

Minutes  
Meeting No. 38  
Hobart, 26 April 2012

**PARTICIPANTS**

**State Government**

Lara Giddings, Chair      Premier  
Bryan Green              Minister for Local Government

**Local Government Association of Tasmania**

Cr Deirdre Flint              Mayor, Central Highlands Council; Acting President, Local  
Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)  
Ald Damon Thomas          Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council  
Ald Jock Campbell              Clarence City Council  
Ald Lynn Laycock              Devonport City Council  
Cr Barry Jarvis                Mayor, Dorset Council  
Cr Don Thwaites                Mayor, Kentish Council

**Officials in attendance**

**Local Government**

Mr Allan Garcia              Chief Executive Officer, LGAT  
Dr Katrena Stephenson      Policy Director, LGAT  
Mr Ian McCallum              General Manager, Devonport City Council  
Mr Nick Heath                 General Manager, Hobart City Council

**State Government**

Ms Rebekah Burton          Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet  
(DPAC)  
Mr Mathew Healey            Director, Division of Local Government, Security and  
Emergency Management (DLGSEM), DPAC  
Mr Norm McIlfratrick        Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and  
Resources (DIER)  
Mr Greg Alomes                Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning  
Commission  
Mr Bronte Price                Director of Regional Development, Department of  
Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (DEDTA)

Mr Greg Brown	Deputy Director, DLGSEM, DPAC
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 Lisa Caswell	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
Mr Rhys Edwards	Secretary, DPAC
Cr Barry Easter	Mayor, West Tamar Council; President, LGAT
Mr Mark Kelleher	Secretary, DEDTA

The Premier welcomed members of the PLGC to the first meeting of 2012 and noted the apologies. It was noted by members that Mayor van Zetten and Mr Dobrzynski had attempted to participate in the meeting by teleconference but were unable to do so due to technical issues.

### **Agenda item 1) Minutes of the PLGC meeting on 13 December 2011**

The PLGC approved the minutes as a true and accurate record of its 13 December 2011 meeting.

### **Agenda item 2) Matters of topical interest**

The Acting President of LGAT advised that members would like an update on the state of the economy and the Tasmanian Forests IGA. The Premier and the Minister for Local Government updated members on the many issues facing the Tasmanian economy and the progress made under the Forests IGA, including the allocation of funding made available through the IGA process. Members discussed the issues.

### **Agenda item 3) Review of Protocol Agreement**

The PLGC considered a revised Protocol Agreement and agreed to sign the revised Agreement at the August 2012 PLGC meeting.

### **Agenda item 4) 2012-13 PLGC Work Plan**

The PLGC approved the initial priorities identified in the draft work plan and attached context papers, and noted that feedback will be sought from members in advance of further consideration of the role and priorities of the PLGC within the context papers at the August 2012 PLGC meeting.

The initial priorities approved by the PLGC were:

- Identification of high-level principles regarding the role of local government;
- Overseeing an analysis of the common existing roles of councils, including non-statutory functions;
- Identifying opportunities for promoting greater clarity regarding the role of local government in selected areas;
- Consideration of an appropriate State framework for promoting financial and asset sustainability at the local government level;
- Continuing to oversee the development and refinement of the sustainability objectives and indicators;
- Reviewing the Statewide Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation; and
- Identifying opportunities for regional or statewide partnerships.

It was agreed that timeframes and resource allocations would be included in the work plan for each priority where possible.

#### **Agenda item 5) Review of miscellaneous legislative issues**

The PLGC noted that it is proposed to include a number of miscellaneous amendments in a *Local Government (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2012* which is likely to be introduced in the 2012 Spring Session of Parliament.

Mr Allan Garcia noted that the bill is welcomed by the local government sector and that it would be useful to do something similar on a regular basis.

#### **Agenda item 6) Compulsory voting**

The PLGC noted that the Hobart City Council has written to the Premier requesting that compulsory voting be introduced if not for the whole state then specifically for the Hobart municipal area. Members also noted that the House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development is currently working in response to terms of reference related to local government elections.

The Premier advised that she has asked DLGSEM to work with the Hobart City Council, LGAT and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to explore the appropriateness and practicalities of the proposal, taking into account the work of the Community Development Committee.

#### **Agenda item 7) Review of councillor numbers**

The PLGC noted information on the progress of the Local Government Board Review of Councillor Numbers.

#### **Agenda item 8) Regional planning initiative**

The PLGC noted progress with the implementation of the Regional Planning Initiative. Mr Greg Alomes provided a verbal update and noted the importance of communication with the public as new planning schemes begin to operate.

#### **Agenda item 9) Swimming pool fences**

The PLGC noted the collaborative approach propose by the State Government, LGAT and Royal Life Saving Society Australia – Tasmania to develop public awareness of the need for pool owners to build fences compliant with Australian Standard AS 1926-2007 around home swimming pools.

### **Agenda item 10) Aboriginal and dual naming**

The PLGC noted that an Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy is currently being prepared for consideration by Cabinet, by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), with the support of DPAC, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Nomenclature Board. It was noted that the Draft Policy will be circulated to Local Government in April/May for comment and input on any potential implications and issues.

### **Agenda item 11) State of the Sector presentations**

The PLGC noted that state of the sector presentations had been scheduled in each region for the end of April and early May 2012. Mr Healey advised that the Burnie presentation had been cancelled due to low numbers, although a number of people from the North-West were attending the Launceston presentation.

### **Agenda item 12) Sustainability Objectives and Indicators report**

The PLGC noted that the sustainability objectives and indicators report is being prepared and will be circulated for the consideration of members out-of-session.

### **Agenda item 13) Valuation and Local Government Rating Review**

The PLGC noted that the timeframe for the Valuation and Local Government Rating Review has been extended in order to undertake modelling and analysis of rating outcomes for every council to ensure that councils can understand the implications of any recommendations.

### **Agenda item 14) Regional economic development plans**

The PLGC noted information provided on the Regional Economic Development Plans.

**Meeting closed.**