

**PREMIER'S  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COUNCIL**

Friday 6 September 2019, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm  
Premier's Reception Room, Level 11, 15 Murray Street, Hobart

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>PLGC Members</b>	
Hon Will Hodgman MP	Premier (Chair)
Hon Mark Shelton MP	Minister for Local Government
Cr Christina Holmdahl	President, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Management Committee (GMC), Mayor, West Tamar Council
Cr Anna Reynolds	Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council
Cr Ben Shaw	Vice President, LGAT GMC Mayor, Derwent Valley Council
Cr Annette Rockliff	Mayor, Devonport City Council
Cr Mick Tucker	Mayor, Break O'Day Council
Ald Brendan Blomeley	Alderman, Clarence City Council
Cr Daryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council
Cr Geoff Lyons	Councillor, West Tamar Council
<b>PLGC Officials</b>	
Nick Heath	General Manager, Hobart City Council
Sandra Ayton	General Manager, Central Coast Council
Martin Gill	General Manager, Meander Valley Council
Dr Katrena Stephenson	Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Dion Lester	Policy Director, LGAT
Sophie Muller	A/g Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Alex Tay	Director of Local Government, Local Government Division (LGD), DPAC
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Luke Murphy-Gregory	A/g Assistant Director, LGD, DPAC
Mitchell Cook	Policy and Project Officer, LGD, DPAC

<b>Guests</b>	
Hon Peter Gutwein MP	Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage
Wes Ford	Deputy Secretary (EPA Tasmania)
Rick Dunn	Senior Adviser
Ilise Bourke	Project Director, LGD, DPAC

## Welcome

The Premier welcomed participants to the second Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting for 2019, and thanked those who had travelled to Hobart to attend the meeting.

The Premier noted that Mayor Mick Tucker, Councillor Geoff Lyons and Sandra Ayton were apologies, and that Martin Gill was attending the meeting via telephone.

The Premier acknowledged that it was the first PLGC meeting since LGAT's General Management Committee (GMC) elections in July. The Premier congratulated Mayor Holmdahl on her election as the new President of LGAT. The Premier also congratulated the other GMC members, and noted that the Government looks forward to working with the GMC in discussing matters of strategic importance.

On behalf of the PLGC, the Premier welcomed Minister Shelton to his first PLGC meeting as Minister for Local Government. The Premier noted that Minister Shelton brings a considerable background in local government to the portfolio.

The Premier explained that the agenda has been curated to enable discussion of a handful of strategic items, including:

- an address from the new Minister for Local Government;
- the Local Government Legislation Review; and
- Waste management.

The PLGC noted that Minister Gutwein, Wes Ford and Ilise Bourke were attending today's meeting to discuss agenda items.

## Agenda Item 1: Minutes – PLGC meeting 9 May 2019

The PLGC endorsed the draft minutes of the 9 May 2019 PLGC meeting as a true and accurate record of that meeting. The PLGC noted the six actions arising from the meeting and agreed, given the nature of this meeting, that the three incomplete actions will be reported on at the December meeting. The incomplete actions include reports on:

- charitable rates exemptions;
- coastal erosion; and
- cat management.

## **Agenda Item 2: Minister for Local Government address**

Minister Shelton spoke to the PLGC about the Government's current strategic policy priorities for the local government portfolio, and reflected on how his previous experience in the sector would inform how he approached his role as Minister.

Minister Shelton advised that he would provide a copy of his speech as an attachment to the meeting's Communique.

## **Agenda item 3: Local Government Legislation Review**

The Premier noted that, with the release of the Reform Directions Paper for consultation, the Government has reached a critical stage in the Local Government Legislation Review.

Ilise Bourke, the Project Director for the Review, presented to PLGC on several of the major proposed reforms and summarised the consultation feedback received through the current consultation process.

The PLGC discussed several reforms contained in the Reform Directions Paper, including on local government elections, introducing a candidate nomination fee, a local government performance reporting framework and the Regional Councils model. The PLGC also discussed how there had been high levels of community engagement with the consultation on the Reform Directions, which, at 30 August 2019, had seen over 500 online surveys completed. The PLGC noted consultation results to date on particular Reform Directions.

## **Agenda Item 4: Waste management**

The PLGC noted that it is a critical time for waste management globally, nationally and in Tasmania; but that there was significant engagement of industry and local government through consultation on the draft Waste Action Plan (WAP) and the LGAT Feasibility Study into Statewide Waste Arrangements.

The difficulties being experienced in relation to recycling in Southern Tasmania were noted and Minister Gutwein commended LGAT for its role in supporting the Southern Tasmanian Councils to respond to the winding up of SKM Recycling. The PLGC noted that there is a solution in train to address this issue that will be announced imminently.

The PLGC also noted:

1. the release of the draft WAP for consultation, which includes a Container Refund Scheme (CRS) and a State-wide Waste Levy;
2. the LGAT was currently consulting with Members on the draft WAP;
3. that the EPA has established a dedicated project team to oversee the implementation of the Container Refund Scheme (CRS);
4. the public release of the Urban EP report into StateWide Waste Arrangements; and
5. the national developments in respect to waste management including the outcomes of the August Council of Australian Governments meeting.

Minister Gutwein stated his interest in working with the sector to consider governance arrangements to oversee the State-wide Waste Levy. LGAT noted that it will discuss the findings of the Urban EP report at its next General Meeting, so that it will have a formal position to discuss with the Government.

## **Agenda Item 5: Communique approval**

The PLGC agreed that the LGAT CEO and Director of Local Government would liaise to finalise the Communique for approval prior to publication.

## **Agenda Item 6: Other business and meeting close**

Cr Anna Reynolds and Cr Daryl Quilliam raised separate matters under other business.

### ***'Code blue' Protocol***

Cr Reynolds gave an overview of a protocol in South Australia to support people who are homeless during times of extreme weather. When the temperature becomes very low, or the wind very extreme, the South Australian State Government declares a 'code blue', triggering the provision of increased support for people who are homeless. This might involve making a community hall available for shelter, or making emergency funding available to homelessness support services to absorb increased service demand during these times.

The Premier noted that his Office has received some correspondence on this matter already, and undertook to raise the matter with Minister Jaensch.

### ***Skills and training***

Cr Quilliam raised the need to ensure the supply of skilled labour to match current and future demand, and the importance of a strong vocational training sector to ensure Tasmanians are qualified and competitive for local employment opportunities, particularly in trades.

The PLGC agreed that skills, training and employment would be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the December meeting.

### ***Partnership agreement consultation period***

The Premier noted that, although the Statewide Partnership Agreement between the State Government and the local government sector has expired, the Government continues, as a matter of protocol, to observe the five week consultation period contained in that Agreement. This was welcomed by LGAT.

The Premier noted he would be asking the Secretary of DPAC to write to other agency heads reminding them of the minimum five week period.

The Premier thanked the PLGC for their contributions and confirmed that the next PLGC meeting will be held on 9 December in Hobart.

**Meeting closed 1:00 pm**

## Actions

Agenda Item	Actions From PLGC Meeting on 9 May 2019	Who	When	Complete
2	Include a copy of Minister Shelton's speech as an attachment to the meeting Communique.	Secretariat	ASAP	Complete
6	Premier to refer "code blue" matter to Minister Jaensch.	DPAC follow-up	ASAP	Complete
6	Place skills, training and employment on the agenda for the December PLGC meeting.	Secretariat	December PLGC meeting	Complete
6	DPAC Secretary to write to all heads of agencies reminding them to observe the five week consultation period with respect to policy and legislative change impacting on the local government sector.	DPAC	ASAP	Complete