

Minutes
Meeting No. 48
Hobart, 9 December 2015

PARTICIPANTS

State Government

Hon Will Hodgman MP Premier, Chair
Hon Peter Gutwein MP Minister for Planning and Local Government

Local Government Association of Tasmania

Ald Doug Chipman President, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
Cr Daryl Quilliam Mayor, Circular Head Council; Vice President, LGAT
Cr Jan Bonde Mayor, Central Coast Council
Cr Deirdre Flint Mayor, Central Highlands Council
Ald Kristie Johnston Mayor, Glenorchy City Council
Cr Craig Perkins Mayor, Meander Valley Council
Cr Christina Holmdahl Mayor, West Tamar Council

Officials in attendance:

Local Government

Dr Katrena Stephenson Chief Executive Officer, LGAT
Mr Dion Lester Policy Director, LGAT
Mr Peter Brooks General Manager, Glenorchy City Council
Ms Sandra Ayton General Manager, Central Coast Council

State Government

Ms Rebekah Burton	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Tom Humphries	Adviser, Office of the Premier
Dr Tony McCall	Adviser, Office of the Minister for Planning and Local Government
Mr Phillip Hoysted	Director of Local Government, Local Government Division (LGD), Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Greg Brown	Deputy Director, LGD
Ms Harriet Close	Senior Policy Analyst, LGD
Dr Anthony Reid	Policy Analyst, LGD

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Kim Evans, Secretary, Department of State Growth;
- Alderman Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor, Hobart City Council; and
- Tim Watson, General Manager, Dorset Council.

Welcome

The Premier welcomed members to the final Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting for 2015 and welcomed Cr Christina Holmdahl to her first PLGC meeting.

Apologies were noted.

Agenda item

1) Draft Minutes of the PLGC meeting on 21 October 2015

The PLGC accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2015 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters of Topical Interest

2) Review of the PLGC Protocol Agreement

The PLGC noted that the Protocol Agreement had been updated to provide greater clarity around the Key Procedural Matters, Terms of Reference and the process for determining appropriate agenda items.

The PLGC endorsed the Protocol Agreement provided the Key Procedural Matters included a commitment by the PLGC to release a communique after each PLGC meeting along with the minutes.

Action: Amend Protocol Agreement and arrange for it to be signed out of session.

3) Voluntary Amalgamations / Shared Services

The Minister expressed his appreciation to all councils for the way they had engaged on the voluntary amalgamations / shared services initiative.

The LGAT President informed the PLGC that with respect to the South-East Councils' proposals, recommendations from the tender panel on the preferred consultant would go to the relevant councils' December 2015 meetings. The panel's recommendations for the Greater Hobart Councils proposal would not be considered until the relevant councils' January 2016 meetings.

Councillor Deirdre Flint advised the PLGC that a proposal including the Central Highlands, Brighton, Southern Midlands and Derwent Valley Councils could be provided to the Minister for consideration in February 2016.

4) Review of the Local Government Act 1993

The PLGC noted that consultation on the draft Terms of Reference for the review had been undertaken with key stakeholders.

The PLGC endorsed the Terms of Reference for the review.

Mr Peter Brooks noted that there were other provisions within the Act that could be improved and asked if the Steering Committee would consider matters outside of the Terms of Reference. The Minister asked for a list of matters that local government would like considered to be provided to the Steering Committee for consideration.

Action: Local government to collate matters that it would like the Steering Committee to consider.

5) Waste Management – Disposal of Used Tyres

The PLGC noted that Minister Groom, in his capacity as Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, had convened a working group to derive solutions for the waste tyre stockpile located at Longford and the ongoing accumulation of waste tyres in Tasmania.

As the LGAT member on the working group, Mr Dion Lester informed the PLGC that the working group had made good progress in its two meetings held since being formed. Mr Lester informed the PLGC that working group discussions had focussed around how the current tyre disposal levy or service charge could be formalised to provide a revenue stream to finance appropriate recycling of waste tyres as they accumulate. The working group had not had the opportunity to derive solutions with respect to the legacy issue of the existing tyre stockpile at Longford.

6) Rating of Airports

The LGAT president informed the PLGC that the disagreement between the Clarence City Council and the Hobart Airport was heading towards a resolution. The Clarence City Council had commenced work on developing a MOU with the Commonwealth to develop and provide codified rate equivalent estimates derived by taking the unique circumstances of airport operations into consideration.

The Clarence City Council and Hobart Airport had agreed to set up an independent valuation and it appeared from discussions with the Commonwealth Minister that the independent value would be binding.

7) Rating of Properties on Exempt Land

LGAT informed the PLGC that the issue was one of equity more than the forgone rates and it had been raised by councils in the context of the State Government's Expressions of Interest process which may lead to developments in national parks.

The Minister agreed to discuss the matter with Minister Groom as the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage and responsible for the Expression of Interest developments in national parks and reserves to which the matter predominately relates.

Action: Minister Gutwein to discuss the rates payments by operators in national parks with Minister Groom.

Governance of Local Government

8) Strategic Action Plan Implementation Committee Update

The PLGC noted the update on the initiatives completed by the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Implementation Committee. The PLGC agreed to amendments to the SAP that included:

- incorporating initiatives 10, 15 and 23 into initiative 1 as they all related to economic development; and
- moving initiative 14, related to consolidated penalties and enforcement, to a low priority on the SAP implementation schedule.

Action: Amend the SAP in line with the decisions of the PLGC.

8a) MOU on Key Regulatory Requirements

The PLGC noted that a MoU on Key Regulatory Requirements had been signed by the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Tasmania in line with the SAP. The MOU aimed to deliver better outcomes for Tasmanian communities through clearer and more streamlined legislation and improved compliance.

An initial schedule related to public health was developed under the MoU. The objectives of this schedule would be achieved through the implementation of an agreed set of actions, which include:

- develop and deliver prioritised fact sheets, policies, procedures, guidance, form and letter templates, and news via a system that is readily available; and
- identify and prioritise skills development needs and facilitate capacity building opportunities through training courses, workshops or other appropriate means.

8b) Continuous Improvement Framework

Mr Phillip Hoysted informed the PLGC that the project had changed in its focus in response to local government feedback. The project was likely to:

- enhance the provision of raw data to councils; and
- develop themed reporting on key topics and issues rather than broad reporting on council performance against a set suite of indicators and benchmarks as was currently undertaken.

Mr Hoysted stated that the CIF was designed to build on the existing performance measurement framework and provide support and resources for councils in their pursuit of a continuous improvement culture.

9) Disability Strategy

The PLGC noted the update on the implementation of the disability access strategy, including the results of a recent survey of councils' disability access arrangements.

Planning and Environment

10) State-wide Planning Scheme

The Minister informed the PLGC that he intended to write formally to councils outlining the process since the Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Tasmanian Planning Scheme) Bill 2015 had passed through Parliament, the first of which was to formally consult on the State Planning Provisions (SPPs).

The Minister informed the PLGC that Councils would be consulted during the statutory process of developing in the finalised SPPs.

11) Other business

The Premier raised the issue of the 2016 Federal Election and noted the need for intergovernmental coordination and alignment of priorities.

LGAT advised that had submitted a joint budget bid.

The Minister informed the PLGC he had received requests to intervene in the ongoing financial matters with respect to TasWater. He indicated that he did not intend to intervene as it appeared that the organisation was taking appropriate action.

Meeting closed.

Agenda Item	Action From PLGC Meeting on 9 Dec 2015	Who	When	Complete
2	Amend Protocol Agreement and arrange for it to be signed out of session.	LGD		Yes
4	Provide Minister with a list of matters that local government would like considered by Local Government Act Review Steering Committee.	LGD	By Mar 2016	Yes
7	Minister Gutwein to discuss rating of properties on exempt land with Minister Groom.	Minister		Yes
8	Amend the Strategic Action Plan in line with PLGC decisions.	LGD		Yes