
Communiqué

Premier's Local Government Council meeting - 15 December 2016

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) met in Hobart on 15 December 2016 to discuss matters of topical interest and to progress its strategic agenda.

The meeting was chaired by the Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman, and attended by the Hon Peter Gutwein, Minister for Planning and Local Government, the elected members of the General Management Committee of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) including the President Mayor Doug Chipman, and members of the PLGC Officials Committee.

The PLGC noted the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) supported a regulatory approach to effective long-term management of used tyres. The proposed regulatory approach would discourage stockpiling of waste tyres and support market-based solutions for waste tyres such as the Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme.

The PLGC discussed implementation of the *Building Act 2016* (the Act) which was due to commence on 1 January 2017. A representative from the Department of Justice advised the PLGC that a dedicated resource would be available to assist with queries from local government. The PLGC agreed that in addition to the ongoing support a formal review of the implementation of the Act would be carried out in 2017.

The PLGC noted that the south-east councils (Clarence City, Sorell, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman) were considering options for amalgamations and strategic shared services and would commence public consultation early in 2017. The final report on potential mergers in the Greater Hobart study (Hobart City, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and Kingborough Council) was expected to be available later in December 2016. Consultants had been engaged in the North and North-West and studies into strategic shared services had commenced.

An update on the implementation of the code of conduct framework was provided to the PLGC. It was noted that the processes and resources were continually being reviewed and improved as issues arose and that training had been provided to code of conduct panel members. A review of the implementation of the code of conduct will be undertaken in 2017.

The PLGC were informed that recommendations from the review of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which were endorsed by the Minister, were to be presented to Cabinet on 20 December 2016 and subsequent legislative changes were expected to be tabled in April/May 2017.

The Minister informed the PLGC that Mayors had been contacted about the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and that he was expecting to announce the finalised State Planning Provisions at the end of January 2017, allowing local government to commence the preparation of their Local Provision Schedules.

The Coordinator General, John Perry, gave a presentation to the PLGC to clarify his role and to encourage councils to be investment-ready. He used the example of the Kangaroo Bay development (Clarence City municipal area) in which there has been Chinese investment in a

hospitality education and training facility. The Minister encouraged local government to ensure they are ready to take advantage of investment opportunities in their municipalities.

The PLGC is next scheduled to meet on 17 May 2017. Further information on the PLGC is available on the LGD website: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/plgc.