

26 April 2022

Ms Kate Kent
Deputy Secretary
Communities, Sport and Recreation
Communities Tasmania

Via email: csrinfrastructure@communities.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Kent

Tasmanian Community Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the draft Tasmanian Community Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure Strategy (the Infrastructure Strategy). This submission has been prepared by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) in collaboration with our members; all 29 councils.

LGAT is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the representative body and advocate for local government in Tasmania. Where a council has made a direct submission to this process, any omission of specific comments made by that council in this submission should not be viewed as lack of support by the LGAT for that specific issue.

LGAT welcomes the Department of Communities Tasmania's constructive response to our related submission on the Tasmanian Sport and Active Recreation Strategy Draft. The Infrastructure Strategy recognises local government's key role as a major provider of community sport and active recreation infrastructure. This submission makes comments and recommendations based on that role. The areas of focus are:

1. Mapping and data to understand the role of local government in the current and emerging environment.
2. Strengthening the understanding of local government's various and essential roles in the infrastructure planning, provision, and distributions.
3. Facilitating local government's role in implementing and sustaining the strategy.

The Infrastructure Strategy identifies local government as the major owner of regional and local facilities and the primary manager of public land used for active recreation. Understanding and implementing the five key principles of the Infrastructure Strategy would be enhanced by a more comprehensive and sharper understanding of local

government's role in each of them. The Tasmanian Infrastructure Pipeline Project¹, quantifies local government's contribution to recreation infrastructure as second only to the private sector (p. 2). This makes the local government sector the biggest single contributor. The data supports the clear, qualitative, lived experience evidence that local government is by far the main provider across the state of sport and recreation management, maintenance and development.

This statewide responsibility is highlighted by the estimated expenditure by region data that shows the private sector's focus is predominantly in the south, while local governments is right across the state.

This significant whole of Tasmania contribution needs to be fully understood in "big picture" (p. 10) to properly address the Infrastructure Strategy's five key principles and the overarching commitment to "ensure high quality, safe, inclusive, and fit-for-purpose community sport and active recreation infrastructure" (p. 8).

LGAT recommends that Communities Tasmania engage with LGAT on how local government's essential role in this vision can be mapped, quantified and tracked over time. A co-designed process will enable Communities Tasmania's intention "to obtain and disseminate valuable evidence-based information"(p. 8).

The key principle of well-planned infrastructure will be well served by this collaboration. Local government collectively, and councils individually, are major contributors to statewide infrastructure networks. Our interest in infrastructure strategy includes our submission² to the *Our Infrastructure Future 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy Consultation Draft*³.

LGAT recommends that the Communities Tasmania clarifies the relationship between the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy and this one.

Each of the Community Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure Strategy's nine elements of the big picture approach (p. 10) and the considerations for a well-planned infrastructure (p. 12) will require an ongoing active role for individual councils and LGAT. These opportunities represent new work and new thinking. That will include a clear understanding of the full network of sport and recreation infrastructure as outlined in the current environment section of the Strategy. Building the framework for

¹ Available at:

https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/infrastructure_tasmania/tasmanian_infrastructure_project_pipeline

² Available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/380301/LGAT-Submission-30-Year-Infrastructure-Strategy-Final.pdf

³ Available at: https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/infrastructure_tasmania/30-year_infrastructure_strategy

investigation will require specific and additional resources. Growing the capacity to contribute to the Infrastructure Investment Cycle will also require ongoing resourcing.

LGAT recommends that the Communities Tasmania engages with LGAT on the role of local government in the design and implementation of the well-planned infrastructure outlined in the Infrastructure Strategy. That includes the potential formal role of local government in the proposed Infrastructure Investment Cycle.

LGAT welcomes the intentions and direction of the Infrastructure Strategy and the acknowledgement of the role of local government. This Strategy will require the collaboration of local government to be developed into reality. This opportunity is welcomed by LGAT on the proviso that roles will need clarification, resourcing is required to do the work and appropriate consultation designed.

If you have any queries or would like further information, please contact Lynden Leppard, Policy Officer at lynden.leppard@lgat.tas.gov.au or telephone 6146 3744.

Yours sincerely



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER