
Communiqué

Premier's Local Government Council meeting - 19 May 2016

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) met in Hobart on 19 May 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 that two studies examining the feasibility of voluntary amalgamation and strategic shared services in the south of the State are underway. It was also noted that Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with councils in the North-West and, more recently, the North, to underpin studies into the feasibility of improved regional strategic shared services. It was stressed in the meeting the studies need to be completed as soon as possible to ensure councils are in a good position to investigate how they will be best placed to share services.

There was discussion around waste management including the disposal of used tyres. The PLGC acknowledged the complexities surrounding this issue both locally and nationally and agreed that the State Government and local government should continue to collaborate in order to identify a resolution. This matter also included discussion on the management of State waste and the State Government confirmed it did not support a State waste levy. There was strong support from both the State Government and local government to work collaboratively on a new statewide waste management strategy. A new statewide strategy is needed to deal with issues that are beyond the capacity of regional waste authorities, and for which responsibility is shared across the three tiers of government, the community and the private sector.

In response to the recent State Road Audit Report the PLGC voiced support for the proposed process to enable road trades between the State Government and local government to ensure a rational approach to the management of roads. This process aims to ensure better management of road maintenance and adherence to appropriate standards.

The PLGC noted that the new code of conduct framework for local government is now in place. The framework provides for a new Code of Conduct Panel to deal with complaints and includes tougher penalties for violations of the code of conduct.

The review of the *Local Government Act 1993* was discussed and Minister Gutwein highlighted the importance of all parties actively participating by providing feedback. The discussion paper and further information can be accessed from the Local Government Division (LGD)'s website: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/targeted_review_of_the_local_government_act_1993.

The PLGC accepted changes to the Terms of Reference of the Disability Action Strategy Working Group due to the expanding scope of the implementation phase. The implementation involves collaboration with LGAT, local government representatives, LGD and the Building Control Unit to organise forums with councils, building designers and surveyors; develop and share resources; facilitate training and investigate options for networking.

The meeting was followed by the launch of the Good Governance Guide. The Good Governance Guide is an initiative of the PLGC. It is a resource for Tasmanian local government elected members and aims to improve governance practices within the sector.

The PLGC is next scheduled to meet on 19 October 2016. Further information on the PLGC is available on the LGD website: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/plgc.