

Minutes  
Meeting No. 39  
Hobart, 15 August 2012

**PARTICIPANTS**

**State Government**

Lara Giddings MP, Chair Premier

**Local Government Association of Tasmania**

Cr Barry Easterher	Mayor, West Tamar Council; President, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
Ald Damon Thomas	Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council
Ald Albert van Zetten	Mayor, Launceston City Council
Cr Deirdre Flint	Mayor, Central Highlands Council
Cr Barry Jarvis	Mayor, Dorset Council
Cr Jan Bonde	Mayor, Central Coast Council
Ald Sandra French	Deputy Mayor, Burnie City Council
Ald Doug Chipman	Mayor, Clarence City Council

**Officials in attendance**

**Local Government**

Mr Allan Garcia	Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Dr Katrena Stephenson	Policy Director, LGAT
Mr Robert Dobrzynski	General Manager, Launceston City Council
Mr Nick Heath	General Manager, Hobart City Council
Ms Sandra Ayton	General Manager, Central Coast Council

**State Government**

Ms Rebekah Burton	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Mr Mathew Healey	Director, Division of Local Government, Security and Emergency Management (DLGSEM), DPAC
Mr Norm McIlfatrick	Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and

## Resources

Mr Greg Alomes	Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission
Mr Bronte Price	Director of Regional Development, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (DEDTA)
Mr Cam Crawford	Adviser, Office of the Premier
Ms Lisa Caswell	Policy analyst, DLGSEM, DPAC
Ms Jane Colton	Policy analyst, DLGSEM, DPAC

## **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Bryan Green MP	Minister for Local Government
Mr Rhys Edwards	Secretary, DPAC
Cr Darryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council
Cr Graham Bury	Mayor, Kingborough Council
Mr Mark Kelleher	Secretary, DEDTA

The Premier welcomed members of the PLGC to the first meeting of 2012 and noted the apologies, in particular the Minister for Local Government who was unable to attend due to his involvement in forestry negotiations.

## **Agenda item 1) Minutes of the PLGC meeting on 26 April 2012**

The PLGC accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record of its 26 April 2012 meeting.

## **Agenda item 2) Matters of topical interest**

The PLGC noted that the Minister for Local Government intends to consult with the local government sector on a number of proposed initiatives announced at the 2012 Local Government Conference and a paper was tabled outlining the proposed process for progressing those initiatives. The Premier noted that each initiative was dealt with separately on the agenda and that discussion could occur under those agenda items.

Members discussed the impact that the downturn in the forest industry is having on Tasmanian communities and the importance of economic development and innovation. Members also discussed the issue of statutory protection for councils taking climate change actions and agreed to include the issue on the agenda for the December meeting.

## **Agenda item 3) Water and sewerage**

The PLGC noted the project timetable for implementation of the current stage of reform and noted the action to date in progressing the move to a single corporation.

#### **Agenda item 4) Proposed review of role of Local Government**

The PLGC approved the formation of a working group to develop principles regarding the role of local government, with those principles to be presented to the PLGC at its December meeting for consideration, approved draft Terms of Reference for the working group, and noted that the principles developed by the working group will provide the basis for a more detailed review of the role of Local Government in 2013.

#### **Agenda item 5) Review of miscellaneous legislative issues**

The PLGC noted that it is proposed to include a number of miscellaneous amendments in a *Local Government (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2012* which is likely to be introduced in the 2012 Spring Session of Parliament.

Mr Robert Dobrzynski proposed a possible amendment regarding the hearing of appeals on nuisance matters, and Mr Healey agreed to work with the Launceston City Council to consider the issue.

#### **Agenda item 6) Proposed electoral changes**

The PLGC noted that the Minister for Local Government intends to consult with the local government sector on a number of proposed changes to the electoral system for Local Government and agreed to the formation of a working group to consider the proposals, comprising representatives from DLGSEM, LGAT, and Local Government, with technical advice provided by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

#### **Agenda item 7) Review of councillor numbers**

The PLGC noted the progress of the Local Government Board Review of Councillor Numbers.

#### **Agenda item 8) Regional planning initiative**

The PLGC noted progress with the implementation of the Regional Planning Initiative. Mr Greg Alomes provided a verbal update on issues that have arisen during the interim planning scheme process.

#### **Agenda item 9) Work Program on Climate Change - Progress**

The PLGC noted progress with the PLGC work program on climate change.

#### **Agenda item 10) Proposed financial and asset management changes**

The PLGC noted that the Minister for Local Government intends to consult with the local government sector on a number of proposed changes to the financial and asset management practices of Local Government and noted further detail on the process to consider the proposals, which were tabled at the meeting.

#### **Agenda item 11) Financial and asset management planning project**

The PLGC noted activity and progress of the Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project, a Commonwealth-funded project developing and

implementing frameworks for long-term financial and asset management planning in all Tasmanian councils.

**Agenda item 12) Sustainability Objectives and Indicators report**

The PLGC approved the draft *Sustainability Objectives and Indicators Report 2010-11*.

**Agenda item 13) Valuation and Local Government Rating Review**

The PLGC noted an update on the Valuation and Local Government Rating Review.

**Agenda item 14) PLGC Work Plan**

The PLGC approved the new priorities identified in updated governance and financial and asset sustainability context papers and noted updates to the PLGC work plan in other areas.

**Agenda item 15) Signing of revised Protocol Agreement and meeting close**

The Premier and the President signed the revised Protocol Agreement.

The Premier tabled a letter from the Australian Local Government Women's Association regarding the WomenCan program.

Mr Norm McIlFattrick provided an update on the Federal Government's Nation Building funding programs.

**Meeting closed.**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
5	Mat Healey to work with Launceston City Council to consider suggested amendment