

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

FOR THE

# Premier's Local Government Council



10 December 2018

## Preamble

The Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) was established in 2000.

The PLGC comprises the Premier as Chair, the Minister responsible for local government and the eight elected representatives who make up the General Management Committee of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT). The primary objective of the PLGC is to work collaboratively on strategic, high-level policy matters that are relevant to both spheres of government to promote Tasmania's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

Since its inception, the PLGC has provided a valuable forum for facilitating greater cooperation between the State Government and local government. The PLGC meets two to three times throughout the year to progress strategic priorities and address matters of topical interest. The PLGC provides an opportunity for discussion, debate and agreement between the State Government and local government on matters of statewide significance.

The Protocol Agreement, originally developed in 2000, is regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and accurately captures the joint strategic objectives of the two spheres of government.

## Principles

The following principles will guide the work of the PLGC:

- the PLGC reflects the desire for both spheres of government to work together to progress issues of joint interest and statewide significance;
- all activities undertaken by the PLGC should continue to strengthen the relationship between the two spheres of government;
- the parties will respect the roles and functions of each other and will work in good faith and in an open and transparent manner;
- the State Government and local government will jointly promote:
  - the important – and increasingly complex - role of local government in serving and representing the interests of local Tasmanian communities, whilst discharging statutory obligations such as acting as a planning authority;
  - the inclusion of elected members from a diverse range of backgrounds, so that councillors reflect a broad cross-section of the community and the value diversity brings;
  - continuous improvement in the professionalism, capacity, and integrity of councils and councillors;
  - recognition of the valuable role that a councillor plays in local communities and the personal satisfaction councillors can gain from helping their communities; and

- an increase in active community engagement and participation at the local government level, both at and between council elections.
- local government will aim to have a unified position when working with the State Government through the PLGC; and
- the State Government and local government will, where possible, develop a unified position on issues involving the Australian Government, in order to secure the most beneficial outcomes for Tasmania.

## Terms of Reference

The PLGC's terms of reference are to:

- work collaboratively to develop a common understanding of mutually agreed strategic policy issues to promote Tasmania's economic, social and environmental wellbeing;
- work collaboratively to identify and address key challenges shared by local government and the State Government; and
- provide a forum for sharing information and discussion.

## Key Procedural Matters

- PLGC meetings will be chaired by the Premier. If the Premier is unavailable, meetings will be chaired by the President of LGAT. In the absence of both the Premier and the President, the role of Chair will be passed to the Minister responsible for local government.
- The Premier may invite other Ministers to participate in or become a member of the PLGC if an issue relevant to their portfolio is included on the PLGC agenda.
- The Premier and President of LGAT may jointly invite representatives of the Australian Government and non-government organisations to participate in the deliberations of the PLGC.
- Discussions held within the PLGC and its working committees are confidential.
- The minutes of the meetings and a communiqué outlining major decisions and progress on projects overseen by the PLGC will be made publicly available as soon as practicable following meetings; and
- The PLGC will be supported by an Officials Committee.

## Officials Committee

The PLGC Officials Committee (PLGCO) supports the PLGC and comprises the Director of Local Government, senior State Government officers, the Chief Executive Officer of LGAT and senior local government officers.

The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, or his/her nominee, will chair meetings of the PLGCO.

The PLGCO will take its direction from the PLGC. The PLGCO will consider and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the agenda and accompanying papers prior to being circulated to the PLGC.

The PLGCO is responsible for overseeing the implementation of PLGC decisions.

## Agenda

The agenda for each PLGC meeting will include strategic priorities and matters of topical interest. The PLGC and PLGCO are able to raise any issue for inclusion on the agenda provided the item supports the PLGC terms of reference. The PLGCO will consider agenda items and papers and identify those which are appropriate for consideration by the PLGC.

The agenda and associated papers will be prepared by the Secretariat and made available to PLGC members at least seven days prior to meetings.

## Secretariat

The Local Government Division will provide Secretariat support for both the PLGC and the PLGCO.

The Secretariat is responsible for coordinating meetings, calling for agenda items, managing the distribution of agenda papers on a timely basis, coordinating any working groups, and monitoring progress of actions from PLGC meetings.

## Working Groups

The PLGC may establish working groups to work on issues as required. The members of the working groups shall be appropriate State Government and local government officers. The working groups will be responsible for progressing all aspects of the assigned work and for reporting on progress.

## Stakeholder Consultation

It is the responsibility of PLGC 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 consideration by governments at both the Cabinet and individual local government level.

An important element to the success of the PLGC will be the full involvement of all councils in the process. Local government representatives must have a clear and detailed knowledge of the position of councils on matters under consideration.

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 endorsement of particular positions on the issues under consideration. Details of issues considered by the PLGC, and progress with development of particular issues, will be conveyed to all councils by LGAT at the completion of each PLGC Meeting.

## Signatures

The undersigned agree to the protocol arrangements identified above

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



**Ald Doug Chipman**  
President

10 December 2018

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of the  
Government of Tasmania



**Hon Will Hodgman MP**  
Premier

10 December 2018

