

Protocol Agreement
For The
PREMIER'S LOCAL
GOVERNMENT COUNCIL



Department of Premier and Cabinet

December 2004



PREAMBLE

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) was established in 2000. The PLGC comprises the Premier as Chair and the eight elected representatives who make up the General Management Committee of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT). The primary objective of the PLGC is to work collaboratively on strategic, high level policy matters to promote Tasmania's economic, social and environmental wellbeing in a sustainable manner.

Since its inception the PLGC has been a valuable forum in facilitating greater cooperation between the State and Local Government. It has provided the framework for the two spheres of government to meet, debate and make decisions on matters of statewide significance.

The PLGC meets regularly throughout the year and has developed and implemented statewide agreements focussing on financial relations, waste management, simplifying planning schemes and improved consultation and communication between the two spheres of government.

This document is a revision of the original Protocol Agreement document developed in 2000. The new Protocol Agreement is to provide the framework for ongoing co-operation between the two spheres of government.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the work of the PLGC:

- The PLGC reflects the desire for both spheres of government to work together to progress issues of State significance;
- All activities undertaken by the PLGC should continue to strengthen the relationship between the two spheres of government;
- The parties, State and Local Government, will respect the roles and functions of each other and should work in an open and transparent manner;
- Local Government will aspire to have a single position when working with the State Government through the PLGC;
- State and Local Government will, where possible, develop a unified position on issues involving the Commonwealth Government, in order to secure the most beneficial outcomes for Tasmania.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The PLGC's terms of reference are to:

- _ Contribute to the achievement of the Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks;
- _ Work collaboratively on strategic, high level policy issues to promote Tasmania's economic, social and environmental wellbeing in a sustainable manner;
- _ Provide a forum for sharing information and discussion;
- _ Oversee the development and implementation of formal statewide partnership agreements on key issues of statewide significance as identified and agreed by the parties;
- _ Promote the integration of the Partnerships Program at the bilateral, regional and statewide level where prudent and feasible;
- _ Oversee the development and implementation of tripartite agreements between the Australian, State and Local Governments on identified issues of mutual concern.

KEY PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- _ PLGC meetings will be chaired by the Premier;
- _ The Premier may invite other Ministers to participate in or become a member of the PLGC if an issue relevant to their portfolio is included on the PLGC agenda;
- _ The Premier and President of LGAT may jointly invite representatives of the Australian Government and non-government organisations to participate in the deliberations of the PLGC;
- _ The PLGC will closely monitor its decisions and have a clear performance reporting role;
- _ Discussions held within the PLGC and its working committees are confidential;

- _ A communiqué outlining major decisions and progress on projects overseen by the PLGC will be made publicly available following meetings;
- _ The PLGC will report on its performance to Parliament each year;
- _ The PLGC will be supported by an Officials Committee.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

The PLGC will be supported by an Officials Committee comprising senior officers from Local and State Government. Membership of the Committee will be divided equally between State and Local Government. State Government representation on the Officials Committee will be determined on the basis of the issues included in the PLGC work program.

The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, or his/her nominee, will chair meetings of the Officials Committee.

The Officials Committee will take its direction from the PLGC. Its support may be provided in a number of ways. In some cases, it could act as the forum for developing draft statewide agreements for consideration of PLGC. In others, it could be given responsibility for developing agenda papers for discussion by the PLGC.

The Officials Committee will consider and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the agenda and accompanying papers prior to them being submitted to the PLGC.

WORK PROGRAM

Items nominated by Local Government should be submitted through the LGAT General Management Committee.

For items nominated by the State Government, the Premier will write to Ministers seeking their recommendations on issues for possible inclusion on the agenda.

The Officials Committee will consider all proposals and identify those it considers most appropriate for consideration by the PLGC.

The work program will be approved by the PLGC.

AGENDA

The agenda will be prepared by the Secretariat. The agenda and associated papers will be made available to PLGC members at least 7 days prior to meetings.

The Agenda for each meeting will include a 'Matters of Topical Interest' section. Members are able to raise any issue for discussion, provided they satisfy the PLGC terms of reference, under this agenda item.

SECRETARIAT

The Local Government Division will provide the Secretariat for both the PLGC and Officials Committee.

The Secretariat will be responsible for co-ordinating meetings, calling for agenda items, managing the distribution of agenda papers on a timely basis, co-ordinating the working groups and monitoring progress of project on the work program.

WORKING GROUPS

The PLGC may establish working groups to work on issues included on the work program. The members of the working groups shall be appropriate State and Local Government officers. The working groups will be responsible for progressing all aspects of the assigned work and for reporting on progress.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

It is the responsibility of PLGC members to ensure they are in a position to appropriately represent their constituent members at meetings.

Issues of a highly sensitive or binding nature may require prior consideration by governments at both the Cabinet and individual Local Government level.

An important element to the success of the Premier's Local Government Council will be the full involvement of all councils in the process. Local Government representatives on the Council and Officials Committee must have a clear and detailed knowledge of the position of councils on matters under consideration.

Issues of a highly sensitive or binding nature may be dealt with through the agency of a Members' Conference, a reference group framework or any other mechanism considered appropriate by the LGAT Management Committee to achieve a local government position.

LGAT will obtain the agreement of member councils before expressing endorsement of particular positions on the issues under consideration. Details of issues considered by the PLGC, and progress with development of particular issues, will be conveyed to all councils by the LGAT at the completion of each Council Meeting.

SIGNATURES

The undersigned agreed to the protocol arrangements identified above

SIGNED on for and on behalf of
the Local Government Association of
Tasmania by

SIGNED on for and on behalf of the
Government of Tasmania

Lynn Mason
President

Paul Lennon MHA
Premier

Date

Date