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## Media Release

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### **Local Government Association welcomes new Life Members and recognises outstanding contributions to the sector**

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) congratulates West Tamar Council Mayor, Christina Holmdahl, and former West Tamar General Manager, Rolph Vos, on being awarded **Life Membership** of LGAT.

LGAT President Mayor Mick Tucker said “The LGAT Life Member awards recognises excellence in service and contribution to the local government sector within and beyond Tasmania. Life members are leaders and champions of Tasmanian local government and exemplify the best qualities of the sector.

“Both of these recipients have demonstrated exceptional commitment and service to our sector and I am honoured to present them both Life Memberships.”

Mayor Christina Holmdahl has served on the West Tamar Council for 14 years and has been Mayor since 2014.

She served eight years on the LGAT General Management Committee, including two terms as LGAT President of LGAT. During her time as LGAT President she also served as Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association.

During her time as President, she worked with two Premiers and five different local government Ministers on challenging issues such as the review of the Local Government Act, the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently the Future of Local Government Review. Throughout this time she displayed her leadership and fierce advocacy for the local government sector.

In her own municipality she works within a range of community organisations across the arts, emergency services and is a member of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce.

Fellow award recipient, Rolph Vos had over 27 years of service at West Tamar Council.

He joined the council in 1996 as a cadet building surveyor and then worked his way up through the organisation to become General Manager in 2016.

His work at West Tamar is characterised by the strong partnerships he helped form with the community and with other tiers of government.

Rolph stepped up to represent the local government sector on key bodies, such as:

- The Australian Building Codes Board on behalf of local government nationally.
- The Board of Local Government Professionals, including as State Vice President.
- Regional bodies across transport, the Tamar and Esk rivers, and waste.

Rolph exemplifies spirit of local government and carries significant respect across the sector of both officers and elected representatives.

LGAT also congratulates the two recipients of the **Outstanding Commitment and Service to Local Government Award**:

- John Brown, General Manager, Break O’Day Council
- Jon Doole, formerly of Kingborough Council.

John Brown has served in local government for 22 years, with 14 of those as General Manager of Break O’Day Council.

John is an active contributor and leader within regional groups, such as the Northern General Managers Group and is contributing to the entire sector through the Elected Members Learning and Development Governance Group.

He has helped to bring to fruition important community and infrastructure projects such as the Triple J One Night Stand and the St Helens mountain bike trails. John is a recognised leader within his community through employment initiatives and local boards, demonstrating the important role that local government plays in our towns and cities.

Awarded posthumously, Jon Doole’s more than thirty years at Kingborough Council saw him have a tremendous impact on Tasmanian local government and on climate change action in particular.

He helped drive regional climate collaboration with other Tasmanian councils and interstate. He helped his council, one of the first councils in the country, to develop a Climate Change and Energy Plan and championed its transition to cleaner vehicles and supporting its communities vulnerable to climate change.

Jon’s approach resulted in Kingborough being recognised as a leader in responding to climate risks and reducing carbon emissions.

“Jon was passionate, practical and approached everything with good humour. It is an honour to be able to recognise the outstanding commitment he displayed to his community and the sector as a whole,” Mayor Tucker said.

Gary Arnold, General Manager of Kingborough Council, accepted the award on behalf of Jon’s family.

LGAT would also like to congratulate the following elected representatives who were presented with their **Recognition of Service Award for Elected Members**:

- Mayor Leigh Gray, Brighton Council – 17 years (2005–current)
- Deputy Mayor Barbara Curran, Brighton Council – 27 years (1996–current)
- Councillor Philip Owen, 34 years (1989– current)
- Councillor Peter Geard, 35 years (1984–1993; 1997– current).

All awards were presented during the LGAT Annual Conference Dinner in Devonport on 1 November.

Award nominations are made by councils, Elected Members and General Managers and are determined by the LGAT General Management Committee.

-ENDS-

Photos of the award winners can be accessed here: [2023 LGAT Service Award Winners](#)