

Key LGAT Activity – October 2016

Issue in Focus

Offering councils cost savings from procurement has been an important part of LGATs work over the past twelve months and will continue to be so over the next twelve months. In the 2015–16 financial year Tasmanian councils saved an estimated \$722,000 on a total council spend of \$3.9m. These savings were generated through councils purchasing goods and services via contracts facilitated by LGAT as a member of the National Procurement Network (NPN).

A good example of the savings available has been on telecommunications, where councils are saving between 50–75% on the previous contracts by use of the LGAT/NPN contract. The savings are accrued not only via bulk purchasing power, but also as result of the expedient procurement processes. Importantly, these contracts often allow the use of local suppliers.

During the past two months, there has been a significant amount of activity in expanding the options available to councils, this has included:

- Updating the plant machinery equipment, civil works, bulk fuel, oils & lubricants panels;
- Establishment of work wear and personal protective apparel (2016) park and playground equipment, recreational infrastructure and outdoor furniture products and services and hardware (2016)
- Consideration of waste management services and Microsoft group contracts for 2017.

With the expansion of contracts available we expect councils will save even more over the next 12 months and beyond.

Policy/Project Activity

- 2015-2016 Annual Report
- Review of sponsorship opportunities
- Development of a database of waste facilities
- Submission on the review of Regional Development Australia
- Commenced the appointment of a new Local Government representative to the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council
- Work on the National Local Government HR Conference in 2017
- Secured venues for 2017 LGAT Annual Conference and Dinner
- Preparation of the LGAT Annual Satisfaction Survey
- Discussion with councils regarding NDRGP grant applications
- Advice to Tasmanian Fire Service regarding the development of a guideline for machine operators in dry vegetation
- Consultation on the *Neighbourhood Disputes (Vegetation) Bill*
- Tasmanian Planning Scheme Code hearings
- LGAT website review
- Development of Better Councils Better Communities web support material

- Presentation at the Local Government Professionals AGM

Training and Workforce Development

- Susan Law – Organisational Change
- Organised Crucial Conversations Training by Page Seager
- Organised Workforce Planning Guidelines Training
- LGAT staff training on electronic voting system
- Developing Regional Innovation Champions Phone interview and steering committee meeting

Media and Communications

- *The Pulse* e-newsletter (12 & 28 October)
- Media on Planning Reform, amalgamations/shared services, waste management, cat management, greyhounds, Huon Valley and the review of the *Local Government Act*.
- Letter to *The Mercury* on changes to the planning system

Meetings

- Planning Policy Unit of the Department of Justice regarding the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS)
- MAV Insurance Board
- Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority CEO
- Premiers Local Government Council
- Regional Breakfast Forums Hobart and Launceston
- Visits to Launceston and Southern Midlands Councils
- Colin Steele regarding grant opportunities for LGAT
- Government Flood Review Team
- Local Government Division regular meeting
- Northern Lights project meeting
- Ironbark sustainability regarding LED street lighting project
- SES re NDRGP grant applications
- Justice review implementation outputs steering committee
- City of Hobart, Clarence, and Glenorchy Councils regarding social policy and health issues.
- Public Health Service, DHHS re engagement on local government health forum
- Brighton and Glenorchy Councils; and Anglicare re Gaming Joint Select Committee submission
- RIAMS Business Manager to discuss use of system in Tasmania

- Workshop on Collaboration for Education Attainment in Tasmania
- Meeting with UTS re Glenorchy project Health Prevention Tracker
- ALGA Planning Policy Officers Meeting
- ALGA Policy Directors Meeting
- Prime Minister and Cabinet, Cities Division re Smart Cities
- Dep. Infrastructure and Regional Development to discuss the Tasmanian Regional Jobs and Investment Package
- Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC re National Resilient Strategy
- General Manager, Australian Building Codes Board
- VISTAS Steering Committee
- State Growth re Land Use Planning
- Agricultural Mapping Project Steering Committee
- Local Government Professions Annual Conference