

**PREMIER'S
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COUNCIL**

Wednesday 15 December 2016, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Premier's Reception Room, Level 11, 15 Murray Street

Meeting Minutes

Meeting No. 51

PLGC Members	
Hon Will Hodgman MP (Chair)	Premier
Hon Peter Gutwein MP	Minister for Planning and 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 Daryl Quilliam	Mayor, Circular Head Council
Cr Jan Bonde	Mayor, Central Coast Council
Cr Christina Holmdahl	Mayor, West Tamar Council
Cr Tony Bisdee	Mayor, Southern Midlands Council
Cr Craig Perkins	Mayor, Meander Valley Council
Ald Heather Chong	Clarence City Council
Officials	
Andrew Paul	General Manager, Clarence City Council
Sandra Ayton	General Manager, Central Coast Council
Tim Watson	General Manager, Dorset Council
Dr Katrena Stephenson	Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Dion Lester	Policy Director, LGAT
Kim Evans	Secretary, Department of State Growth (DSG)
Dr Tony McCall	Senior Adviser to Minister Gutwein
Ruth McArdle	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Alex Tay	Director of Local Government, Local Government Division (LGD), DPAC

Greg Brown	Deputy Director of Local Government, LGD, DPAC
Harriet Close	Senior Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC
Dianna Marston (Secretariat)	Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC
Guests	
John Mollison	Deputy Secretary, Environment Protection Authority, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)
Nick Evans	Deputy Secretary Corrections, Department of Justice
John Perry	Coordinator General, DSG
Apologies	
Peter Brooks	General Manager, Glenorchy City Council
Vince Taskunas	Deputy Chief of Staff, Premier's Office

Welcome

The Premier, the Hon. Will Hodgman MP, welcomed participants to the final Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting for 2016. He also introduced and welcomed Alex Tay to his first PLGC meeting.

LGAT President, Cr Doug Chipman, welcomed Cr Tony Bisdee to his first meeting of the PLGC. Cr Bisdee had replaced recently retired mayor, Cr Deidre Flint, as the mayor representing small southern councils.

It was noted that Andrew Paul was standing in for Peter Brooks who was an apology as was Vince Taskunas.

Agenda Item 1: Draft minutes of the PLGC meeting on 19 October 2016

The PLGC endorsed the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and noted that the actions arising from the meeting had been completed or would be addressed at this PLGC meeting and the first meeting in 2017.

Matters of topical interest

Agenda Item 2: *Building Act 2016*

Katrena Stephenson and Dion Lester raised concerns that local government would not be ready to implement the new legislation due to the late arrival of the legislation and lack of guidelines which were released on 30 November 2016.

Nick Evans advised that a dedicated resource would be provided to assist with issues as they arose. The PLGC agreed that a review at a later date would be worthwhile and that an update be given at the next PLGC meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Waste management

John Mollison informed the PLGC that the LGAT Waste Management Reference Group meeting was constructive and that they would consult with industry about possible strategies. He reported that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) supported a regulatory approach to the long-term management of waste tyres which would include prohibiting the stockpiling of waste tyres of more than 100 tonnes per annum unless assessed and approved as a Level 2 approval by the EPA Board. This approach was designed to integrate market and regulatory mechanisms.

John also commented that a development application for processing used tyres, which had been lodged with the Northern Midlands Council, was unlikely to be considered until February 2017. It was noted that during the period in which the Longford site was no longer allowed to collect tyres and the development application being considered that Barwicks would likely collect a greater proportion of tyres and that retailers would have some capacity to store waste tyres. John advised that EPA was prepared to take action were there any reports of dumped tyres.

Agenda Item 4: Voluntary amalgamations and strategic shared services

The PLGC noted that the south-east councils (Clarence City, Sorell, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman) were considering options for amalgamations and strategic shared services and would commence public consultation early in 2017. The final report on potential mergers in the Greater Hobart study (Hobart City, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and Kingborough Council) was expected to be available later in December 2016. Consultants had been engaged in the North and North-West and studies into strategic shared services had commenced. The PLGC discussed the conservative approach to calculating savings that consultants had taken in both studies in the South.

Agenda Item 5: Code of conduct

Greg Brown provided an update on the implementation of the code of conduct framework. He reported that eleven complaints had been received and eight of these had been finalised. Of those finalised one was referred to another agency, two were dismissed, and five had been determined by the code of conduct panels. The three remaining complaints were yet to be determined. Nine of the complaints were made under the previous code of conduct framework. It was reported to the PLGC that costs under the new framework were similar to costs under the previous code of conduct. It was noted that the processes and resources were continually being reviewed and improved as issues arose and that training had been provided to members of code of conduct panels.

Following the update, there was discussion around processes associated with the initial assessment undertaken by panel chairs. It was suggested that there may be value in seeking additional information as part of the initial assessment to gather context around the complaint. Katrena advised that this stage of the process had been given detailed consideration during the

development of the new code of conduct framework and committed to provide further feedback as to why the process was this way.

It was noted that a review of the implementation of the code of conduct framework would be undertaken in 2017.

Strategic priorities

Agenda Item 6: Review of the *Local Government Act 1993*

Recommendations from the review of the Local Government Act 1993, which were endorsed by the Minister, were to be considered by Cabinet on 20 December 2016. The PLGC were informed that consultation would commence in early February and legislative changes would be tabled in April/May 2017. The Minister agreed to provide a summary of the recommendations to the sector in early January 2017.

Agenda Item 7: Statewide planning

The Minister informed the PLGC that Mayors had been contacted about the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and that he was expecting to announce the finalised State Planning Provisions at the end of January 2017 before moving onto Local Provision Schedules.

Agenda Item 8: Work Plan 2015 – 2018

The PLGC noted the updates to the Work Plan. There were no suggestions or comments.

Agenda Item 9: Other business and meeting close

Katrena Stephenson enquired as to when the review of councillor allowances was expected to take place.

The Premier advised the Disability Action Strategy working group had their last meeting in November and a positive outcome was that several of the local government members agreed to continue to work together to promote and improve disability access.

Katrena Stephenson advised the PLGC of the positive report on local government from the Auditor General which was tabled in Parliament which demonstrated how local government continued to improve.

Katrena also proposed that the State undertake an analysis of new building and planning regulations to make sure that there was alignment.

The Coordinator General, John Perry, gave a presentation to the PLGC regarding the role of his office and provided a case study that focussed on how his office engaged with local government. He used the example of the Kangaroo Bay development in which there had been Chinese investment in a hospitality education and training facility. The Minister encouraged local government to ensure they were ready to take advantage of investment opportunities in their municipalities.

Meeting closed 3.37pm

Agenda Item	Actions From PLGC Meeting on 15 December 2016	Who	When	Complete
Previous meeting	Follow up with SAP Implementation Committee about how to review and update the SAP.	Harriet Close	PLGC meeting 17 May 2017	
2	Provide an update on the implementation of the <i>Building Act 2016</i> .	LGD DOJ	PLGC meeting 17 May 2017	
5	Provide further information regarding initial assessments undertaken by code of conduct panel chairs.	LGAT	PLGC meeting 17 May 2017	
6	Communicate recommendations from the review of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> to the local government sector.	LGD	January 2017	
9	Provide the suggestion to DOJ that there be an analysis of planning and building regulations to ensure that they are aligned.	LGD	PLGC meeting 17 May 2017	