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Media Release

Local Government Association looks forward to collaboration with State Government on review process

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes the release of the Stage 2 Interim Report of the Future of Local Government Review. We are pleased to see recognition of the challenges that today's local government sector faces, including how and where services are delivered.

Our submission to the Local Government Review Board highlighted that the role of councils has changed over the years and they are lacking the right tools, support and funding models to deliver on the expectations that have been placed on them.

LGAT President and West Tamar Mayor, Christina Holmdahl, said that "the report reflects the principles that LGAT and councils have put forward, such as retaining jobs and services locally, fairer and more sustainable funding models and ensuring preservation of a local voice".

"Navigating and designing new boundaries, where appropriate, and shared services, will be a huge challenge for councils moving forward.

We recognise that it is communities that will inform what is the best and right fit for them – not the Board or the State Government," she said.

The Local Government Board has indicated that it will work with LGAT to develop an approach that supports councils to engage with their communities on boundary changes and shared services. This is an important step to make sure that reform is grounded in community needs. The broader commitment from the State Government to implement reform is welcomed.

We also acknowledge the shift of the consideration of the development application role to the Minister for Planning. This will require additional resources to ensure prompt and thorough consideration, rather than slowing the important planning reforms under way.

We look forward to supporting Tasmanian councils as they navigate this process and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the State Government to get this right.

ENDS

Interview opportunity: Christina Holmdahl