

**PREMIER'S
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COUNCIL**

Wednesday 19 October 2016, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Town Hall Reception Room, Launceston Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston
Minutes

Meeting No. 50

PLGC Attendees

Local government	
Ald Doug Chipman	President Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), Mayor, Clarence City Council
Ald Sue Hickey	Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council
Cr Daryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council
Cr Jan Bonde	Mayor, Central Coast Council
Cr Christina Holmdahl	Mayor, West Tamar Council
Cr Craig Perkins	Mayor, Meander Valley Council
Ald Heather Chong	Clarence City Council
Peter Brooks	General Manager, Glenorchy City Council
Sandra Ayton	General Manager, Central Coast Council
State Government	
Hon Will Hodgman MP	Premier (Chair)
Hon Peter Gutwein MP	Minister for Planning and Local Government
Dr Tony McCall	Senior Adviser to Minister Gutwein
Ruth McArdle	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Harriet Close	Senior Policy Analyst, Local Government Division (LGD), DPAC
Dianna Marston	Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC

Apologies	
Cr Tony Bisdee	Mayor, Southern Midlands Council
Tim Watson	General Manager, Dorset Council
Dr Katrena Stephenson	Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Dion Lester	Policy Director, LGAT
Kim Evans	Secretary, Department of State Growth
Greg Brown	Acting, Director of Local Government, LGD, DPAC
Vince Taskunas	Deputy Chief of Staff, Premier's Office
Guests	
Alasdair Wells	Policy and Support Services, Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Welcome

The meeting was chaired by the Premier, the Hon. Will Hodgman MP, who welcomed participants to the second PLGC meeting for 2016. He also introduced and welcomed Ruth McArdle to her first PLGC meeting. Ald Doug Chipman introduced Ald. Heather Chong who represented the southern councils and was also attending her first PLGC meeting.

Apologies were noted.

Agenda Item 1: Draft minutes of the PLGC meeting on 19 May 2016

The PLGC endorsed the draft minutes of the PLGC meeting held on 19 May 2016 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and noted all actions arising from the meeting had been completed or were to be addressed during the meeting.

Matters of topical interest

Agenda Item 2: Disposal of used tyres

The PLGC noted a verbal update provided by Minister Gutwein who reported that the owner of the stockpile had submitted a development proposal to the Northern Midlands Council for a tyre processing plant. The development would enable the stockpile to be cleared by 2020. Alasdair Wells advised the PLGC that the proposal was currently being reviewed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Agenda Item 3: Waste management - State waste policy

Minister Gutwein informed the PLGC that the Government would consider participating in a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) if a national program was established. Ald Doug Chipman informed the PLGC that the Waste Management Reference Group had been re-established. This would enable recommendations to be developed and implemented. The PLGC noted the recommendations contained in the paper.

Agenda Item 4: Rates on Crown land leases

The PLGC noted that the *Local Government Act 1993* would be amended to ensure that Crown land is rated based on usage rather than ownership in line with the intended outcomes of the 2003 financial reforms. Minister Gutwein advised that there would be consultation on the draft amendments and that the legislative changes would be in place in time for councils to develop their 2017-18 budgets.

Agenda Item 5: Report on TAHO Guidelines and Related Matters

Ruth McArdle summarised previous concerns raised by local government about their capability to comply with the TAHO guidelines. She reported that the State Government had commissioned a consultant to review and examine the TAHO framework. The review included consultation with local government. The 15 recommendations in the report took a risk-based approach to preserving primary records. The consultant was to implement the recommendations and continue consultation with local government. The PLGC noted the report and agreed to remove it from the agenda.

Agenda Item 6: Voluntary amalgamations and strategic shared services

Minister Gutwein commended councils who had enabled and facilitated discussions about the feasibility of voluntary amalgamations and strategic shared services in the State. He emphasised these could lead to significant savings and provide money for infrastructure projects or to reduce or remove fees such as building permits. The Minister informed the PLGC that the Government had an open mind about the best models to be introduced. The PLGC agreed that representation would be an important consideration to implement any changes as a result of the feasibility studies.

Strategic Priorities

Agenda Item 7: Role of Local Government Project: Strategic Action Plan (SAP) update

The PLGC endorsed the need to review the SAP which included looking at achievements and current activities and reframing these in light of the current context as well as adding any new items. Harriet Close agreed to discuss the review process with the SAP implementation committee, complete the review and provide an update at the first PLGC meeting in 2017.

Agenda Item 8: Review of the *Local Government Act 1993*

The PLGC noted the update of the targeted review of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The group discussed the recently introduced code of conduct framework. The Minister agreed to provide an update at the next meeting of the PLGC and advised that a review was scheduled following one year of implementation of the new framework.

Agenda Item 9: Disability Access Strategy

The PLGC noted the update on the Disability Access Strategy which included a statewide Disability Access Forum held in June; a Universal Access Forum for the building industry presented in September; and mechanisms for sharing resources in local government. The PLGC agreed to remove the Disability Access Strategy from the agenda.

Agenda Item 10: Statewide Planning

The PLGC noted the paper provided covering statewide planning matters. Minister Gutwein informed the PLGC he would provide a written response to the questions provided by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) in the absence of LGAT representatives at the meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Work Plan 2015-2018

The PLGC noted the updated work plan and were given the opportunity to add items to the plan. The Minister suggested an update on the code of conduct at the next meeting before including it on the work plan. Cr Craig Perkins suggested a focus on regional economic development that included a review of roles and expectations which was supported by the PLGC.

Agenda Item 12: Other business and meeting close

The Premier invited each member to provide comments and updates from their local government areas. Cr Craig Perkins discussed concerns surrounding the process of EPA applications and approvals and the impact on business in the municipality. Minister Gutwein acknowledged these concerns.

Cr Jan Bonde commented it was difficult to achieve outcomes when engaging with the Parks and Wildlife Service. The Minister suggested this could be addressed under regional economic development which was to be added to the next agenda.

Sandra Ayton said the flood recovery process was progressing well and the process had improved significantly since her experience of the floods in 2011. Cr Daryl Quillam added there were still issues for the community surrounding flood insurance and difficulties completing forms for grants.

Peter Brooks proposed a question to the Government about whether the legislative requirements being considered to protect front-line State Government Services, such as police and ambulance, could be extended to include local government front-line services.

Cr Daryl Quillam said he had noted the practice of holding of funds allocated for roads by the Parks and Wildlife Service when roads had been handed over to council. The Premier said he would follow this up with Minister Hidding.

The meeting was closed at 12.05pm.

Agenda Item	Actions From PLGC Meeting on 19 October 2016	Who	Due by	Complete
7	Follow up with SAP implementation committee about how to review and update the SAP.	Harriet Close	First PLGC meeting 2017	
8	Provide an update at the next PLGC meeting about the code of conduct issues and any changes required.	LGD	Next PLGC meeting	Yes
10	Provide a letter to LGAT responding to the questions provided by LGAT about planning.	Minister Gutwein	19 November 2016	Yes
11	Add regional economic development to the PLGC agenda.	LGD	Next PLGC meeting	Yes