Key LGAT Activity – February 2012

Policy/Project Activity

- Audit of Standards Panel activity since introduction
- Commenced review of Mayoral Handbook
- Feedback on Healthy Communities Toolkit
- Follow up on Division 81 Issues
- Input into Productivity Commission survey regarding Local Government regulation.
- Input into the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG) draft National Local Government Workforce Strategy
- Input to Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) submission on the amendments proposed to the Telecommunications Act by Andrew Wilkie and separately, Bob Brown.
- Keynote presentation by invitation to New Zealand Local Government Planning and Development Conference.
- Maturity assessments conducted at all councils by IPWEA as part of the Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project.
- Member of Tender Panel for Local Government Valuations
- Standards Panel activity – this has seen a steady increase since the New Year

Training and Workforce Development

- Trialled a new promotional tool, a touchscreen computer mounted on a stand at the Job Skills Expo in Albert Hall Launceston. Received a good response at this well attended event. Met many job seekers, advised them of current council vacancies, employment registers, and scholarships in engineering in their area and around the state.
- Presented a summary of workforce planning and training, policy actions and grants available, from the State, Commonwealth and other Local Government Associations.
- Continued to monitor a rise in the number of council job advertisements.
- Continued screening the Think Big Work Local television commercial. Observed a corresponding rise in visits to www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au

Meetings and Communication

- 2 editions of the LGAT Newsletter
- Alcohol Advisory Group Meeting
- ALGA Board Meeting/Strategic Planning
● Asbestos Steering Committee
● Associations teleconference on Emergency Management
● Award Modernisation
● Break O Day Council re Coastal Planning and Development
● Break O Day Council re Water and Sewerage
● Breakfast Roundtable with the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), Property Council, Master Builders Association and Housing Industry Association
● Business Tasmanian Online Working Group
● Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) briefing session on wood smoke: air quality and health
● Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) re Emergency management
● Elise Archer – planning update
● Emergency Management Education and Training Advisory Group Meeting
● Enquiry by Design Workshop
● Environmental Dispute Mediation Meeting
● Healthy Toolkit Project Managers
● Household Hazardous Waste Steering Committee
● Local Government Division re Code of Conduct Regulations
● Local Government Division re State of the Sector Reporting
● Local Government HR Forum
● Meeting with CEO and Policy officer from CLAIR Sydney (Japanese Local Government Program)
● NRM South re Social Procurement
● Office of the Tasmanian Regulator Consumer Consultative Committee Meeting
● Participation in SES Emergency Management Coordinators Forum
● Regional Water and Sewerage Forum (North)
● Royal Surf Live Saving and Sports and Recreation re Pool Fencing
● Southern Waste Strategy Authority Management Meeting
● Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation/Decision Pathways (TCAP) Meeting
● Tasmanian Fire Service and Department of Premier and Cabinet re Draft Tasmanian Bushfire Policy
● Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council Meeting
● TCCI Business Executive Roundtable with Will Hodgman
Media

- Joint release of the Local Government Asset Management Policy between LGAT and Minister.
- Water and Sewerage
- Amalgamations

Outputs

- Submission to the House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development Inquiry into Local Government Elections
- Submission regarding proposed changes to the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act.
- Model Code of Conduct circulated to Councils for Comment
- Launched Local Government Asset Management Policy in partnership with the Local Government Division.
Key LGAT Activity—March 2012

Policy/Project Activity

- Mayoral Handbook updated and with Local Government Division for review
- A Southern Asset Management group was convened to initiate a regional approach to completing Asset Management plans.
- Standards Panels activity.
- Awards for Excellence review, brochure and application design.
- Assessments for Local Government Valuation tender panel.
- Feedback to Land Titles office on issues related to covenants.
- Compiled feedback on Model Code of Conduct and now amending.

Training and Workforce Development

- Draft Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) schedule for training and workshops to be conducted under the LG Financial and Asset Reform Project
- Proposal for extension of Careers project developed and presented at General Meeting.
- Submission to Tas Government VET and RTO reform
- Website video production commenced
- Television advert screening Jan to May
- Job seekers marketing survey and competition added to the www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au site

Meetings and Communication

- ALGA teleconference on Emergency Management
- ALGA teleconference re climate change issues
- ALGA teleconference re mobile phone towers
- Attorney General Department workshop on flood risk information
- Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government Round Table – Parliament House
- Coastal Councils Conference
- DPIWE and DIER in relation to Roadside Signage Manual and raising council awareness
- DIPWE re Aboriginal Naming Policy
- Dr Richard Smart re potential of Tasmanian wine sector
- Electronic Development Assessment vendor meeting.
- General Managers Workshop
- Hosted Presentation on green waste treatment innovations.
- Inter-agency Working Group on Drugs
- Launch of Tasmania Together (Revised 2011) Plan
LGAT General Management Committee Meeting
LGAT General Meeting
LGAT News Magazine (March edition)
LGAT electronic newsletter fortnightly
Local Government Division in relation to Statewide Directions Paper on Overnight RV Camping
Local Government Division re Miscellaneous Amendments Bill
Local Government Division re State of the Sector reporting
Local Government Division re Premier’s Local Government Council workplan
Local Government Division re Local Government Valuation Tender Panel
Local Government Workforce Development Group Teleconference on national minimal local government dataset.
Local Government Coastal Management and Climate Change Forum
Municipal Association of Victoria re Awards Modernisation.
National Sea Change Taskforce Coastal Councils Conference
NRM South workshop on climate change in local government
Public Health Emergencies Steering Committee
Road Safety Advisory Council
Spatial Foundations Reference Group
Southern Region Asset Management Meeting
Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority Street Lighting Meeting
Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project Steering Committee Meeting
Tasmanian Local Government Reform Project (Financial and Asset Management ) Steering Committee
Tobacco Coalition Meeting
Alcohol Advisory Group

Media

Water and Sewerage
Planning System
Local Government Reform

Outputs

Submission regarding Draft Fire Services Amendment Bill
Draft Capability Assessment Reports completed by IPWEA and distributed to all councils.
Careers booth completed and used at UTAS
Key LGAT Activity – April 2012

Policy/Project Activity
- Feedback on proposed changes to Animal Welfare Act.
- Standards Panel activity.
- Support for Water and Sewerage Governance Working Group.
- Pursuing advice re Division 81.
- Local Government Valuation Tender Panel.
- Advice to ALGA re risk management training.

Training and Workforce Development
- Careers expo for schools and the community at Smithton organised by Circular Head Council.
- Careers expo for high school student at Botanical Gardens Hobart.
- Presentation to Independent Schools careers advisers about council careers.
- Think Big Work Local advertisement continues to screen until June 2012.
- Continue to monitor council job advertisements, noting a seasonal decline in vacancies as we approach end of financial year.

Meetings and Communication
- Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre re TASMARC Shoreline Monitoring Project extension
- ALGA (Australian Local Government Association) re Financial Assistance Grants (with other senior staff from Associations).
- ALGA waste forum
- Asbestos Steering Committee (State Government)
- Aurora re Street Lighting
- Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government Workforce Development Forum
- Business Tasmania Online Working Group
- Meeting between Local Government reps, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and Crane Industry representatives on development of State and Local Road network and permit system for cranes.
- Code of Conduct Training ï Burnie (involving Burnie, Circular Head, Waratah Wynyard and Latrobe councillors).
- Department of Economic Development re Retirement Living and Economic Development Project.
- Department of Premier and Cabinet re Review of Local Government Relief Policy
- DPIPWE Spatial Information Reference Group
- EPA Woodsmoke workshop for Local Government
- Greg Johannes ï Planning policy
- Heart Foundation Briefing on Health in All Policies
- Input into the Local Government Division's State of the Sector reporting.
LGAT News Magazine March edition
LGAT electronic newsletter fortnightly
Local Government Forum on proposed changes to Heritage legislation
Local Government Division re Directions Paper on overnight RV camping
New CEO of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Premier’s Local Government Council Meeting
Premier’s Local Government Council Officials Meeting
Public Health Emergency Sub Committee
Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Project ï Steering Committee Meeting
Southern Tasmanian Council’s Authority re Smartforms.
Southern Waste Strategy Authority re Household Hazardous Waste
Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project ï discussion re LGAT conference workshop
University of Tasmania re review of Planning Course
Victorian Bushfires, Local Government Lessons Learnt Workshop

Media
- Water and Sewerage
- Local Government Reform

Outputs
- Submission on Heritage Bill
- Final electronic development assessment project report to the Commonwealth.
- Response to Attorney General’s Department Draft National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers
- Release of Model Code of Conduct and related forms to councils. All on LGAT website.

Don’t forget ï LGAT staff, from the CEO down, are happy to come to your council to discuss issues of interest or concern. You only need to ask.
Amending the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*

**REFORM UPDATE**

The State Government has shelved previous plans to introduce new historic heritage legislation.

Instead, the key concerns of planning authorities, the Tasmanian Heritage Council and the heritage sector will be addressed through amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*.

These amendments aim to cut red tape, reduce duplication of effort, introduce efficiencies and create a more streamlined approach to managing historic heritage in Tasmania.

The proposed amendments are a result of an extensive consultation process with the heritage sector, local planning authorities and the Tasmanian Heritage Council. A key concern raised has been the desire to stop the duplication of applications, advertisement, assessments and permits for works on heritage listed properties which is excessive.

The proposed amendments address these concerns. The amendments also propose that Tasmania’s legislation is brought in line with nationally recognised standards for assessing heritage significance, something the heritage sector has been requesting for some time now.

The State Government has released the *Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Bill 2012* for comment. This will allow local government, the Tasmanian Heritage Council and the Tasmanian community an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments.

All councils will receive a copy of the Bill for their comment.

Attached is a fact sheet on the proposed amendments, as well as information on other reforms outside of the legislation.

Further information on the proposed amendments and future timelines is available at [www.heritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au).
STREAMLINING THE MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC HERITAGE
FACT SHEET

Overview

The State Government is committed to cutting red tape, introducing efficiencies and creating a more streamlined approach to managing historic heritage in Tasmania. Reforms to amend the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 alongside a range of non-legislative activities have begun.

This Fact Sheet details the proposed amendments to the Act, along with an overview of the non-legislative reforms that have been completed or will be pursued in 2012.

Proposed Legislative Amendments

1. Better defining entries in the Tasmanian Heritage Register
   Defining the physical location and boundary of a registered place is critical to the proper management of heritage values. Proposed amendments will more clearly outline what is required. In urban areas this may be the property title. In rural areas or industrial sites where heritage values are limited to only one part of a title, or for places such as bridges where no title exists, the development of a Central Plan Register (CPR) will be mandatory. This aims to ensure that in the future heritage listings are focused only on the heritage values of greatest significance.

2. Better identifying heritage values
   Introducing aesthetics as an eighth criteria against which a place may be assessed as being of historic heritage significance and entered on the Heritage Register is among the proposed amendments. This will bring Tasmania into line with other states and meet national best practice standards, in accordance with a Council of Australian Governments agreement.

3. Increasing flexibility to amend or remove entries
   Historic heritage is not static. Changes occur, both planned and through the unfortunate potential for destruction resulting in the total loss of heritage values. It is important that entries in the Heritage Register can be amended or removed without the need for excessive administrative processes. Reviewing entries to ensure remaining values are protected will continue, but the proposed amendments will streamline administrative processes to reduce red tape. This will make processes easier for owners and developers.

4. Streamlining works approval processes
   The current process of assessing works for places on the Heritage Register requires two separate applications, two advertisements, two assessments and two permits. This is an unnecessary impost on applicants and a waste of scarce resources.

   Proposed amendments will better integrate the works approval process with the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and introduce a single application, advertisement, assessment and permit process. This will also mean the Heritage Council will be able to seek extensions of
time to obtain information from an applicant and more easily amend or revoke works applications. This is a major focus of proposed amendments and will benefit many stakeholders.

The 42 day period for approval will not change. However, for major or complex cases, additional time may be required. Another proposed amendment will allow an additional 10 working days to determine an application, where required, but only in exceptional circumstances.

Also proposed is the ability to exempt certain types of works from needing works approval, including allowing emergency works to be undertaken without a permit. Measures like this introduce greater flexibility and responsiveness to challenging issues than currently allowed.

5. **Increasing accountability and transparency**
   Notwithstanding the importance of maintaining the independence of the Heritage Council, it is also important that the State Government identifies its objectives for historic heritage and the role of the Heritage Council in supporting those objectives. Proposed amendments will require the development of a Ministerial *Statement of Expectation* and a corresponding Heritage Council *Statement of Intent* within a specified three year period. This will increase accountability and transparency, and bring the Heritage Council in line with similar statutory bodies like the Environment Protection Authority.

6. **Validating entries in the Heritage Register**
   There are currently more than 5,500 entries in the Heritage Register. It is not feasible to review all these entries to align with the proposed amendments. Instead, it is proposed that all existing entries be validated until the Heritage Council is able to update them to comply with any new requirements brought about by these amendments.

**Non-Legislative Reforms**

7. **Seeking heritage advice on major developments**
   Heritage Tasmania is becoming increasingly involved in providing proactive advice on major private and public sector developments. The release of *Pre-Development Assessment Guidelines* has seen an increase in the number of developers identifying historic heritage values as part of the scoping phase of developments. This has achieved greater protection of historic heritage values, improved issues management and reduced unforseen hurdles for developers.

8. **Reducing subjectivity in assessing heritage values**
   The Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal has commented on the subjective nature of assessing historic heritage values. Heritage Tasmania has released its *Guidelines for Assessing Historic Heritage Significance* to outline the approach used to assess whether or not a place meets a criteria for entry to the Heritage Register. The guidelines will help generate greater consistency and clarity in assessing heritage values, whether the assessment is for an entry to the Heritage Register, or for a listing on a planning scheme’s local heritage schedule.
9. **Managing local heritage values**
The Tasmanian Planning Commission and Heritage Tasmania have been working together with local planning authorities to develop a standard *Historic Heritage Code*. The Code will help to recognise, protect and manage local heritage places and precincts. Once finalised, the Code will form part of planning schemes and provide a more consistent approach to listing and managing places and precincts of local heritage significance.

10. **Exempting certain works from works approval**
Not all works on a heritage listed property require the approval of the Heritage Council. The release of the Heritage Council’s *Exempt Works Guidelines* in 2010 provides a list of works that do not require the Heritage Council’s approval. The guidelines make the system fairer and easier to navigate. By using the guidelines a property owner or site manager can self-assess proposed works and determine if they require works approval or not.

Seeking advice before lodging a works application is becoming common practice. The applicant can discuss works before lodging a works application form. This assists in better understanding a place’s heritage values, understanding the issues that may arise, and discussing the best options and solutions available. The approach minimises impacts on heritage values and reduces the risk of works applications or developments being refused or heavily conditioned.

11. **Increasing access to information on heritage listings**
In 2012, Heritage Tasmania aims to create a *Heritage Overlay* in the *Land Information System Tasmania (LIST)*. LIST is a whole of government service that delivers integrated land information online. The end result will be a ‘heritage flag’ on the LIST for any land titles entered on the Heritage Register. The information available will be limited at first, but will increase in the future. This is an important development. Creating a heritage overlay will allow any person to see whether or not a place is entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

12. **Developing practical and more user-friendly resources**
The past few years have seen the release of a number of resources including *Heritage Solutions, Installing Modern Services on Heritage Buildings* and the *Heritage Services Directory*. In 2012 a new publication, *Residential Solutions*, will be released. It will provide general guidance and tips to the owners of heritage properties on how to approach alterations and additions. It will include local case studies illustrating what other heritage owners have been able to achieve with their houses and homes. Case studies in the publication focus on heritage-listed properties, but the advice is equally as useful to owners of places that are not heritage listed.

13. **Sharing and disseminating information**
Heritage Tasmania’s *monthly e-newsletter* has been embraced by heritage property owners, interested members of the community and the wider heritage sector. It is an important forum for sharing information; providing updates on grant, funding and professional development opportunities; promoting upcoming events and activities; and sharing insights about important heritage places. This small but service of sharing information will continue as an important forum and network to share insights.