



**LG Tas**  
MARCH 2017

## WORKING TOGETHER TO DELIVER ENERGY EFFICIENT STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMS

**Tasmanian councils are working together to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through LED street lighting projects across the State.**

These projects will transform Tasmania's street lighting system, creating a smart city backbone for councils to leverage other smart applications across their operations. These projects could lead to the replacement of over 60% of street lights in the State, making Tasmania's LED deployment the largest in the Country by percent.

Installing energy efficient street lighting, such as LEDs, to replace outdated and inefficient technology is delivering financial and environmental rewards for Tasmanian councils. For Local Government, street lighting is the single largest source of greenhouse emissions and a significant proportion of their overall budget. LEDs use up to 82% less energy than mercury vapour technology, require significantly less maintenance, create safer roads and improve public amenity.

The LED street lighting project is one of a number of collaborative council projects currently being delivered in Tasmania. The City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council led the way with the first LED replacement program for public lights in Tasmania. This project replaced around 4,700 lights, saving the councils \$300,000 a year in energy costs and about 350 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

**“Energy efficient street lighting is delivering financial and environmental rewards for councils.”**

In February 2017, the second major street lighting replacement program, Northern Lights was launched (<http://northernlightstas.com.au/>). This project sees six Northern Tasmanian councils collaborating on the largest energy efficiency project of its kind in the State. Northern Lights will involve the installation of 9,100 LED street lights, resulting in combined savings of more than \$16 million over 20 years.

The participating councils are the City of Launceston, Meander Valley, George Town, Break O'Day, Northern Midlands and West Tamar. This regional approach improves bargaining power with suppliers while also saving on project costs. This project is an excellent example of councils working together to save money and energy.

Due to the success of the first two projects, there is keen interest from other Tasmanian councils for LED replacement projects. The Local Government Association of Tasmania is now working with north west councils and southern councils to deliver similar projects. The business cases that have just been completed for these two regions reveal convincing evidence to support similar replacement programs. If supported, these projects will see around 17,000 lights replaced in the North West and South of the State, providing a net saving of over \$20 million over 20 years. This is great news given the likely increase in electricity prices over time.

By working together, these councils have delivered innovative projects that are of significant benefit to the communities they serve, each demonstrating how much can be achieved with a little collective effort.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a real pleasure to be part of the first edition of *LG Tas*, the new LGAT publication which focuses on showcasing the diverse, innovative and high quality infrastructure and services being delivered across the Tasmanian Local Government sector.



Increasing confidence in and an appreciation of the value of Local Government is important at any time, but particularly in the lead-up to a state or federal election, when the advocacy of councils can secure key outcomes for their communities.

The Role of Local Government Project, conducted in partnership with the State Government in 2013, identified that “councils engage with each other and other spheres of government to represent and advocate the needs of their communities and, where appropriate, cooperate and work in partnership to generate the greatest benefit for communities”.

The concept of partnership is a significant one for the Local Government sector and there are daily examples in play. These include the sharing of resources across council boundaries, delivering services for another level of government, collaborating nationally through the Australian Local Government Association, and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) working with other Tasmanian peak bodies to identify common priorities for our State.

With a State Government election to take place within the next 12 months, the focus on partnership, advocacy and community outcomes will be front of mind for LGAT and councils.

**Mayor Doug Chipman**  
**LGAT President**



## KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL SITE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION

**Kingborough Council recently partnered with the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) to conduct an architectural design competition for a community hub at the former Kingston High School site.**

The brief was to create a facility that recycled the former school gymnasium building and created a new and exciting community centre to be the centrepiece of the future development. Council enlisted the services of an architectural advisor to prepare the briefs and appoint a jury of highly regarded and independent professionals who shortlisted the initial expressions of interest, and selected the winning entry.

There were 17 expressions of interest submitted from architects (primarily from within Tasmania) and it was clear that by utilising the AIA guidelines, professional architects had great confidence in the process and the eventual outcome. Five shortlisted architectural firms presented their proposals to the jury. The winning design, available on Council's website, was submitted by March Studio who have now been commissioned by Council to prepare the detailed design documents for approvals and subsequent construction.

There are several benefits in utilising an architectural competition to design a proposed building. For Kingborough Council, it generated a variety of design solutions to choose from, rather than just relying on the ideas of a single project architect. All of the shortlisted architects were very enthusiastic and

put a great deal of effort into their submissions and presentations to the jury – far more than they might for requests for “free” designs as part of a tender process. The Australian Institute of Architects sees competitions as being great opportunities to promote the profession to the broader public. In this case, the competition was also able to generate greater public interest and awareness about the project, which in turn encouraged an increase in public confidence for the development. The prize-winning architects can also be compensated for the time spent in preparing their submissions.

The Mayor of Kingborough, Cllr Steve Wass, said Council was happy with the process and outcomes of the architectural competition and praised March Studio's winning design. “This design will provide a striking building that will be an effective re-use of the old gym building while providing a new facility that is flexible for future changing demands,” he said. “It will also be built to a style and quality that can be used as an example for other future surrounding developments.”

Kingborough Council can recommend the experience as it was very rewarding and well suited to this project with its high public profile and larger scale. Kingborough Council's Deputy General Manager, Tony Ferrier, is happy to expand on their experience if other councils are interested.



## RECOVERING FROM THE FLOODS

**The Kentish and Latrobe Municipal Areas were some of the worst affected during the June 2016 floods. Across the two Municipal Areas, over 180 properties were impacted, large farms and businesses were inundated, there was over \$9.23 million worth of damage to council infrastructure, significant damage occurred to state-owned infrastructure, and many communities became isolated.**

In the nine months since the floods, significant work has been done to rebuild the infrastructure, re-establish the local economy and support communities. Both councils have worked closely with the State Government, not-for-profit organisations and individuals in the community to support this effort.

However, it is well understood that recovery after such significant events can take years and both councils continue to provide support to their communities with the long-term recovery.

In particular, councils:

- Continue to lobby the State and Federal Governments to invest more funding in mitigation for projects such as levees;
- Continue to work with contractors to replace major infrastructure in the region while also improving its resilience to future floods;
- Work with individuals in the community to support their recovery; and
- Assist rural land owners with their clean up.

After any major event, it is important to reflect on and document key learnings so that others can learn from the experience. Some of the reflections from councils on the key to a successful recovery include the importance of constant open and honest communication with the community, being directly accessible to those in the community who need support, accepting feedback and responding in a timely manner. As Local Government is the level of government closest to the community, councils are the first point of call for community members needing support in such a crisis and, as such, it is essential that councils are well connected and able to respond, or refer community members to the organisations that can best support them.

**“Events such as the floods always bring out the best in communities.”**

Events such as the floods always bring out the best in communities and the June events are full of stories of individuals who did heroic things to support their community. One example being a visiting tourist who was caught up in the floods but is now looking to relocate to the Latrobe Municipal Area. Despite the stress associated with the event, the amazing support and community spirit she experienced during and after the flooding has led her to want to become part of the community.

## CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL ‘Y PLAN’ YOUTH POLICY

**Regional areas can be a challenging place to grow up in. Local opportunities for recreation, socialisation, fitness, education and careers can be quite limited for young people.**

Circular Head Council thought their Youth Policy was in need of a shake-up in order to give local kids the best chance in life.

More than 120 local young people were consulted, as well as local schools, the Youth Network of Tasmania, Rural Health Tasmania and the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation. Two Y-Plan forums were run to develop a picture of the important issues for young people. Driven by the key findings, subject specific workshops were run across areas including tourism and town image, technology, employment, youth enterprise, and sport and recreation.

Councillors were heartened by the level of engagement and leadership shown by the youth in the development of the Youth Plan. Circular Head Cllr Ashley Popowski said, “The plan will provide the necessary leadership to allow our youth to be innovative and not afraid to be enterprising, to find their way in life and be able to do it from Circular Head”.

Visit the Better Councils Better Communities page on the LGAT website for the full story.



## FURNEAUX ISLANDS FESTIVAL – A CELEBRATION OF ISLANDER CULTURE

**For three days in January, on the Australia Day long weekend, the people of Flinders Island and the other Furneaux Islands get together for a special celebration.**

The Furneaux Islands have a complex and colourful history of Aboriginal culture, early mariners and fisherman, and European settlers. Flinders Council saw a need for an inclusive celebration of Furneaux Islander identity and the significance of such an event occurring around the time of traditional national Australia Day celebrations. Through a partnership with the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc., local community members and Flinders Council, the Furneaux Islands Festival was born.

The festival presents a three-day program celebrating Furneaux Island history and culture, through music and the island's food and produce.

This year, the festival kicked off on Friday night, with a sell-out 'acoustic supper' event for 90 guests at the historic and recently refurbished Emita Hall. Patrons enjoyed a three course meal prepared by local chef, Toni Woods. A great line-up of local and visiting musicians entertained guests, surrounded by the beauty of the islands, and the warmth and hospitality of its people.

The Festival Market took place on Saturday, with twenty stalls selling local hand-made and home-grown products including soaps, wallaby skin leather bags and mutton bird oil skin products. Visiting festival chefs, Jesse McTavish and Scott Stevenson showcased a range of island produce in their food creations.

Saturday afternoon was a laid-back affair at the Lady Barron Tavern, with magnificent views over the islands of Franklin Sound and local and visiting musicians performing for guests on the veranda. To mark the event's conclusion on Sunday, patrons were welcomed to the grounds of the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association at Lady Barron for a community concert and BBQ. As well as sets by local and visiting musicians, there was a performance from local kids who attended the festival's performing arts workshops.

The Furneaux Islands Festival is helping to bring the people of the Furneaux Islands together, to share music, food and drink. In doing so, they share their islander stories with each other, and with visitors to the event.



## BETTER COUNCILS BETTER COMMUNITIES

**On 16 February, LGAT's new television commercial started airing across Tasmania.**

This is one of the many ways LGAT works to educate the broader community about the valuable work that councils do and replaces the *Think Big. Work Local* advertisement that has run for several years.

The advertisement demonstrates the collaborative spirit of Local Government our President refers to in his article. It was made by LGAT and filmed in Tasmania using real locations. Local Government workers and their families volunteered as actors. Costs were kept down because it was modelled off a similar campaign run in Queensland, with permission from the LGAQ.

In addition to the television commercial, we have developed a raft of new web materials including council stories and videos explaining council services.

Local Government is not just another tier of government. Councils get things done. On any given day, councils will be managing roads, streets, pavements, traffic lights, bridges and car parks. They are making sure stormwater and drainage systems don't fail. Councils are recycling and managing waste and ensuring that development aligns with community expectations and at the required standard.

Councils will be considering how climate change might impact on their communities and how to mitigate the effects for the next generation. They will be undertaking local environmental management initiatives, conserving biodiversity and water, and will be geared up to help communities prepare for and recover from natural disasters. They will also be actively working to ensure vibrant communities through economic development and tourism programs.

Councils provide cultural and sporting venues, events and opportunities. They immunise children, ensure that drinking water is safe and that public dining areas are clean. Many councils also provide social welfare programs such as childcare, aged care, community gardens and youth programs. The list is endless.

Better councils really do make better communities.

**Dr Katrena Stephenson**  
**LGAT CEO**



## TASMANIAN COUNCILS PLANNING FOR THEIR WORKFORCES

### Tasmanian councils are leading the way with workforce planning.

Workforce planning and development is the suite of activities that can increase workforce participation, and maximise the availability of appropriately skilled workers that are required to meet a region's current and forecast workforce needs.

Workforce planning in Tasmania and in the Local Government sector in particular, is essential to deliver a growing, prosperous state. Councils have a key role to plan for their own workforces as part of their strategic planning. They also play an important role in partnering with a range of local, regional and state level organisations to identify and support conditions for economic growth. Workforce planning brings important benefits to councils and their communities, and the following examples illustrate how Local Government is supporting the future growth of a vibrant Tasmanian economy.

In late 2016, the University of Technology Sydney Centre for Local Government released a new resource – *Workforce Planning Guidelines for Local Government in Tasmania*, which provides a practical approach to developing strategic workforce plans for Local Government. The project was funded by a grant from Skills Tasmania and developed in partnership with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and Burnie, Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils.

The guidelines cover six steps and include case studies and various tools. Working through the guidelines and

populating the supporting templates should help councils develop their own workforce plan. The guidelines are available now on the Skills Tasmania website or the LGAT extranet, under the HR tab.

Following on from this project, two regional groups of councils have commenced regional workforce planning with the support of Skills Tasmania. The South East Regional Development Association group of councils (Sorell, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Tasman and Clarence) and the Southern Central Sub-region group of councils (Brighton, Derwent Valley, Central Highlands and Southern Midlands) are preparing regional workforce development plans.

The work will: identify current and forecast workforce capability; develop strategies and implementation initiatives to address labour and skills issues facing each region; and improve collaboration between industries and regional bodies through better linkages of regional workforce planning to regional economic development.

While only at its initial stages, both projects are progressing well, with each region holding forums during April to bring key industry and government leaders together.

These projects are an important reminder that, as the level of government closest to the community, councils are in a unique position to identify the skills, knowledge and expertise needed to generate economic and employment opportunities, and support the overall prosperity of their local and regional communities.

## TASMANIA'S FIRST ELECTRONIC PLAYGROUND

**Northern Midlands Council has unveiled Tasmania's first electronic playground, located at the Village Green in Longford.**

The highly popular play space has two components. The first component is a playground for younger children comprising play equipment with a motoring theme, reflecting the town's motor racing history, and swings that are accessible to children of all abilities.

The second component is a play space that caters for older ages of all abilities. The equipment combines the joys of outside play with electronic gaming, creating a contemporary playground. Incorporating digital technology addresses the modern-day interests of children whilst encouraging physical activity, as well as team fun.

Currently, there are three Kompan products installed at the Longford Village Green:

Children chase each other around on the **SPACE** as they attempt to hit flashing game nodes which have been strategically placed. The equipment promotes teamwork, agility and alertness.

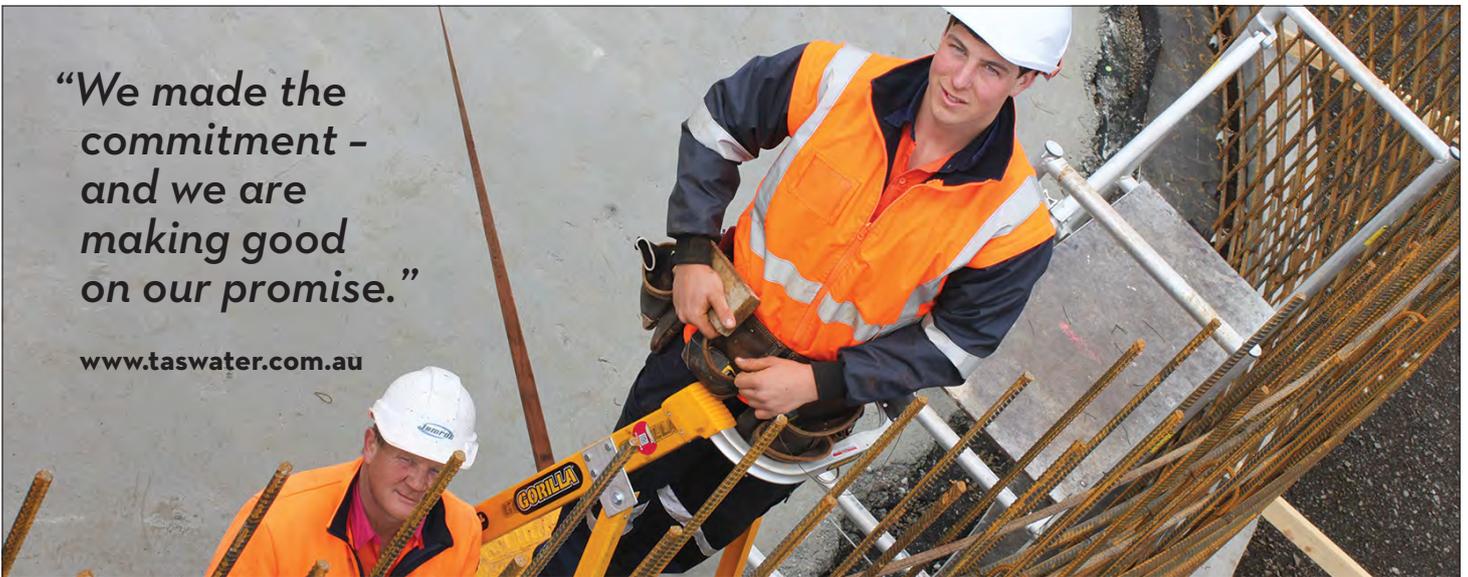
The various **NOVA** games call for speed, sudden turning actions and defence skills. Effective coordination and maintaining a firm foothold is required to secure a position on both the ring and in the game.

**ROCKY** users influence the games by the direction and weight in which they place their body. The best team is one that can position their weight effectively, or repeat a given route with the most accuracy.

Mayor David Downie said, "The playground is a wonderful asset to Longford and a destination play space that is attracting families and visitors from across the State."

*“We made the commitment - and we are making good on our promise.”*

[www.taswater.com.au](http://www.taswater.com.au)



In August 2016, TasWater made a commitment to accelerate our program of addressing the water quality issues in 24 Tasmanian towns and remove public health alerts as quickly as possible.

To date, both **Whitemark** and **Scamander** have had their permanent boil water alert (BWA) lifted. These were important milestones but they mark just the beginning of our two-year *24Glasses* project.

**Ringarooma, Legerwood, Branxholm, Derby and Winnaleah** will soon see the benefit from the program, with about 30km of pipeline now in place and ready to supply water from the Ringarooma water treatment plant that is nearing completion.

Once the plant begins producing fully treated water at the end of May, it will go through a process of rigorous testing. This testing will take a number of weeks to complete but is important to ensure TasWater customers in these small towns receive clean water that is safe to drink straight from the tap. Once given the all-clear by the Department of Health and Human Services, boil water alerts can be lifted from these small towns. We are on track to deliver this by August 2017.

*News on other small towns:*

**Mole Creek** - BWA is due to be lifted by July 2017.

**Pioneer** - Service replacement programme due to be finalised in June 2017.

**Lady Barron** - BWA is due to be lifted by June 2017.

**Avoca** - A pipeline from Fingal's new water treatment plant is under construction and means we are on track to see the BWA lifted by June 2017.

**King Island** - Construction of a new water treatment plant, reservoirs and 26km pipeline has commenced for the communities of Grassy and Currie.

**Rosebery** - A new water treatment plant is currently under construction.

*TasWater is making good on its promise to support Tasmania's small towns and will keep you regularly informed of news of progress and success over the coming months.*



## WHAT'S ON IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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|-------------|--|
| 6 April     | Mayors' Professional Development Day, Launceston |
| 7 April     | General Meeting, Launceston                      |
| 11-13 April | ALGWA National Conference, Launceston            |
| 17 May      | General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart     |
| 22-24 May   | LG Professionals National Congress, Hobart       |
| 31 May      | 2nd Tier Workshop, Hobart                        |
| 18-21 June  | National General Assembly, Canberra              |
| 26 July     | AGM and General Meeting, Hobart                  |
| 27-28 July  | LGAT Annual Conference, Hobart                   |