

Minutes
Meeting No. 40
Hobart, 10 December 2012

PARTICIPANTS

State Government

Lara Giddings MP, Chair Premier
Bryan Green MP Minister for Local Government

Local Government Association of Tasmania

Cr Barry Easterher Mayor, West Tamar Council; President, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
Ald Damon Thomas Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council
Cr Darryl Quilliam Mayor, Circular Head Council; Vice President, LGAT
Cr Deirdre Flint Mayor, Central Highlands Council
Cr Barry Jarvis Mayor, Dorset Council
Cr Jan Bonde Mayor, Central Coast 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
Mr Nick Heath General Manager, Hobart City Council
Ms Sandra Ayton General Manager, Central Coast Council

State Government

Mr Mathew Healey Director, Division of Local Government, Security and Emergency Management (DLGSEM), DPAC
Mr Greg Alomes Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission
Ms Fiona Wilson Director of Strategy and Research, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts

Mr Cam Crawford	Adviser, Office of the Premier
Ms Jessica Radford	Adviser, Office of the Premier
Ms Erin Mahoney	Adviser, Office of the Minister for Local Government
Ms Bettina Cruise	Assistant Director, DLGSEM, DPAC
Ms Jane Colton	Policy analyst, DLGSEM, DPAC

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Ald Albert van Zetten	Mayor, Launceston City Council
Mr Robert Dobrzynski	General Manager, Launceston City Council
Ms Rebekah Burton	Deputy Secretary, DPAC
Mr Norm McIlfratrick	Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER)

Welcome

The Premier welcomed members of the PLGC to the third and final PLGC meeting for 2012 and noted the apologies. It was also noted that Ald Thomas and Mr Heath would be leaving the meeting early.

Agenda item

1) Draft Minutes of the PLGC meeting on 15 August 2012

The PLGC accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2012 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2) Matters of topical interest

The PLGC noted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that has been established between the Hobart City Council and the Launceston City Council. Ald Thomas provided an update on the MOU including the key priorities for collaboration and opportunities for joint lobbying between the councils.

The Premier introduced the State Government's new Tasmanian Jobs Package which will support the creation of over 3300 jobs and leverage around \$375 million in private investment. The PLGC noted the key initiatives of the \$24.5 million Package, which include:

- more than doubling the first home owners grant for new home construction;
- reintroducing the payroll tax rebate for all new jobs;
- providing additional funding for the Tasmanian Government Innovation and Investment Fund (TGIIIF);
- introducing a community infrastructure fund;
- investing in Northern infrastructure projects;

- providing a grant for the Tassal processing plant in George Town;
- developing a cooperative tourism marketing fund to promote Tasmania;
- clearing the way for the Parliament Square development; and
- funding to support the dairy industry's 'Filling the Factories' program.

Members discussed how these initiatives will contribute to reduced unemployment in Tasmania. Cr Quilliam advised that an initiative to fund the shipping of cattle from King Island should be a high priority. Mr Healey advised that a number of initiatives to promote economic development on King Island are being considered as part of the Partnership Agreement between the State Government and King Island Council.

Municipal service delivery:

3) Water and sewerage

The PLGC noted the updates regarding the progress of moving to a single statewide water corporation. The Premier thanked Mr Allan Garcia for all his hard work in progressing the reform and also thanked PLGC members for their assistance.

Role of Local Government:

4) Review of role of Local Government

The PLGC noted that the consultation period for the Role of Local Government project has concluded. The process and objectives for Phase 2 of the project were also noted by the PLGC.

The PLGC approved the *Role of Local Government Phase 1 – Final Report*.

Governance of Local Government:

5) Review of miscellaneous legislative issues

The PLGC noted that the Local Government Division (LGD) is currently preparing a draft Local Government Miscellaneous Amendments Bill, which is likely to be introduced in the 2013 Autumn Session of Parliament.

It was also noted that the draft Bill will be circulated to councils for consultation before Christmas.

6) Proposed electoral changes

The PLGC noted that representatives of Local Government, LGD, LGAT and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) developed a discussion paper on proposed changes to the electoral system for Local Government. It was also noted that the discussion paper was released on 19 September 2012 for comment by 31 October 2012 and that comments were received from a majority of councils.

The PLGC noted that the State Government is now considering the feedback received.

Planning, environment and emergency management:

7) Regional planning initiative

PLGC noted progress with regards to the implementation of the regional planning initiative and in particular the Interim Planning Schemes that are being developed by all councils.

It was noted that there are some issues with the submitted Schemes and that the State Government is working with councils to finalise these Schemes.

8) Regional Economic Development Plans – Update

The PLGC noted the progress regarding the implementation of the Regional Economic Development Plans.

9) Work program on climate change – Progress

The PLGC noted the progress with the Premier's Local Government Council work program on climate change.

Finance and asset sustainability:

10) Financial and asset management planning project

The PLGC noted that a second phase of the project, developed using surplus funds, will build on momentum and progress in financial sustainability, which is vital for the preparation of legislation.

11) Sustainability Objectives and Indicators report

The PLGC noted that the Sustainability Objectives and Indicators Report 2010-11 was provided to all councils in August 2012.

It was noted that councils have been requested to provide data for the 2011-12 report through the consolidated data collection.

The PLGC also noted that discussions are ongoing to identify improvements to the planning and development indicators for future reports.

12) Valuation and Local Government Rating review

The PLGC noted that consultation with councils and the stakeholders on the draft final Valuation and Local Government Rating Report has now concluded and the report is being finalised for consideration by the Minister for Local Government.

It was also noted that a lot of work is required to build community understanding of rating and that consideration would need to be given to the potential impacts of the review at this point in time.

Intergovernmental collaboration:

I3) Review of second statewide Partnership Agreement (PA) on communication and consultation

The PLGC noted the review of the statewide PA on communication and consultation.

The PLGC approved the revised version of the *Statewide Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation between the State Government, and the Local Government Association of Tasmania on behalf of Tasmanian councils*.

The PA was signed by Ms Giddings MP and Cr Easter.

2012-13 PLGC Work Plan:

I4) 2012-13 Work Plan and priority area context papers

The PLGC approved the updates to the PLGC Work Plan.

The PLGC approved the updates to the context papers

Other business

Cr Flint raised a matter regarding kennel licenses in rural areas, in particular:

- the advertising of kennel license applications;
- the number of dogs before a kennel license is required; and
- the classification of hunting dogs as working dogs.

Cr Flint also raised a number of changes that the Central Highlands Council would like to the *Dog Control Act 2000*. A copy of Cr Flint's letter to Ms Giddings MP on this matter was provided to PLGC members at the meeting.

The meeting noted that the Director of Local Government will consider the issues in conjunction with other amendments to be sought from LGAT.

Meeting closed.

Agenda Item	Action
Other business	The Division of Local Government, Security and Emergency Management to work with the Central Highlands Council on the matter of kennel licenses in rural areas.