

Minutes  
Meeting No. 43  
Hobart, 10 December 2013

**PARTICIPANTS**

**State Government**

Lara Giddings MP, Chair    Premier

**Local Government Association of Tasmania**

Cr Barry Easter	Mayor, West Tamar Council; President, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
Cr Darryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council; Vice President, LGAT
Cr Jan Bonde	Mayor, Central Coast Council
Ald Albert van Zetten	Mayor, Launceston City Council
Cr Deirdre Flint	Mayor, Central Highlands Council
Cr Graham Bury	Mayor, Kingborough Council

**Officials in attendance:**

**Local Government**

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

**State Government**

Mr Michael Stevens	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Mark Kelleher	Secretary, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
Mr John Wimmer	Adviser, Office of the Premier
Ms Erin Mahoney	Adviser, Office of the Minister for Local Government
Mr Norm McIlpatrick	Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and

## Resources

Mr Phillip Hoysted	Director of Local Government, Local Government Division (LGD), DPAC
Ms Bettina Cruise	Assistant Director, LGD
Ms Carmen Kelly	Assistant Director, LGD
Ms Bridget Dwyer	Policy Analyst, LGD

## Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Bryan Green MP	Minister for Local Government
Cr Barry Jarvis	Mayor, Dorset Council

## Welcome

The Premier welcomed members to the final PLGC meeting for 2013. The Premier acknowledged the passing of Mayor Darryl Gerrity, recognising the great work he undertook in his role and noted that Robyn Gerrity is the new West Coast Mayor.

The Premier noted that apologies had been received from Bryan Green MP, Minister for Local Government and Mayor Barry Jarvis, Dorset Council.

## Agenda item

### 1) Draft Minutes of the PLGC meeting on 27 August 2013

The PLGC accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2013 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 2) Matters of Topical Interest

#### I. National Broadband Network

The Premier advised that the Government's preferred option for the NBN is still the original option of fibre-to-the-home but that the Government has also discussed the use of power poles with Aurora Energy.

The Premier also advised she will raise the issue at the next Council of Australian Government (COAG) meeting – scheduled for later in the week and was hopeful an update regarding the Tasmanian rollout would be provided shortly.

#### II. State Governments Electricity Reforms

The Premier advised that the sale process for Aurora Energy's retail customer base has been closed. The Government remains committed to the sale but will only do so when market conditions are more conducive to receiving a fair price.

LGAT noted the update and agreed this item can be removed from the Agenda.

### III. Private Infrastructure Testing and Inspections

The Premier advised that Minister O'Byrne and Minister Green have requested the Departments of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and Justice to prepare advice for consideration regarding options for the provision of private power pole inspections.

The Premier also informed the PLGC that both Ministers' have expressed concerns regarding the cessation of the pole inspection service by Aurora. Aurora have advised that, in consultation with WorkSafe Tasmania, it has agreed to move the planned exit date for testing, back to 30 April 2014, which will allow the Government sufficient time to introduce appropriate long term arrangements. LGAT advised they will send a letter to councils informing them of this update.

### **Governance of Local Government:**

#### **3) Local Government (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2013**

The PLGC noted the *Local Government (Miscellaneous) Amendments Act 2013* received Royal Assent on 19 November 2013.

The PLGC noted the Government, in consultation with key stakeholders, has developed guidance material for general managers to assist them in applying the new dilapidated buildings provisions.

The PLGC also noted that the LGD has worked closely with LGAT to develop the Ministerial Orders for the financial and asset management reforms and Orders are currently out for consultation. Consultation will conclude on 20 December 2013. The financial and asset management reforms will commence on a date to be proclaimed when the Ministerial Orders have been finalised.

Mayor Graham Bury requested that consideration of climate change impacts become mandatory and included in the financial and asset management reforms. It was decided to further discuss this issue at Agenda item 6.

The PLGC noted that discussions around the *Local Government (Miscellaneous) Bill 2013* were finalised and agreed to remove this item from the Agenda.

#### **4) Role of Local Government project**

The PLGC approved the Local Government Role Assessment Interim Report for release to councils and Tasmanian Government agencies for comment, with submissions due end of January 2014.

The PLGC also agreed on the proposal to establish four working groups in early 2014 and supported the development of a communications strategy that articulates the aims/outcomes of the project.

The PLGC noted the Local Government Capability Analysis Report prepared by Stenning & Associates, which summarises the council self-assessment survey.

The Premier acknowledged the significant body of work the LGD had undertaken on the project, endorsed the report, the consultation process and the establishment of the working groups.

Mr Phillip Hoysted, LGD, advised members that extensive consultation has been undertaken in developing the Interim Report and that the working groups will be looking at a broad range of issues, with senior staff included on working group membership to maintain momentum.

Mr Allan Garcia, LGAT, acknowledged that although initially the Role of Local Government project had been viewed with scepticism by members it was now broadly accepted.

## **5) Code of Conduct**

The Premier advised that the Integrity Commission has given in-principle agreement to undertake the triage role for complaints. Mr Phillip Hoysted, LGD, advised that the LGD is looking at an alternative model where the complaints would go to the proposed new panel and they would undertake the triage role.

It was resolved to canvas both options in a Cabinet Minute.

## **Planning and Environment:**

### **6) Coastal Protection and Planning Framework**

The PLGC noted the update on the development of the Coastal Protection and Planning Framework (CPPF).

Mr Phillip Hoysted, LGD, advised that public consultation on the Draft Tasmanian Coastal Policy Statement was undertaken between 5 July and 16 August 2013 and that over 100 written submissions were received from stakeholder groups and individuals. The draft Policy Statement is being reviewed and revised in light of the feedback received during consultation and advice will be provided to the Government in December 2013 regarding the final CPPF, including the revised Policy Statement and the Implementation Plan.

The issue of climate change impacts become mandatory and considered in the financial and asset management reforms was raised again by Mayor Bury.

The Premier noted the importance of councils building risk management of potential climate change impacts into financial and asset management.

Mr Phillip Hoysted, LGD, encouraged members to provide feedback on the climate change issue via the Ministerial Orders consultation process and advised the LGD will consult with the Climate Change Office regarding current policy and develop an appropriate mechanism to address this issue.

The PLGC noted the update.

## **7) Regional Planning Initiatives**

Mr Greg Alomes, TPC, informed the PLGC that the Minister has:

- o declared and gazetted the three regional land use strategies and 16 interim planning schemes in the northern and cradle coast regions;
- o that the 7 northern interim schemes and 9 cradle coast interim schemes are operational and now in the formal public exhibition, representation, hearing and assessment process conducted by the Commission; and
- o that the 12 southern interim schemes and the remaining northern interim scheme for Flinders are expected to be formally submitted in early 2014.

Mr Robert Dobryznski, Launceston City Council, identified that councils have a number of concerns with the Bushfire code, indicating that the code appears to be operating inconsistently with the manner in which it was intended. Mr Michael Stevens, DPAC, confirmed the State Government is aware of these issues and is working to resolve them through a number of avenues, including the Bushfire inter-departmental committee.

The PLGC noted the Regional Planning Initiatives update.

### **2012-2013 PLGC Work Plan:**

#### **8) 2012-13 PLGC Work Plan - updates**

The Premier advised an updated PLGC work plan will be finalised once the Role of Local Government project final report has been prepared and the working groups established.

#### **9) Other business**

Mr Robert Dobrzynski asked if PLGC meeting could be undertaken via video conference. The Premier advised that video conferencing facilities are not available within DPAC.

Mayor Bury requested that council be informed when the Premier and Ministers are visiting municipalities. The Premier advised that this was not always practical and that councils were advised regarding significant events.

Allan Garcia thanked the Premier for passing the *Urban Drainage Bill 2013*.

The Premier thanked PLGC members for their participation and noted the State Government has a very good working relationship with Local Government across the State which has been enhanced by the PLGC forum.

### **Meeting closed.**

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
--------------------	---------------

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2 (iii) | LGAT to send letters to members informing them that Aurora has agreed to move the planned exit from testing and inspections back to 30 April 2014. |
|---------|--|

- 5 LGD to prepare a Cabinet Minute which outlines the two models for the code of conduct process and seek approval to adopt a model.
- 8 LGD to prepare a new PLGC work plan for PLGC officials' consideration once the Role of Local Government project final report has been prepared and working groups established.