

**PREMIER'S
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COUNCIL**

Wednesday 28 June 2017, 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm
Premier's Reception Room, Level 11, 15 Murray Street

Meeting Minutes

Meeting No. 52

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 (proxy)	General Manager, Clarence City Council
Dr Katrena Stephenson	Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Dion Lester	Policy Director, LGAT
Bob Rutherford (proxy)	Deputy Secretary, Industry and Business Development, Department of State Growth (DSG)
Ruth McArdle	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Alex Tay	Director of Local Government, Local Government Division (LGD), DPAC
Harriet Close	Senior Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC
Dianna Marston (Secretariat)	Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC
Guests	

Dr Tony McCall	Senior Adviser to Minister Gutwein
Ella Woods-Joyce (proxy)	Deputy Chief of Staff, Ministerial offices
Greg Brown	Deputy Director of Local Government, LGD, DPAC
Trish Scholwin	Policy Analyst, LGD, DPAC
Alasdair Wells	Section head - Policy and Support Services EPA Division, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)
Brad Arkell	Senior Policy Officer, EPA, DPIPWE
Dale Webster	General Manager, Consumer Building and Occupational Services, Department of Justice (DOJ)
Michael Askey-Doran	Manager (invasive species), DPIPWE
Brian Risby	Manager Planning Policy Unit, Office of the Secretary
Apologies	
Peter Brooks	General Manager, Glenorchy City Council
Sandra Ayton	General Manager, Central Coast Council
Tim Watson	General Manager, Dorset Council
Paul West (proxy)	General Manager, Devonport City Council
Kim Evans	Secretary, DSG
Vince Taskunas	Deputy Chief of Staff, Premier's Office

Welcome

The Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, welcomed participants to the first Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting for 2017. The Premier and the President of LGAT both spoke of the shared commitment and goodwill of both levels of Government to work across a broad range of issues important to Tasmanians, notwithstanding there will be times where there may be a difference of view on a specific matter.

It was noted that Andrew Paul was standing in for Peter Brooks who was an apology; Sandra Ayton and her proxy, Paul West, were both apologies. Tim Watson was also an apology. Ella Woods-Joyce stood in for Vince Taskunas. Bob Rutherford participated in Kim Evans absence.

Agenda Item 1: Draft minutes of the PLGC meeting on 15 December 2016

The PLGC endorsed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 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.

Strategic priorities

Agenda Item 2: Water and sewerage reform

The Minister advised that the three Bills that would facilitate the reforms were scheduled to be introduced to Parliament in the spring 2017 session. The Bills are intended to be provided concurrently to councils for consultation and to the Legislative Council Select Committee that is inquiring into the proposed transfer of ownership of TasWater.

The PLGC noted the Minister's update.

Agenda Item 3: Voluntary amalgamations and strategic shared services

Alex Tay advised that the feasibility study on strategic shared service arrangements among northern councils was scheduled to be completed in the near future. Councils in the North-West are awaiting a further draft from the consultants.

Ald Heather Chong informed the PLGC that the Clarence City Council was scheduled to make a decision at its next council meeting regarding how to proceed with respect to both the Greater Hobart and South East feasibility studies. Other councils that had participated in the south east study were at various stages of consulting with their communities.

The Lord Mayor expressed concern over the barriers to progressing potential mergers identified in the Greater Hobart study (Hobart City, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and Kingborough Council). She indicated her desire for discussions to proceed at officer level and noted that there may be benefits arising from a strategic alliance between the Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils at a minimum. The Minister reaffirmed his commitment to no progression of merger discussions with those councils who did not have a democratically elected council in place.

Mayor Christina Holmdahl told the PLGC that the West Tamar and George Town Councils were expecting a report into the feasibility of voluntary amalgamation in the following weeks.

The PLGC noted that common IT systems has been identified across all studies (voluntary mergers and shared services) as a key enabler to maximising benefits for ratepayers.

The PLGC noted the update.

Agenda Item 4: Review of the *Local Government Act 1993*

Alex Tay informed the PLGC that the *Local Government (Targeted Review) Amendment Bill 2017* was provided for consultation from 24 March 2017 to 5 May 2017. Alex highlighted some areas for discussion with the PLGC where there had been no clear consensus through the consultation: Ministerial Orders, the role of mayors, and the capability of elected members. The PLGC discussed the merits of executive power for mayor and their given functions. Katrena Stephenson advised that LGAT had sought further input from the local government sector to assist Government finalise the Bill.

The PLGC noted the update.

Agenda Item 5: Statewide planning

The Minister informed the PLGC that \$100,000 had been offered to each region to support the implementation of the Local Provision Schedules. Individual councils could also contact the State Government for assistance if required.

The Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Transitional Provisions) Bill 40 of 2017 was expected to be tabled in Parliament in August 2017.

Brian Risby provided information on actions that would assist councils such as a State Government funded study into the mapping of rural areas. He said an audit had been completed and a project was underway to assist councils to transition to the State Scheme.

The Minister informed the PLGC that the Guidelines and Ministerial Advisory Statements required by Local Government in order to commence development of their Local Provision Schedules was provided earlier in the week. It was agreed there could be benefit in the State Government and local government working together to build better community understanding of planning processes and law and to ensure communication methods are appropriate to help the community to understand the implications of the changes to the planning legislation.

Mr Risby also commented that DOJ's website would be updated with information that was easier to understand.

The PLGC noted the update.

Agenda Item 6: Role of the Local Government Project: Strategic Action Plan review

The PLGC noted the paper and evaluation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), and agreed to terminate the SAP and transfer any remaining strategic actions to the PLGC work plan.

Agenda Item 7: Director of Local Government report

The PLGC noted the report provided by the Director and agreed to receive a report at each PLGC meeting or at a minimum every six months. The PLGC also agreed that a summary version of the report should be provided as an attachment to the PLGC Communique and placed on the LGD website.

The PLGC discussed councillor depth and experience, and particularly the need to increase the diversity of persons seeking to be elected. The PLGC noted there may be an opportunity for collaborative efforts before the 2018 election to encourage and discuss range of candidates with good experience to stand.

Matters of topical interest

Agenda Item 8: Waste management

Alasdair Wells and Brad Arkell provided an update to the PLGC on the progress made through collaboration with the LGAT Waste Management Reference Group and other industry bodies to reach agreement around state and regional waste management priorities. A draft plan will be

presented to the Minister for Environment and Parks for consideration. A formal waste management plan will also be provided to local government during the consultation period.

Agenda Item 9: Cat Management Plan

Michael Askey-Doran informed the PLGC that the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Jeremy Rockliff MP, launched the Cat Management Plan the afternoon of the PLGC meeting. Mr Askey-Doran advised that officers have been allocated to each region to work with local government and the community. Desexing and microchipping of cats was compulsory under the Plan to limit the number of cats. Registration and confinement of cats was not compulsory but could be implemented through council by-laws. Katrena Stephenson welcomed the provision of resources to assist with implementation of the Plan.

Mr Askey-Doran informed the PLGC that work would now commence on amendments to the *Cat Management Act 2009* (the Act). The issue of feral cats was addressed through biosecurity legislation. This legislation would be amended at the same time as the Act.

Michael informed the PLGC, that while not finalised, the Ten Lives Cat Centre was planning to expand its number of education officers under its Edu.Cat program to three officers across the State. He said the nature of the positions would be influenced by the roles that were developed as part of the State Government's announcement of \$1.44 million over four years to support the implementation of the Plan.

The PLGC noted the report.

Agenda Item 10: Review of councillor allowances update

The Minister informed the PLGC that the terms of reference for the Board of Inquiry into a review of allowances for local government councillors had been approved and that the Tasmanian Industrial Commission would fulfil the role of a Board of Inquiry.

The PLGC noted the report.

Agenda Item 11: *Building Act 2016*

Dale Webster informed the PLGC that calls about the implementation of the *Building Act 2016* to the dedicated phone resource had declined. He reported that most councils had been provided with education sessions and that he was meeting fortnightly with LGAT representatives to discuss any issues and listen to feedback from the sector. Mr Webster advised He said audits would be rolled out for quality assurance and compliance. DOJ's website was also being reviewed to improve the accessibility of the information.

The PLGC noted the report.

Agenda Item 12: Code of conduct review

The Director informed the PLGC that a review of the code of conduct had commenced. LGAT had released a consultation paper for feedback from the local government sector and LGD was also seeking input from the Code of Conduct Panel. Doug Chipman welcomed this collaborative approach.

The PLGC noted the report.

Agenda Item 13: Work Plan 2015 – 2018

The PLGC noted the updates to the work plan. The PLGC discussed economic development, and how this could be approached in the work plan. Bob Rutherford provided the PLGC with some background and information regarding how the Department of State Growth currently operates and interacts with local government, which has seen a change of focus to working together on projects rather than focusing on long term plans. Mr Rutherford provided a snapshot of work underway to promote economic development across Tasmania's regions. The PLGC endorsed the snapshot to be included at each PLGC meeting and agreed not to pursue the development of a memorandum of understanding as currently listed on the work plan. Dion Lester commented that LGAT was continuing to work with Skills Tasmania to develop training and education to increase the capability of local government in economic development.

Agenda Item 14: Disability Action Strategy evaluation

The PLGC noted the paper provided on the evaluation of the Disability Action Strategy.

Agenda Item 15: Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Scheme

The PLGC noted the paper provided on the Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Scheme.

Agenda Item 16: Other business and meeting close

The Premier asked the PLGC to endorse the proposal from the PLGC Officials that the next PLGC meeting scheduled for the 30 August 2017 be cancelled due to the short time period between the first two PLGC meetings. The PLGC endorsed this suggestion with the proviso that the PLGC would reconvene if an urgent matter needed to be addressed before the meeting on the 14 December 2017.

Meeting closed 5.35 pm

Agenda Item	Actions From PLGC Meeting on 28 June 2017	Who	When	Complete
4	Provide the collated feedback from local government to LGD about Ministerial Orders, role of mayors and capabilities of elected members in relation to targeted review of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .	LGAT	July 2017	yes
6	Terminate the Strategic Action Plan and remove it from PLGC agenda.	LGD	July 2017	yes
7	Provide Director of Local Government Report to PLGC.	LGD	December 2017	on agenda
13	Provide a report 'Supporting economic development across Tasmania's regions: a snapshot' at each PLGC meeting.	PPU	14 December 2017	on agenda
16	Cancel the PLGC 30 August 2017 meeting unless an urgent item needs addressing.	LGD		yes