

**PREMIER'S
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COUNCIL**

Thursday 19 May 2016, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Premier's Reception Room, Level 11, 15 Murray Street

Minutes

Meeting No. 49

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 Jan Bonde	Mayor, Central Coast Council
Cr Christina Holmdahl	Mayor, West Tamar Council
Cr Deirdre Flint	Mayor, Central Highlands Council
Cr Steve Wass	Mayor, Kingborough Council
Dr Katrena Stephenson	Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Peter Brooks	General Manager, Glenorchy City Council
Sandra Ayton	General Manager, Central Coast Council
Dion Lester	Policy Director, LGAT
State Government	
Hon Will Hodgman MP	Premier (Chair)
Hon Peter Gutwein MP	Minister for Planning and Local Government
Kim Evans	Secretary, Department of State Growth (DSG)
Phillip Hoysted	Director of Local Government, Local Government Division (LGD), Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Tom Humphries	Assistant Adviser to the Premier
Dr Tony McCall	Senior Adviser to Minister Gutwein
Harriet Close	Senior Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC
Dianna Marston	Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC

Apologies	
Cr Daryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council
Cr Craig Perkins	Mayor, Meander Valley Council
Tim Watson	General Manager, Dorset Council
Rebekah Burton	Deputy Secretary, DPAC
Greg Brown	Deputy Director, LGD, DPAC
Guests	
Wes Ford	Director Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)/General Manager EPA Division, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
Stewart Sharples	Manager Economic Analysis, DSG

Welcome (Premier)

The meeting was chaired by the Premier, the Hon. Will Hodgman MP, who welcomed participants to the first PLGC meeting for 2016. Ald Doug Chipman introduced Cr Steve Wass, Mayor, Kingborough Council, who was representing southern councils as an election of a southern mayor to the General Management Committee was underway.

Apologies were noted.

Agenda Item 1: Draft minutes of the PLGC meeting on 9 December 2015 (Premier)

The PLGC endorsed the draft minutes of the PLGC meeting held on 9 December 2015 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and noted all actions arising from the 9 December 2015 meeting had been completed.

Matters of topical interest

Agenda Item 2: Voluntary amalgamations and strategic shared services (Minister Gutwein)

The PLGC noted that there were two studies examining the feasibility of voluntary amalgamations and strategic shared services in the south of the State. Ald Chipman advised that consultants were expected to present a discussion paper to councils participating in the Greater Hobart study at a meeting on 30 May 2016 and that detailed data and analysis had been provided to councils participating in the south-east study at a meeting on 19 May 2016 prior to the PLGC meeting.

It was also noted that Memoranda of Understanding had been signed with councils in the north-west and the north to underpin studies into the feasibility of improved regional strategic

shared services. Both regions were expected to advertise for consultants to undertake the studies in the near future.

Agenda Item 3: Disposal of used tyres (Dion Lester/Wes Ford)

Dion Lester reported that a working group had provided a report to the Minister for Environment, Matthew Groom, in December 2015 and were waiting for a response. Wes Ford advised that the Environmental Protection Authority was assessing several commercial proposals to recycle tyres in Tasmania. It was noted that the proposals would not deal with the issue of the legacy stockpile. Concerns were raised that if a solution was not identified before the collection site at Longford was closed in December 2016 then there may be an increase in illegal dumping of tyres.

The PLGC acknowledged that disposal of used tyres was a challenge nationally as well as locally. Minister Gutwein indicated he would convey to Minister Groom that LGAT was looking forward to a response to the report. Minister Gutwein also advised that investigations were underway regarding whether a new steel recycling plant in the north of the State could also be used to shred used tyres.

Agenda Item 4: Waste management - State waste policy (Wes Ford)

The PLGC noted that the Government was taking action on priority waste issues including:

- hazardous waste;
- waste paint;
- e-waste;
- microplastics;
- plastic bags; and
- packing waste.

The PLGC also noted that the Government 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. The PLGC noted a new statewide strategy was needed to deal with issues that were beyond the capacity of regional waste authorities, and for which responsibility was shared across the three tiers of government, the community and the private sector.

Agenda Item 5: Rating of commercial developments in exempt areas (Minister Gutwein)

Minister Gutwein emphasised the Government's interest in ensuring competitive neutrality and added that the additional costs of developing in exempt areas needed to be taken into account. Cr Deirdre Flint provided the example of Pumphouse Point at Lake St Claire which pays no rates while nearby businesses did pay full commercial rates. Cr Flint highlighted the inequity of this situation from the perspective of the community and businesses.

Minister Gutwein noted that there had been lobbying in the north-east. He indicated that discussions would continue and that he would report back to the PLGC.

Katrena Stephenson brought to the attention of the PLGC an issue that had been raised with her by rating officers. She reported that a council had received legal advice that jetties were exempt from rates, and that this would have a significant impact on councils' rate income. Phillip Hoysted agreed to look at the issue and report back to local government.

Agenda Item 6: State Roads Audit (Stewart Sharples)

The PLGC noted the State Roads Audit Report prepared by Infrastructure Tasmania, and noted the proposal to improve road network efficiency through a process of road swaps between the State Government and local Government. Stewart Sharples informed the PLGC that during the trade period local government would be asked to identify roads to transfer to the State Government and roads they would like to take over to ensure a cost-neutral outcome. Stewart noted that discussions had commenced with the Hobart City Council about the Davey and Macquarie Street couplet and that discussions with the Launceston City would commence soon regarding Bathurst and Wellington Streets. These discussions were being progressed outside of the trade process.

Katrena Stephenson raised the importance of maintenance of tourist roads to ensure safety. Katrena indicated she would like local government to be included on the membership of the T21 Steering Committee. The Premier invited Katrena to prepare a written request for local government to be represented on the T21 Steering Committee and advised that he would consult with the T21 committee.

Agenda Item 7: Sharing economy (Kim Evans)

Kim Evans informed the PLGC of the Government's policy position on the sharing economy. He noted that the main impact in Tasmania was on Uber ride sharing, Airbnb and Stayz. He advised that legislation had been passed in the lower house to allow Uber to operate in Tasmania while a broader review of the taxi, hire-vehicle and ride-sourcing sector was undertaken. The PLGC were informed that comments relating to Airbnb would be collected through the Planning reforms consultation process.

The Premier emphasised that that the Government's priority was to embrace the sharing economy while protecting consumers. He wanted Tasmania to be able to respond and adapt to the changing environment, and to be innovative and flexible.

Minister Gutwein highlighted the fast rate at which the sharing economy was changing. He noted that the 42-night timeframe before dwellings were treated as visitor accommodation proposed in the draft State Planning Provisions was based on statistics from 2015 that showed that the average number of nights stayed per accommodation was 28. Minister Gutwein noted that the average nights per accommodation had increased considerably and consultation was ongoing regarding the proposed 42 nights. The Government informed the PLGC they were conscious of protecting the consumer and promoting occupational health and safety but were also aware of the need to act quickly to seize opportunities for economic growth. The Premier stated Tasmania was currently a leader in the sharing economy.

Agenda Item 8: Code of conduct (Phillip Hoysted)

The PLGC noted the new code of conduct framework contained in the *Local Government Act 1993* had been proclaimed and gazetted. Phillip Hoysted advised that Code of Conduct Panel members had been appointed and one complaint had been received. Most councils were in the process of adopting the model code of conduct framework and developing supporting documentation. LGAT had been assisting with the transition arrangements and communication. The President of LGAT commended the participation of all those involved and wished to pass on his gratitude. The PLGC agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

Governance of local government

Agenda Item 9: Role of Local Government Project: Strategic Action Plan update (Phillip Hoysted)

Phillip Hoysted provided an update on the progress of the Role of the Local Government Project. He reported the implementation was on track to be completed within the three-year period. The PLGC were informed that seven initiatives had been completed and a further 15 were in progress. The PLGC noted a change to membership on the Implementation Committee and agreed to the two suggested changes in the Strategic Action Plan.

Agenda Item 10: Review of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Minister Gutwein)

The PLGC was informed the review of the *Local Government Act 1993* was on schedule and the consultation paper would be available for comment until 10 June 2016. LGAT reported that it was collecting responses from councils and would discuss these with the general managers and mayors.

Agenda Item 11: Disability Action Strategy (Harriet Close)

The PLGC was provided with an update on the implementation of the Disability Action Strategy which included a collaborative approach with LGAT and councils to organise forums for councils. The PLGC was informed that forums for building designers and surveyors were also being organised through collaboration from the Building Control Unit and councils. The PLGC accepted changes to the Terms of Reference which included the implementation of the strategy and an increase in the duration of the working group until the end of 2016. Katrena Stephenson informed the PLGC that the Australian Local Government Association is in the process of updating the *Disability Discrimination Act, a guide for local government, action plans*, originally written in 1995.

Planning and environment

Agenda Item 12: Statewide Planning (Minister Gutwein)

The Minister informed the PLGC that the consultation period for the draft State Planning Provisions concluded on 18 May 2016 and that 300 representations had been received. The Minister commended the consultative approach taken by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. LGAT also stated the good working relationships during the process had aided in the discussion of some complex issues and local government had provided practical solution focussed representations.

Agenda Item 13: Work Plan 2015 – 2018 (Phillip Hoysted)

The PLGC were informed about the new format of the Work Plan which was now in three sections and included a section on achievements. The PLGC were asked to contribute suggestions for items on the Work Plan prior to the next PLGC meeting.

Agenda Item 14: Other business and meeting close (Premier)

There were no other new items of business. The meeting was closed at 3.40pm.

Agenda Item 15: Good Governance Guide (Premier)

The PLGC meeting was followed by the launch of the Good Governance Guide by the Premier, the Minister and the President of LGAT. The Good Governance Guide was an initiative of the PLGC and aimed to provide a resource for Tasmanian local government elected members to improve governance practices within the sector.

Agenda Item	Actions From PLGC Meeting on 19 May April 2016	Who	Due by	Complete
3	Report on progress towards a solution for the management of used tyres.	EPA	Next PLGC meeting	
4	Work collaboratively on a State waste management strategy.	LGAT EPA	ongoing	
5	Continue discussions related to the payment of rates in exempt areas.	Minister Gutwein	Next PLGC meeting	
5	Provide feedback to LGAT on the rating of jetties.	LGD	Next PLGC meeting	
6	Provide a written request for inclusion of local government on the T2I Steering Committee to the Premier.	LGAT	Next PLGC meeting	
9	Update the SAP with accepted changes.	LGD	Next PLGC meeting	
11	Update the Disability Action Strategy Working Group Terms of Reference with accepted changes.	LGD	Next PLGC meeting	Yes
13	Provide suggestions for items to be added to the Work Plan.	All	21 Sep 2016	