

Key LGAT Activity – October 2017

Issue in Focus

The amendments to the *Local Government Act* have recently passed through Parliament and will commence soon. There is a suite of changes to the Act, including the introduction of Ministerial Orders, Performance Improvement Directions and changes to the Board of Inquiry process.

The changes include the introduction of a gifts and donations register, an increase to the electoral advertising limit and amending the Declaration of Office.

The Local Government Division is seeking comment from the sector on each of these three areas. LGAT recently wrote to all councils seeking feedback on the changes, which include:

- Gifts and benefits – a minimum threshold of either \$50 or \$200 and notification of receipt of a gift or donation with seven days (to the GM), amongst other things.
- Electoral advertising limit – an increase from \$5,000 to \$6,500 for a councillor candidate and \$8,000 to \$10,500 for councillor and mayor or deputy mayor candidate. Future increases would be at CPI.
- Amendment of the Declaration of Office to include the following after (b):
 - (c) engage in ongoing professional development;; and*
 - (d) abide by the principles of good governance.*

Members are encouraged to provide feedback to LGAT (dion.lester@lgat.tas.gov.au) by COB on **Monday 11th December**.

Policy/Project Activity

- Advocated for Local Government for better and clearer reporting of complaints statistics in Integrity Commission Annual Reports
- Applied for Liveable Communities Grant
- Assisted councils to prepare for local school's careers events
- Assisted LGNSW in preparation for the National Local Government Human Resources Conference
- Briefing for Legislative Council on the TasWater ownership legislation
- Completed quarterly report on sales to council under the National Procurement Network
- Consultation on potential assistance for councils regarding Procurement and Contract Management
- Consulted Councils in participating in the National Local Government Cultural Forum data collection project
- Consulted Members on the *Traffic and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2017* (a Department of State Growth proposal to amend the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* to remove historical restrictions on road humps and make them subject to the same requirements as other road treatments, such as roundabouts)
- Continued liaison with Ironbark Sustainability and Members on the LED streetlighting project

- Continued to create a suite of web videos to support Workforce Behaviour Policies
- Development of draft Guidelines for the Disposal of Sharps
- Development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding between LGAT and the EPA
- Drafted LGAT meeting and events calendar for 2018
- Facilitated the preparation, pilot trial and dissemination of the 2017 National Local Government Skills Shortage Survey
- Facilitated Statewide Planners Reference Group meeting on the Local Provision Schedule
- Finalised Draft MOU for LGAT/MAV procurement partnership
- Finalised the recruitment process for Health and Wellbeing Project Coordinator
- Liaised with IPWEA Tas regarding progress of Development Standards documentation and guidelines
- Liaised with Local Buy about the LGAT Telecommunications Contract (BUS238-081)
- Liaised with the Tasmanian Fire Service regarding Fire Abatement training for councils
- Local Government Relief and Recovery Policy Submission
- Organised National Procurement Network meeting for Hobart 9 and 10 November
- Participated in the National Local Government Workforce Development Group
- Recruitment of Marketing and Events officer
- Reviewed presentation format for the Consolidated Data Collection on the LIST
- Shortlist suppliers for National Procurement Network Contract 1.17 - Fuels and Oils
- Sectoral submission on the Major Projects draft legislation
- Submission to the Senate Inquiry on Waste Management
- Supported the Cat Management Coordinator Expression of Interest process
- Undertook GMC Proxy Elections
- Updated the Workforce Behaviour Policies and Procedures
- Working with Volunteering Tasmania to update the MOU on the provision of support and services in times of community emergency or disaster

Media and Communications

- Gathering good news articles and images from Members to hard copy publish in LGATs' Year in Review
- Media related to council planning resources and code of conduct
- Published the Pulse E-newsletter
- Published LG Noticeboard

Training and Development

- Attended training in Decision making and Leading change in complex problems (with a focus on health and wellbeing)
- Delivered session for Tasmanian Youth Local Government as part of Tasmanian Local Government Youth Conference program and planning
- Participated in stakeholder workshop for 'Dynamic simulation modelling for developing strategies for the prevention of harm from alcohol'

- Started updating the Think Big Work Local website advice about Local Government training options, due to changes in availability to some Local Government courses

Meetings

- Australian Early Development Census Steering Committee & B4 Early Years Coalition (children and families in local communities strategy discussion)
- CEO Cultural Development Forum – update on activities and opportunities for Tasmanian Councils
- CEO Integrity Commission
- Commonwealth Treasury - National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation briefing to help address housing affordability
- Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) – Regular Building Framework update DHHS - Community Health and Wellbeing program evaluation
- Digital Services Tasmanian Working Group - State Government Digital Innovation Strategy
- DPIPWE – Biosecurity Bill briefing
- Information, Spatial and Data Management Working Group - State Government Digital Innovation Strategy
- Integrity Commission - Southern Ethical Reference Group
- Local Government Division monthly meeting
- LG Professionals Tasmania Board Meeting
- Local Provision Schedule Steering Committee – Regular meeting
- MAV Insurance Board
- Mayors’ Professional Development Day Menzies Institute – Active transport study
- National Local Government Associations - Government Skills Australia funding opportunities
- Peter Carr – Regional breakfast series and digital innovation opportunities
- Planning Policy Unit – Planning reform
- Premier’s Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council – Strategic Planning
- Professor David Adams – Regional breakfast series
- Reconciliation Council of Tasmania Chair – Update of activities.
- Southern Technical Reference Group Meeting – Planning reform update
- State Growth – Roads portfolio update
- Tasmanian Government Electric Vehicle Working Group Meeting
- Tasmanian Street Lighting Project Group – Project inception meeting
- TasPlan - LGAT Assist & sponsorship discussions
- TasPorts – Tasmanian Planning Scheme
- Vision Super – sponsorship discussion
- VISTAS Steering Committee – Project update Waste Management Association of Australia – Tasmanian State Conference