
Communiqué

Premier's Local Government Council meeting - 19 October 2016

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) met in Launceston on 19 October 2016 to discuss matters of topical interest and to progress its strategic agenda.

The meeting was chaired by the Premier, the Hon. Will Hodgman, and attended by the Hon. Peter Gutwein, Minister for Planning and Local Government, the elected members of the General Management Committee of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) including the President Mayor Doug Chipman, and members of the PLGC Officials Committee.

The PLGC noted that progress had been made in relation to the disposal of used tyres. The Minister reported that a development application had been lodged with the Northern Midlands Council for a tyre processing development. The Minister reported that the development would see the existing stockpile reduced by 2020.

The Minister advised the PLGC that the State Government was considering a container deposit scheme similar to schemes recently adopted by South Australia and the Northern Territory. The PLGC also noted that the State and councils were working together to develop a new state waste strategy.

The PLGC noted that the Government is considering a proposal to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* to allow councils to continue to levy rates against commercial operations on Crown land in line with current practices. It was further noted that, should they proceed, legislative changes would be expected to be in place in time for councils to develop 2017-18 budgets.

The PLGC noted that the first of the completed studies investigating the feasibility of amalgamations between south-east councils (Clarence City, Sorell, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman) had been delivered to participating councils and the State Government. The PLGC agreed that there would need to be a significant level of community consultation related to the finding of the feasibility study.

The Minister reported that he was considering recommendations provided to him by the Steering Committee overseeing the review of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

There was discussion about the new code of conduct framework. Local government representatives raised concerns related to some elements of the new framework. The PLGC noted that the framework would be evaluated at the conclusion of the first year of implementation.

The PLGC agreed to evaluate its three-year Strategic Action Plan. The objective of the evaluation will be to ensure that the Plan includes initiatives that are driving innovation and change. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to refresh the Plan and re-frame it in the context of the feasibility studies and the review of the Act.

The PLGC noted that LGAT, local government representatives, LGD and the Building Control Unit in the Department of Justice had delivered a forum for councils, building designers and surveyors held on 29 September 2016 in Launceston to promote universal access design. The forum was part of the PLGC's Disability Action Strategy which is on schedule to be fully implemented by the end of 2016.

Local government representatives raised a number of other items for discussion including the role and function of local government in relation to economic development, collaboration with the Parks and Wildlife Service, the Flood Recovery Taskforce, frontline workers legislation and maintenance of forestry roads.

The PLGC is next scheduled to meet on 15 December 2016. Further information on the PLGC is available on the LGD website: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/plgc.