

Key LGAT Activity– October 2014

Key Outputs and Outcomes

- The Presidential elections were concluded with Mayor Barry Jarvis elected President of LGAT.
- Able to effect some changes in direction with regard to planning reform on the basis of feedback through two submissions turned around in short timeframes. In particular, leaving aside of third party appeal considerations, increased timeframes for permitted use developments and a definitive end point to the regional planning project/interim planning schemes process.
- Mayoral and Councillor Resource kits were updated ahead of the election and a number of training and professional development events for mayors and councillors are now locked in.
- Completed the analysis of Tasmanian Local Government Workforce Survey 2013. Data from 2013 shows that staff turnover was 13.8%, comprised chiefly of resignations (9.3%) and retirements (2.3%). These actual figures are very close to the estimations made in the 2012 report, confirming the accuracy of our analytic work. If the 2013 staff turnover rate continued, 96% of staff may be lost by the end of 2019. The 'Tasmanian Local Government Workforce Report 2014' and 'Workforce Plans' for the 19 participating councils should be completed by the end of the month and distributed to member councils shortly after (Reports will be available soon).
- Expressions of interest sought for the future production of the *LGAT News* magazine. Responses are required by mid-November.

Policy/Project Activity

- Submission on Planning Reform Discussion Paper following workshop with planners at Longford.
- Submission on Planning Legislation following web/teleconference with planners.
- Standards Panel activity
- Submission on proposed changes to the Local Government (General) Regulations
- Submission on the Local Government (Code of Conduct) Amendment Bill
- Electricity Industry Stakeholder Workshop - TasNetworks
- Progress updates with Goanna Energy regarding contract for procurement of retail energy for unmetered public lighting
- Development of the Elected Members Weekend Workshop in February 2015
- Organisation of the National Procurement Network (NPN) meeting scheduled for Hobart 1st and 2nd December.
- Planning re the NPN – Corporate Wardrobe contract renewal
- Collaborative purchasing through the NPN activity e.g. signing new purchasers up, reporting.

Training and Workforce Development

- ATO Tax Compliance Workshop for councils (Launceston) regarding Local Government taxation compliance and grants.
- Forums in the North and South with Finance and Asset Management staff regarding the draft practice summaries that LGAT has commissioned IPWEA to produce.
- Monitored weekly council job advertisements, continuing to observe a rise in council job vacancies throughout 2014.

Meetings and Communication

- LGAT Newsletter
- 26TEN – re 26TEN week
- ARCBlue (procurement consultants) - discussion on development of procurement dashboards that track procurement expenditure by supplier, category, location and contract at local and regional levels and training opportunities.
- Auditor General's Office regarding Valuation of Land Under Roads
- Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government – Participated on a Panel Discussion of Comparative Local Government Governance for Masters Students
- Australian Local Government Association (CEO Teleconference) regarding Long Term Federal Funding Strategy
- Chief of Staff for the Minister for Local Government – General discussion regarding Local Government and progress with the Planning Taskforce.
- Consultation Forum - Safe and Healthy Food in Tasmania
- Crown Land Services regarding fees for licences and leases for marine structures
- Discussed possibility of a second careers 'speed date' event in 2015 with two southern councils.
- Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment in relation to forestry road ownership and funding allocation
- Discussions with *Tenderlink* (e procurement software company) re the possible role out of the product in Tasmania
- Electricity Industry Workshop
- Forest Practices Advisory Committee
- Healthy Food Access Tasmania Reference Group Meeting
- Interagency Working Group on Drugs
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting - 5 loans approved
- Local Government Managers Australia (Tas) AGM (LGAT Report) and Conference
- Over Size Over Mass Heavy Vehicle Industry Reference Group workshop
- Planning Reform Taskforce Meetings
- Premier's Local Government Council Officials' Meeting
- Public Health re red tape reduction
- Regular monthly meeting with the Local Government Division

- Regular tweets and updates to website
- Role of Local Government – Chairs' Committee Meeting
- Role of Local Government Project – Governance Working Group
- Role of Local Government Project – Legislation Working Group
- Role of Local Government Project- Collaboration Working Group
- Social Determinants of Health Steering Committee (Medicare Local)
- State Growth and Heavy Vehicle Industry regarding National Heavy Vehicle Regulations
- State Growth regarding Greater Launceston traffic management plan and state-wide modelling opportunities
- State Manager Work for the Dole Program
- Tasmanian Major Projects Approvals Agency – Introductory conversation
- Tasmanian Medicare Local regarding LGAT's role as a partner for the Social Determinants of Health project
- TasNetworks meeting regarding next AER regulation period
- TCCI Breakfast – Planning Reform with the Minister for Local Government and Planning

Media

- Voter Turnout/Candidate Nominations
- Postal vs Ballot Box voting
- RSPCA changes Election outcomes
- Press Release – New President
- Press Release – New Era for LG in Tasmania
- 2014 LG Election Results
- Collaboration and resource sharing/council amalgamations
- Garage Sale Trail launch