
Protocol agreement for the Minister's Local Government Forum and the Premier's Local Government Council

March 2026

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Preamble

This Protocol Agreement covers both the Minister's Local Government Forum (MLGF) and Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC). The shared objective of these forums is to facilitate strong collaboration between the two spheres of Government on shared policy and reform matters, recognising both spheres have a critical role in supporting the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Tasmanian communities.

The MLGF will meet at least twice per year, and the PLGC once. These meetings provide an opportunity for discussion, debate and agreement between State and local government on matters of statewide significance.

The two forums will complement one another, with the work of the MLGF informing discussions and considerations of the PLGC, and the PLGC providing guidance on priority issues and agenda items for the MLGF to consider and progress.

This Protocol supersedes the 2018 *Protocol Agreement for the Premier's Local Government Council*.

Principles

- PLGC and MLGF reflect the desire for both spheres of government to collaboratively progress issues of joint significance and shared interest;
- All activities undertaken by the PLGC and MLGF should continue to strengthen the relationship between the two spheres of government;
- All parties will work in good faith and in an open and transparent manner;
- The PLGC and MLGF provide a forum for State and sectoral leaders to identify opportunities, challenges and solutions with respect to the design, delivery and implementation of local government reforms;
- Members will jointly promote:
 - an understanding of the importance and complexity of the role of local government in supporting the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local Tasmanian communities, including through service delivery, discharge of statutory functions and advocacy to other spheres of government;
 - the importance of the role of councillor, and the value of having elected members from diverse backgrounds representing a broad cross-section of the community;
 - continuous improvement in the professionalism, capability, and integrity of councils and councillors;

- embedding best practice engagement both between spheres of government and with local communities; and
- high priority reform initiatives both with respect of the local government sector, and how the State regulates and administers local government legislation and supports the sector.
- Members will aim to establish a unified position on matters considered, with the overarching aim of delivering the most beneficial outcomes for Tasmania.

Terms of Reference

The shared terms of reference of the PLGC and MLGF are to:

- work collaboratively to develop, deliver and monitor key strategic policy and reform issues for Tasmania’s local government sector;
- work collaboratively to identify and address key challenges shared by local government and the State Government;
- monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the consultation and engagement memorandum of understanding between State and local government; and
- provide a forum for sharing information and discussion.

Membership

PLGC

Premier of Tasmania (Chair)
Minister for Local Government
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Management Committee (GMC) members

*PLGC is also supported by an [Officials Committee \(PLGCO\)](#)

MLGF

Minister for Local Government (Chair)
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Management Committee (GMC) members
Chief Executive Officer of LGAT
Deputy Secretary overseeing the Office of Local Government
The Director of Local Government

Procedural Matters

PLGC

- PLGC Meetings are chaired by the Premier.
- The PLGC will meet once a year, in either November or December, with a date to be determined by the Chair in consultation with the President of LGAT and circulated in advance.
- The Chair may invite other Cabinet Ministers to participate in a meeting of PLGC if an issue relevant to their portfolio is included on the meeting agenda.
- The Chair (on their own or at the request of any other member) may invite staff of State Government Agencies, councils or non-governmental organisations to participate in discussion on relevant agenda items.
- A communique summarising the outcomes of PLGC meetings will be made publicly available as soon as practicable following meetings.

MLGF

- MLGF Meetings are chaired by the Minister for Local Government.
- The MLGF will meet at least twice during the year, with dates to be determined by the Chair and circulated at the start of the calendar year.
- The Chair may invite other Cabinet Ministers to participate in a meeting of MLGF if an issue relevant to their portfolio is included on the meeting agenda.
- The Chair (on their own or at the request of any other member) may invite staff of State Government Agencies, councils or non-governmental organisations to participate in discussion on relevant agenda items.

Agenda and papers

The agenda for each meeting of the MLGF and PLGC will include strategic priorities and matters of topical interest. Members can raise any issue for inclusion on the agenda provided the item is consistent with the terms of reference.

Papers will generally be prepared by the Office of Local Government (OLG), except in instances where an item requires particular portfolio or policy expertise (e.g. planning).

For MLGF, the OLG and LGAT will consider and review agenda items and papers for each meeting, prior to final approval from the Minister. The agenda and associated papers will be distributed to members at least seven days prior to meetings.

PLGC Officials Committee

PLGC is supported by an Officials committee (PLGCO), which meets in advance of the PLGC meeting to consider and make recommendations on the agenda and papers prior to them being circulated to the PLGC.

PLGCO meetings are chaired by the Deputy Secretary overseeing the Office of Local Government (or their nominee).

PLGCO membership is as follows – members also attend the PLGC meeting.

Deputy Secretary overseeing the Office of Local Government (Chair)
Chief Executive Officer of LGAT
Director of Local Government
Policy Director of LGAT
Three senior local government officials (Council General Managers/CEOs)

Secretariat support

Secretariat support for PLGC and MLGF will be provided collaboratively between the local government Minister's Office and the OLG. Responsibilities of each party are as follows:

Minister's Office

- Coordination of meeting date and time and venue and issue notice of meeting

OLG

- Coordination of agenda, preparation of standard items and coordination of items from invitees.
- Taking minutes of meetings
- Overseeing monitoring of MLGF and PLGC meeting actions.

OLG provides full secretariat support for the PLGCO meeting.

Advocacy and representation

It is the responsibility of members to ensure they are in a position to appropriately represent their constituent members at meetings.

Issues of a highly sensitive or binding nature may require prior or subsequent consideration by governments at both the Cabinet and collective local government level.

Issues of a highly sensitive or binding nature to be considered by local government may be dealt with through a Members' Conference, a reference group, or any other mechanism considered appropriate by the LGAT Management Committee to achieve a local government position.

LGAT will obtain the agreement of member councils before expressing formal endorsement of positions on the issues under consideration. Details of issues considered by the MLGF and PLGC, and progress with development of particular issues, will be conveyed to all councils by LGAT at the completion of each PLGC and MLGF meeting.

Review of agreement

This protocol agreement will be reviewed four years from the date of signature to ensure it continues to reflect the key principles of the PLGC and MLGF.

Signature

The undersigned agree to the protocol arrangements identified above.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Local
Government Association of Tasmania

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
Government of Tasmania



Cr Mick Tucker

President

Date: 6 MAR 2026



Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP

Premier of Tasmania

Date: 6 MAR 2026



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC

Minister for Local Government

Date: 6 MAR 2026