view to resolution.

Vexatious Complaints

All complaints received by Council will be treated with the utmost seriousness however if a complaint is found to be malicious, frivolous or vexatious no further action will be taken on the complaint. The customer will be informed of this decision in writing by the General Manager.

Anonymous Complaints

While we will receive anonymous complaints, we will generally only act on them where the matter is considered to be serious and there is sufficient information in the complaint to enable an investigation to be undertaken.

Protection of Customer

We will take all care to ensure that the reporting of complaints will not result in a customer experiencing any form of victimisation or retribution as a result of the complaint.

What if a customer is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint?

Council is confident that the majority of complaints received can be resolved; however we understand that we may not be able to satisfy every customer on every occasion.

Sometimes Councils have to make difficult and complex decisions involving many people and individual customers do not get the outcome they want.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 6 of 8

If a complaint remains unresolved or a customer is dissatisfied with our process in dealing with a complaint other avenues remain for the customer to explore which include:

- Available Administrative Appeals Process
- *The Judicial Review Act 2000*
- Contact external agencies which can review actions and decisions taken by the Council, these include:
 - ❖ The Ombudsman who is an Officer responsible to parliament for investigating complaints made about administrative actions (or inactions) of Tasmanian Government Departments, most Statutory Authorities and Local Government. The Ombudsman is located at NAB House, Level 6, 86 Collins Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000. Phone 1800 001 170 (free call).
 - ❖ Local Government Division, Level 5, 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000 (GPO Box 123 Hobart, Tas 7001). Phone (03) 6232 7022.

While a customer is entitled to refer a complaint directly to these Bodies at any time, customers are encouraged to allow the Council to investigate the complaint first.

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US

You can contact us to make an enquiry or complaint:

- In person by visiting Council's Offices at 19 Alexander Street, Bothwell or 6 Tarleton Street, Hamilton during the hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday;
- By telephone on (03) 6286 3202 during the hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday;
- By Email to council@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au

PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION

Council has a commitment to the protection of Personal Information provided by a customer to Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

REPORTING

The General Manager is to provide Council with a report at least once a year of the number and nature of complaints received in accordance with Section 339F(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 7 of 8

AVAILABILITY

This Customer Service Charter is available:

- For public inspection at the Council Office during normal office hours;
- On the Council's web-site free of charge; and
- For purchase from the Council Office

REVIEW

A Council is to review its Customer Service Charter within 12 months after a Council election in accordance with Section 339F(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Document:	Start Date: 18 June 2019	Page Reference:
Customer Service Charter	Review Date: 31 Dec 2021	Page 8 of 8

HR-020 - LONG SERVICE LEAVE POLICY

Intent To provide guidance for employees who are eligible for long service leave.

Date 19 July 2016

Date Reviewed

Governing Provisions Local Government Industry Award 2010
Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2014
Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993
National Employment Standards

BACKGROUND

Long Service Leave requirements are governed under Part 7 of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*.

In this Part, "employee" means any person employed in any capacity by a council.

1. An employee who completes at least 10 years of continuous employment as an employee of one or more councils is entitled to be granted a period of long service calculated in accordance with this Part.
2. A period of long service leave is a period of 90 days for each 10 years of employment completed.
3. Any period of long service leave granted to an employee consists of the appropriate number of consecutive days, inclusive of any Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays occurring during the period.
4. If an employee becomes entitled to long service leave under this section, the council by notice in writing, may direct the employee to commence the leave within 6 months after the date of the notice.
5. If the employee fails or refuses to comply with the notice under subsection (4), the employee is taken to have forfeited all rights and privileges under this section up to the date of the notice.

Length of employment

1. For the purposes of this Part, the length of employment is to be calculated from the commencement of continuous service as an employee of one or more councils, and includes:—
 - a) any period of employment in a temporary capacity on probation; and
 - b) any period of absence on leave, with or without pay; and
 - c) any period of absence on leave for the purpose of serving as a member of any of Australia's defence forces.
2. If any employee is granted a period of long service leave, whether with or without pay, for any period of or exceeding 90 days, that period is not included as part of the period of employment for the purpose of calculating the long service leave, but that leave is not to be taken as breaking the continuity of employment.
3. If an employee has held any permanent employment in another council, and has accepted an office or position in a council directly from the other office, the length of employment is to be calculated from the date on which the employee was permanently appointed to the other office.
4. Any long service leave granted to an employee referred to in subsection (3) while in the employment of the first-mentioned council is taken to have been granted under this section.

Salary in advance

Any employee who is granted a period of long service leave may be paid salary or wages in advance for a period equivalent to that period.

Retirement

1. If an employee, after completing at least 10 years' continuous employment –
 - a) retires from employment because of sickness; or
 - b) is compulsorily retired because –
 - (ii) the position has been abolished; or
 - (iii) his or her services have become unnecessary –

the employee is entitled to long service leave bearing the same proportion to 90 days as the period of employment since the last completed period of employment entitling him or her to 90 days' bears to 10 years of the employment.
2. If a person, after taking leave of absence under subsection (1), again becomes an employee, the person is taken –
 - a) to have completed 10 years of employment on the day before the person again becomes an employee; and

- b) to have taken all leave to which the person is entitled under this Part.

Allowance

1. If an employee who is entitled to leave of absence –
 - a) dies; or
 - b) retires from employment because of sickness; or
 - c) is compulsorily retired from employment because –
 - (ii) the position has been abolished; or
 - (iii) his or her services have become unnecessary without having taken any of the long service leave to which the person is entitled, the employee, or his or her personal representative, is entitled to an allowance calculated in accordance with this policy.
2. The allowance payable under this section is an allowance equal to the salary that would be payable for the period of long service leave to which the employee is entitled immediately before retirement or death.

Preservation of other rights

1. Any period of long service leave to which an employee is entitled is in addition to any recreation leave or sick leave to which the employee may be entitled under any other enactment.
2. Recreation leave is not, except with the permission of the General Manager, to be granted to an employee under any other enactment in respect of the calendar year in which any period of long service leave granted to that employee under [section 227](#) of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* commences.
3. If recreation leave has been granted to any employee in the calendar year in which any period of long service leave granted to that employee under [section 227](#) of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* commences, that recreation leave, unless the council otherwise directs, is to be regarded as part of the period of long service leave granted to the employee under that section.
4. The period during which an employee is absent on long service leave –
 - a) is to be included as part of the employee's period of employment; and
 - b) subject to subsection (1), is to be taken into account for the purposes of –
 - (i) determining the salary payable on return to duty; and
 - (ii) any recreation leave or sick leave to which the employee is entitled under any other enactment.

POLICY

An employee who has qualified for a period of Long Service Leave shall have the option of varying the manner in which payment for such leave can be made as follows:-

- i. A period of ordinary leave debited as ordinary time with ordinary pay (ie. entire long service leave quota taken over 90 days).
- ii. A period of ordinary leave debited at double time attracting double the ordinary pay (ie. entire long service quota leave taken over 45 days).
- iii. A period of ordinary leave debited at half time attracting half time ordinary pay, subject to the approval of the General Manager and provided an employee's full entitlement to long service leave is taken at the one time, if this option is utilised, (ie. entire long service leave quota taken over 180 days).
- iv. Notwithstanding i) and ii) above, employees are requested to take any annual leave accrued, in excess of the current year's allocation, prior to commencing long service leave. This however, can not be taken concurrently without the approval of the General Manager.
- v. Long service leave will only be granted to an employee in minimum lots of not less than seven (7) consecutive days. Consecutive days includes Saturday, Sundays and Public Holidays.
- vi. If long service leave is requested to be taken in lots of less than seven (7) consecutive days, approval will only be considered on written application to the General Manager stating reasons for this request.
- vii. If an employee becomes entitled to long service leave under this section, the General Manager, by notice in writing, may direct the employee to commence the leave within six (6) months after the date of the notice.
- viii. Notwithstanding this and under normal circumstances it is expected that an employee will take Long Service Leave within 3 years of it falling due.
- ix. Employees may apply to have the period referred to in (vii) extended.

PROCEDURE

Employees must provide the General Manager, in writing, with a request for Long Service Leave at least sixty (60) days before the commencement of such leave.

If an employee seeks to defer taking their long service leave entitlement for a period in excess of three years of it falling due, application is to be made to the General Manager, at least six months in advance of that anniversary.

Application is to be made in writing and is to include the reasons for the request and the anticipated date on which long service leave will be taken.

In order to be eligible for the additional two (2) days of compassionate leave the Employee may be required to provide evidence of the interstate or international travel, to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

8.3.3. Taking Compassionate Leave

An Employee may take compassionate leave for a particular Permissible Occasion as:

- consecutive days;
- separate periods of individual days; or
- any separate periods to which the Employee and his or her Employer agree.

If the Permissible Occasion is the contraction or development of a personal illness, or the sustaining of a personal injury, the Employee may take the compassionate leave for that occasion at any time while the illness or injury persists.

Council may request the provision of evidence which would satisfy a reasonable person that the absence is permissible under this clause, such as a medical certificate, statutory declaration, death certificate or death notice from a local newspaper.

8.3.4. Payment for Compassionate Leave

If, in accordance with this sub-clause, an Employee, other than a casual Employee, takes a period of compassionate leave, the Employer must pay the Employee at their ordinary Base Rate of Pay for the ordinary hours of work in that period.

Where an Employee has exhausted all compassionate leave entitlements, and other accumulated leave entitlements, the Employee is entitled to take unpaid compassionate leave. The Employer and Employee should agree on the length of unpaid leave. In the absence of agreement, an Employee is entitled to take up to 3 days unpaid leave, provided the notice and evidence requirements are met.

For casual Employees, compassionate leave is unpaid leave.

8.4. LONG SERVICE LEAVE

8.4.1. Entitlements to Long Service Leave

An Employee's entitlement to Long Service Leave is as per the Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993, unless the terms of this Agreement are more favourable.

An Employee who completes at least ten (10) years' of continuous

employment as an Employee of one or more councils is entitled to be granted a period of long service leave of ninety (90) days for the initial ten (10) years of employment and nine (9) days per year of completed service thereafter.

Any period of long service leave granted to an Employee consists of the appropriate number of consecutive days, inclusive of any Saturdays, Sundays, RDO's or public holidays occurring during the period.

Long service leave may be taken in periods of not less than seven (7) consecutive days unless otherwise approved by the General Manager.

An Employee who becomes entitled to long service leave may be directed to commence the leave within six (6) months of providing written notice of this requirement. An Employee who fails or refuses to comply with this request is taken to have forfeited all rights and privileges under this clause up to the date of the notice.

An Employee who has accrued long service leave shall have the option of varying the manner in which payment for such leave can be made as follows:

- leave debited at ordinary time with ordinary pay (i.e. 90 days leave taken at ordinary rate over 90 days);
- leave debited at double time with double the ordinary pay (i.e. 90 days leave at double the ordinary rate over 45 days); or
- leave debited at half time with half the ordinary pay (i.e. 90 days leave at half the ordinary rate over 180 days).

It is generally expected that an Employee will take their long service leave within three (3) years of it being accrued. An Employee may make a written application to extend this period, including the reasons for the request and the anticipated date on which long service leave will be taken, to the General Manager at least six (6) months in advance of that anniversary.

8.4.2. Length of Employment

For the purposes of this clause, the length of employment is to be calculated from the commencement of Continuous Service as an Employee of one or more councils, and includes –

- any period of employment in a temporary capacity or probation;
- any period of absence on leave, with or without pay; and
- any period of absence on leave for the purpose of serving as a member of any of Australia's defence forces.

If any Employee is granted a period of long service leave, whether with or without pay, for any period of or exceeding 90 days, that period is not included as part of the period of employment for the purpose of calculating the long service leave, but that leave is not to be taken as

breaking the continuity of employment.

If an Employee has held any permanent office in another council, and has accepted an office or position in a council directly from the other office, the length of employment is to be calculated from the date on which the Employee was permanently appointed to the other office.

Any long service leave granted to an Employee while in the employment of the first-mentioned council is taken to have been granted under this section.

8.4.3. Apportionment of Expenses Between Councils

If the Council pays any Salary, wages or allowances, it may recover from any other council in whose employment an Employee has served, a part of the Salary, wages or allowances that is proportionate to the period of employment which constitutes the Employee's qualification to receive the payment.

If an Employee becomes entitled to a period of long service leave and has not been paid the entitlement, the obligation of another council is to be calculated as if the Salary, wages or allowance has been paid at the rate at which they would have been paid if the Employee had taken the leave as soon as they became entitled to it.

8.4.4. Retirement

If an Employee, after completing at least 10 years' continuous employment:

- retires from employment because of sickness or old age; or
- is compulsorily retired because of age, the position has been abolished or their services have become unnecessary, the Employee is entitled to pro-rata long service leave.

If a person, after taking leave of absence as above, again becomes an Employee, the person is taken:

- to have completed 10 years of employment on the day before the person again becomes an Employee, and
- to have taken all leave to which the person is entitled under this clause.

8.4.5. Allowance

If an Employee who is entitled to leave of absence:

- dies;
- retires from employment because of sickness or old age; or
- is compulsorily retired because of age the position has been abolished or their services have become unnecessary.

without having taken any of the long service leave to which the person is

entitled, the Employee, or their personal representative is entitled to an allowance calculated as below.

The allowance payable under this section is an allowance equal to the Salary that would be payable for the period of long service leave to which the Employee is entitled immediately before retirement or death.

8.4.6. Salary in Advance

An Employee who is granted a period of long service leave may be paid Salary or wages in advance for a period equivalent to that period.

8.4.7. Ex-gratia Pro rata Payments on Resignation or Retirement

Where an Employee has completed at least 7 years of continuous employment with Central Highlands Council, an ex-gratia pro rata payment based on completed years of service is to apply, that is:

- 7 years' service = 70%;
- 8 years' service = 80%; and
- 9 years' service = 90%

of the payment that would have been due to the Employee had the full 90 days have been entitled at the date of resignation.

Where an Employee has completed less than 10 years' service since the last completed period of employment entitling the Employee to 90 days long service leave, an ex gratia pro rata payment is to apply, e.g. 13.75 years' Continuous Service = 37.5% of the payment that would have been entitled at the date of resignation.

No payment will be made under this section where the Employee resigns to take up a position with another Employer who would recognise the Employee's service with Central Highlands Council for the purpose of calculating any future long service leave entitlement for the Employee

8.4.8. Preservation of Other Rights

Any period of long service leave to which an Employee is entitled is in addition to any annual leave or sick leave to which the Employee may be entitled.

Annual leave is not, except with the permission of the General Manager, to be granted to an Employee in respect of the calendar year in which any period of long service leave granted to the Employee commences.

If annual leave has been granted to any Employee in the calendar year in which any period of long service leave granted to that Employee commences, that annual leave, unless the Council otherwise directs, is to be regarded as part of the period of long service leave granted to the Employee.

The period during which an Employee is absent on long service leave

- is to be included as part of the Employee's period of employment; and
- is taken into account for the purposes of:
 - determining the Salary payable on return to duty, and
 - any annual leave or sick leave to which the Employee is entitled.

8.4.9. Paid Employment on Leave Prohibited

An Employee, without the consent of the General Manager, must not while absent on long service leave:

- engage in any business or undertaking, whether as principal or agent, or
- engage in the private practice of any profession, or
- accept, or engage in, any paid employment.

If an Employee contravenes the above, the Council, by notice in writing may:

- direct the Employee to return to duty, within the period specified on the notice, or
- require the Employee, within the period specified in the notice, to refund such part of any Salary or wages paid in advance not exceeding the Salary or wages for a period equivalent to the then unexpired portion of the long service leave as specified in the notice.

Any sum that is required to be refunded by an Employee is a debt due to the Council.

If an Employee is recalled to duty as above, the Employee is taken to have forfeited all rights and privileges in regard to entitlements up to the date upon which the Employee returns to duty.

The provisions of this section do not prejudice or affect any punishment or penalty which may be imposed on an Employee under any other enactment.

8.5. COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAVE

8.5.1. Overview

Entitlements to community service leave are in accordance with the NES.

Community service leave provides Employees with a right to be absent from work to engage in prescribed community service activities, such as emergency service duties and jury service.