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FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Local government welcomes Labor’s commitment to supporting the sector

On behalf of the state’s 29 councils, the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes the announcement today from the Tasmanian Labor Party on supporting local government through a number of low-cost and high-impact policies.

LGAT President and Break O’Day Council mayor Mick Tucker said “for many years councils have been asking for a fairer share of the Heavy Vehicle Motor Tax. Our ask is a simple one, that the State Government distributes the revenue collected among all road managers on the same basis it is charged – on-road use. Today’s announcement by the Labor Party goes a long way to restoring this balance.”

“There has been much discussion during this campaign on housing. Our sector believes one of the critical missing pieces to support more of the community into much needed housing is to remove the first-mover disadvantage for developers. These schemes, which every other state has, provide certainty in cost and delivery for everyone and avoid the developer stand-offs that councils are currently seeing,” Mayor Tucker said.

“Like most other sectors, local government is having difficulty securing enough people and the right mix of skills required to support local service provision. This affects not only local government’s productivity but also the growth of local areas. We welcome today’s commitment to work with the sector on a comprehensive workforce development program so we can equip our councils with the right people to support local communities,” Mayor Tucker said.

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