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## Communiqué

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### **Premier's Local Government Council Meeting – 6 September 2019**

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) met in Hobart on 6 September 2019 to consider a focussed agenda of shared strategic priorities. The Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, chairs the PLGC, which also includes the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Mark Shelton MP, the elected members of the General Management Committee (GMC) of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) including the President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl, supported by members of the PLGC Officials Committee.

The PLGC provides an important forum for the Tasmanian Government and the local government sector to jointly identify, progress and oversee strategic initiatives for the benefit of the Tasmanian community.

This was the first meeting of the PLGC since the LGAT GMC elections in July 2019. The Premier congratulated Christina Holmdahl for her election as the new President of LGAT, as well as the other LGAT representatives on their election to the GMC. It was also Minister Shelton's first PLGC meeting, following his recent appointment to the Local Government portfolio.

#### **Minister for Local Government**

Minister Shelton provided the PLGC with an overview of 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 noted the significant work program currently being progressed by the Government and the sector, including the major Review of Local Government Legislation. The Government is also working urgently on changes to the *Dog Control Act 2000* that are designed to protect Little Penguins.

The Minister reiterated his commitment to developing a modern local government legislative framework that will provide the sector with the flexibility to address these types of challenges.

The Minister's full speech to the PLGC is provided at Attachment I to the Communiqué.

#### **Local Government Legislation Review**

Since the PLGC met on 9 May 2019, the Government has released its proposed reforms to the local government legislative framework.

The PLGC discussed the significant reforms being put forward by the Government and noted the preliminary feedback that has so far been submitted via the Review's public consultation process on these reforms.

The PLGC also noted the good levels of community engagement with the current public consultation process which, at 30 August, had seen over 500 online surveys completed, 238,770 people interact with the Review's campaign, 4,827 people access the Review's website, and 784 subscribers to the monthly newsletter.

### **Waste management**

The PLGC discussed a number of developments in the area of waste management, in particular the release of the Government's draft Waste Action Plan (WAP) for public consultation. The WAP includes actions to combat waste to land fill through a statewide levy on solid waste, as well as efforts to minimise litter and increase the recycling of materials through the Container Refund Scheme.

The Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, attended the meeting to discuss the WAP with the local government sector representatives. All participants agreed that being clear on future objectives and engaging industries and community will be vital to delivering improved waste outcomes in the future.

Ensuring a stable recycling industry setting in Tasmania is a priority for the Government and the local government sector. The PLGC noted that there is a solution in train in regard to the difficulties being experienced in parts of the recycling industry in Tasmania, such as the winding up of SKM Recycling.

The PLGC noted a range of other developments in the area of waste management, including:

- the release of the LGAT report on potential waste management arrangements in Tasmania;
- that the Government is close to rolling out some of its election commitments to improve reporting and enforcement of littering and illegal dumping; and
- that at the Council of Australia Governments meeting on 9 August 2019, leaders agreed that Australia should establish a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, and to build Australia's capacity to generate high value recycled commodities.

Other topical matters canvassed included homelessness and workforce capacity issues, particularly in relation to the building and construction industry.

It was agreed that skills gaps and workforce capacity would be discussed at the next meeting of the PLGC.

The PLGC will meet again in December 2019. Further information on the PLGC is available on the LGD website: [www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local\\_government/plgc](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/plgc).

## **PLGC Membership**

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	Aldermen, Clarence City Council
Cr Daryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council
Cr Geoff Lyons	Councillor, West Tamar Council