



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

# **MINUTES**

To be submitted to the  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Was held on  
23 July 2014

Commencing  
11.00am

Wrest Point Casino  
Hobart



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\* Denotes Attachment

# **FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT**

**The Annual Conference of  
Local Government in Tasmania  
will be held  
commencing  
Wednesday 23 July, 2014**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT  
the Association's Annual General Meeting  
will be held at the  
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart.  
Commencing at 11.00am  
on  
Wednesday 23 July, 2014.**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE  
One Hundred and Second General Meeting  
of the Association  
will be held at the  
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart  
commencing immediately following the conclusion  
of the  
Annual General Meeting  
on Wednesday 23 July, 2014.**

**To consider  
Local Government Policy and Motions  
from Member Councils**

**Allan Garcia  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

# 2014 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2014

10.00–2.00pm	Registration Desk Open	
11.00am	AGM	
	General Meeting	Commences immediately following the conclusion of AGM
1.00pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Dial Before You Dig</i>
2.00pm	Meetings continue	
5.00 - 6.00pm	JLTA / ALGWA Networking Hour	

## THURSDAY 24 JULY 2014

8.00am	Registration Desk Opens	
9.00am	Welcome and Opening	
9.10am	Craig James	
10.05am	Moving Moment	
10.15am	Tim Gartrell	
10.45am	Morning Tea	<i>With thanks to Integrity Sampling</i>
11.15am	Tarran Deane	
12.10pm	Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis	
12.30pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Integrity Sampling</i>
1.30pm	Workshop Program	
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
3.30pm	Panel Discussion	
4.30-5.30pm	Happy Hour	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
7.30pm	MAV Insurance Conference Dinner	

## FRIDAY 25 JULY 2013

9.00am	Workshop Program	
10.30am	Morning Tea	<i>With thanks to GHD</i>
11.00am	2013 Local Government Awards for Excellence	
11.30am	Roger La Salle Innovate or Perish	
12.00am	Moving Moment	
12.05pm	Tony Morris	
1.05pm	Conference wrap up and Wrest Point prize draw	
1.15pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to GHD</i>



# 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Barry Easter, welcomed Members and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 11.05.

Apologies were received from -

Mayor Sarah Schmerl	Break O'Day Council
Mr Des Jennings	Break O'Day Council
Mr Tim Watson	Dorset Council
Mr Dino De Paoli	George Town Council
Mayor Albert van Zetten	Launceston City Council
Mayor Kim Polley	Northern Midlands Council
Mr Brian Lovell	West Coast Council
Mayor Graham Bury	Kingborough Council
Deputy Mayor Mark Jones	Southern Midlands Council
Clr Bob Campbell	Southern Midlands Council

A copy of the Rules of the Association are available on the Association's website at - <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=628>

## 1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council

**That the President's report be received.**

**Carried**

In a year that saw changes of Government at the Federal and State levels, we are beginning to feel the brunt of the new frugality with cuts to financial assistance grants over the next three years and some likely pain at next month's State Budget. In all, some belt tightening is likely across the sector, particularly when our communities have also felt the budget wrath.

We are very pleased to have the new Minister for Planning and Local Government with us today and I must say that it has been refreshing to have a Minister take such a keen interest in the sector and be willing to pick up the phone and have a chat about things before decisions are made or announced. I look forward to working with Peter over the last few months of my tenure and know that he will be equally as accessible to whomever takes on the role of President.

This will be my last AGM as President and while I will be at the next General meeting in September I would take this opportunity to thank those present for their support over the past 5 years and their advice and friendship. I have enjoyed my time as President thoroughly and would commend the role to any of you thinking about throwing your hat into the ring.

At the national level this past year we threw ourselves into the referendum campaign for constitutional recognition only to find that our efforts were in vain with the calling of an early election. The wrapping up of the campaign saw some significant mopping up of activity and thankfully the majority of funds collected from members to campaign the effort was able to be refunded on the basis of the Commonwealth agreeing to reimburse the majority of monies spent. Interestingly, the second Williams decision in the High Court only reinforces the need for constitutional action although the threat to the Commonwealth's capacity to directly distribute funds is much broader than Local Government. We will watch this space with interest.

As mentioned the budget saw a freezing of FAGS indexation meaning a reduction in real terms to Tasmanian councils of some \$17 million over the next year although some consolation was received in the announcement to double Roads to Recovery funding in the 2015-16 financial year. Efforts are continuing at the national level to obtain relief on the FAGS funding although it is fair to say that at this time, things don't look promising.

At the legislative level we were involved in a number of activities throughout the year. Consultation took place with members on legislative compliance and audit processes, boundary fence issues, dilapidated buildings, private certification of no permit required developments, privately issued planning permits, National Heavy Vehicle Regulations and private letting as well as planning and building regulations. Significant input was provided on the Ministerial Orders relating to both Audit Panels and matters associated with the Long Term Financial Plans of councils. Meeting procedures regulations, Local Government Highways regulations and submissions to the State Bushfire Policy were other key endeavours by Association staff through the year.

Much effort has been involved in seeking to find a way through the mire which has become the Code of Conduct and the related processes and procedures, We developed a Code of Conduct Discussion paper as a prompt for further refinement of the legislation and regulation in this area and it is hoped that a new set of arrangements and structures will be able to be in place sooner than later to ensure appropriate behaviours and sanctions.

Planning came to the fore later in the year with the new State Government embracing its single planning scheme model and the establishment of the Planning Task Force. I know that the Minister will speak of this in his speech later in the morning and there will be some significant debate on the subject during the Panel session tomorrow.

The Association focused significant attention on the delivery of services during the year and specifically in aggregating effort and offerings that would financially assist councils as well as increasing their capacity and capability. In the area of procurement, a range of products and offerings are now available for councils to purchase through a national network of providers. On the basis of the transaction data available for the year we estimate that councils saved in the order of \$480,000 last year through the Association's aggregated purchasing arrangements. Not all councils are signed up yet and the product offering continues to grow so we expect that this will be of even greater benefit to councils in the ensuing years.

The Association also brokered commercial arrangements with a legal service provider to allow members access to up to date training, templates, case law and guidance material in respect of workplace health and safety. Each council contributes funding to the service but the individual cost to councils is much less than otherwise would have been possible if councils had sought the same level of service individually.

A similar activity has occurred in the area of delegations. Following some fantastic preliminary work by Burnie City Council, the Association has now brokered an ongoing arrangement where delegations can be automatically and accurately be updated at all times. A central process allows all councils access and saves each from having to constantly refer to legislative and regulatory amendments and the possibility of delegations being unlawful.

In a similar vein, we have recently been working with councils to develop an aggregated purchasing capacity to influence the pricing structure of street lighting. While contestability in the market place for this service has been introduced, it is uncertain at this time as to the level of competition such unbundling may exert. We are hopeful of being able to deliver councils some savings albeit that they may be modest.

The Association has also launched its extranet whereby council staff and elected members can access the products referred to above as well as a range of other materials proposed. This site is a secure site for council personnel and provides a significant value add beyond the website information. A new professional development calendar has been developed and is also on the extranet with downloadable materials and registration forms.

Our careers activity was again front and centre with a second series of careers videos being developed, screening of the “think Big” commercial during the seasonal peak in vacancies, attendance at key careers expos and the development of a guide to finding council jobs for use at expos.

Our efforts on behalf of councils in the award modernisation space continued and it is hoped that this effort can be finalised in the coming months.

In partnership with the 26TEN Coalition of interest we took a lead project management role in the development of a “how to” guide to assist communities in the state to become 26TEN communities and facilitated the development of a Plain English Guide that can be used by communities, business and governments to support clear communication.

A detailed election manifesto was prepared and presented to all parties in the lead up to the State election. A number of submissions were made to regulatory and oversight bodies including a detailed submission into Emergency Management Funding to an Inquiry conducted by the Productivity Commission; a submission on the State Budget;

Staff participated on a number of key committees including the Road Safety Advisory Council, the Planning Taskforce, the Nomenclature Board, the various “Role of Local Government” Working Groups, the OTTER Consultative Committee, the Australia Post Stakeholder Council, the ACELG Research Advisory Committee; ALGA Roads & Transport Advisory Committee, Alcohol Advisory Group and the Cultural Development Network

A very successful series of pre-election workshops was conducted around the state with approximately 130 would be councillors attending training sessions. The general

engagement and level of interaction suggests that we will have a vibrant crop of new candidates to select from in a couple of months.

We have a small but very dedicated staff at the Association led by our CEO Allan Garcia. One just has to look at the monthly reports on Association activities and ponder on the matters contained in this report to realise what a tremendous amount of activity is generated by the Association staff for the benefit of local government in Tasmania.

On behalf of the entire membership and all present here today I thank each and every one of you for a job well done. Personally I find it difficult to put into words just how much I admire you all for the professional and cheerful way you approach your daily responsibilities, so suffice to say thank you for the assistance and wise council you have always given me, it has been a privilege to have had the pleasure of working with such a great group of people during my terms as President.

<b>2 MINUTES OF 101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *</b>
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<b>Devonport City Council/Launceston City Council</b>
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<b>That the Minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting, held 24 July, 2013 be confirmed.</b>
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<b>Carried</b>
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The Minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 24 July, 2013 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Attachment to Item 2.**

**Glenorchy City Council/Southern Midlands Council**

**That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 be received and adopted.**

**Carried**

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, an abridged version of which is included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

A full version is available from the Association's offices.

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2013 to 24 June 2014 is also included at **Attachment to Item 3** to provide members with an indication of the current financial position of the Association.

At the time of preparation of the report one week remained to the end of the Financial Year with year end adjustments also pending. The items below are of note but it is anticipated that there will be a minor surplus.

**Constitutional Recognition**      The campaign funds were returned by ALGA distorting the Associations income and also the expenses, where those funds were then refunded back to councils.

Associated expenses for the Constitutional Recognition Campaign ie arrangement of workshops/forums and provision of advertising materials also impacted miscellaneous expenditure.

**Travel**      Heavy Vehicle Regulation and Procurement activity has meant unexpected additional meetings for officers.

**Community Satisfaction Survey** Funds are received annually from councils for a bi-annual survey, in practice the survey is conducted during April to July with costs incurred across financial years, in future these amounts will be allocated annually in the budget.

#### **4 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS**

##### **Meander Valley Council/Northern Midlands Council**

**That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.**

**Carried**

Derwent Valley Council voted against the motion

The Rules of the Association provide that the Annual General Meeting will grant an annual allowance to the President and Vice President.

It has been practice to undertake an independent review of the allowances of the President and Vice President in the same financial year as the four yearly review of allowances of Local Government Elected Members. The last review was undertaken in 2009 by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The result of that review was a proposal to retain the basis of the present allowances unchanged for the two positions with annual movements for the next four years being in accord with the wages price index, bringing the allowances into line with the escalation factor used for elected member allowances across councils.

The President and Vice President allowances have been increased in line with adjustments with the Wages Price Index for the financial years ending 30 June 2010, 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012 after which a further review of allowances was to be conducted.

However, as the escalation factor used for elected member allowances remains the wages price index it is deemed appropriate that the President and Vice President Honorariums escalate on the same basis going forward.

If in the future, the escalation of the Elected Member Allowances are reviewed or alter, the Honorariums can also be reviewed.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for the 2013 - 2014 were:

- President allowance                      \$43,192 per annum.
- Vice President allowance              \$10,798 per annum.

The wage price index will also be applied to GMC sitting fees.

**Circular Head Council/Central Coast Council**

**Members agree to incorporate Think Big Work Local costs into subscriptions (separately itemised) on an ongoing basis as opposed to the current, two yearly project terms.**

**Carried**

Derwent Valley Council voted against the motion.

This project was first funded in September 2008 with a view to reducing skills shortages. The project scope expanded with television advertising being piggy backed off in terms of raising the profile of Local Government for the Constitutional Recognition Campaign. The project was renewed for a second period and is funded separately to subscriptions but using the subscription formula.

The project funding comes to an end in June this year.

LGAT feels that there is value in the project continuing based on the following outputs and outcomes:

- In June this year, LGAT obtained \$75,000 of funding from Skills Tasmania's 'Skills Fund'. After an EOI process, a collective application was made on behalf of Clarence, Devonport, Launceston and Meander Valley councils using data and resources from the Think Big Work Local project. Council staff will be funded to study qualifications in: Local Government regulatory services for parking officers; turf management; frontline management; marketing; business administration; tourism; and workplace health and safety. Since 2010, the Think Big Work Local project has obtained 3 training grants for 13 councils, from both Commonwealth and State sources worth a total of \$316,000. Training plays an important role in minimising skills shortages.
- Raising the profile of Local Government as a career choice was identified as a key need by the original steering committee. For a strong impact, a TV advertisement was created and broadcast to reach 92% of the adult audience in Aug 2010, Jan/Feb 2011 and Jan/Feb 2012. The advertisement directed viewers to [www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au](http://www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au) for descriptions of careers, training available, and an electronic summary of job vacancies from council websites. TV advertising took website hits from 0 visits a month, to an average of 1110 visits a month in 2010 and 1178 visits a month in 2011 (Figure 1).
- A number of videos on in-demand roles were created and added to the website, with some additional ones obtained free.
- At least 12 careers expos and presentations were provided to job seekers each year. Using our branded promotional booth with a touch screen PC and internet access has enabled LGAT to discuss careers and check jobs live with our audience. From 2012 we organised Commonwealth Government Careers Expos, with jobs placed on a jobs board, helped drive interest in council careers higher.
- LGAT's online competition and prizes advertised over our existing TV commercial and on the website also contributed to interest levels. Average visits per month climbed to 1401 in 2012, and to a high 1819 in 2013. This was achieved despite TV advertising being reduced to a minimal level in 2013, with the advert doubling as support for Constitutional Recognition.
- Each year the project officer has provided a range of advice to council HR officers and staff, helping them understand VET/university systems, options, grants and applications, grant

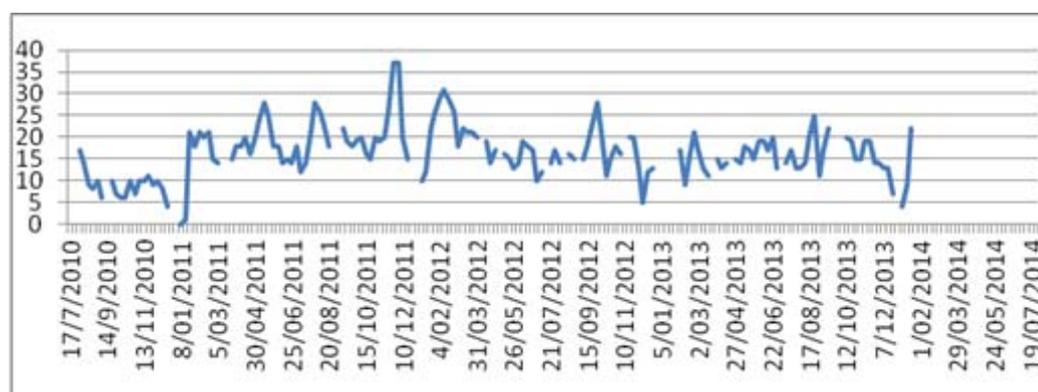
administration and quality assurance processes. Lack of local training causes local skills shortages. Writing some content for national core subjects, and obtaining grants has helped grow local training, including e-learning. Influencing the policy of Commonwealth and State organisations on qualification structures and training grant rules, has increased utility and access to training and training grants by councils. For example, data obtained by the project has been used to persuade TasTAFE to continue to deliver civil engineering in centres beyond Hobart from 2014.

- When the project commenced, insufficient data was available to the sector, to strategically manage workforce planning. LGAT worked with the Commonwealth, through the Centre for Excellence and the State through DPAC, focusing on useful data outcomes for councils. Monitoring of job adverts since enabled measurement of the level of recruitment need of Tasmanian councils. Recruitment need was observed to rise sharply in 2011 (Figure 2) to an average of 19.5 a week, marking the peak of the observed skills shortage. This level was maintained in 2012, at 18 per week. In 2013 the average job adverts fell for the first time to 16 per week, illustrating a reduction in recruitment need.
- In 2012, a database of Tasmanian councils/staff was developed by an electronic survey of HR databases. The analysis enabled LGAT to give the 22 participating councils strategic advice in a Workforce Plan. The Plans advise on which job roles to prioritise and recommend what strategic actions to take to minimise estimated retirements and resignations by job role. The Workforce Plans also provide councils with data they will require when applying for training grants. A sector report was also created, the aggregated data is being used to help negotiate better training outcomes, by using the size and scale of our sector's needs projected to 2040. In 2014 the survey added measurements of actual retirements, resignations and other forms of staff loss, expanding the scope of advice.

Figure 1 Monthly Website Visits



Figure 2 Weekly No. of Job Adverts



The Policy Director raised the matter at the last General Manager's workshop to get an indication of the level of support for continuing the project by building it in to subscriptions for a longer period.

There appeared to be a high level of support for keeping the project in its entirety including advertising which was seen as a high profile marketing device for the sector. However, the support was not unanimous and there was agreement that a strong set of KPIs should be identified. A few councils expressed concern at the ongoing additions to subscriptions but the reality is this project has been funded on a subscription model basis for the last four years. One possible solution is to still itemise it separately in subscriptions but noting it cannot just be 'dropped'.

In summary, at the GMs workshop we noted the following:

- We need to be in it (workforce development) to avoid future shortages
- Bring funding inside subscriptions
- Keep advertising and videos
- Workforce survey is a critical aspect
- Not negotiable every two years but subject to review (eg scale back advertising or other components but core costs not negotiable).

The Policy Director sought further advice from General Managers out of session via email and also identified some KPIs for their consideration. These were:

- Reach of advertising
- Website traffic – general, during advertising, post careers fairs
- Grant funding obtained/number of council staff supported through grant funding
- Usefulness of workforce data/survey analysis (through staff feedback survey)
- Number of councils utilising careers videos or linking to Think Big Work Local
- Time to fill vacancies

Only eight councils provided any reply by email, six of those were wholly supportive. One expressed concern about ongoing costs and the other wanted to be satisfied there would be ongoing evaluation.

### **Budget Implications**

To continue delivering roughly the same, including TV advertising, we are looking at a total annual cost of \$125,000 per annum (distributed across councils using subscription formula as part of subscriptions but separately identified).

Costs can be held to current levels by minimising physical attendance at interstate meetings such as Government Skills Australia meetings and the Local Government Workforce Development Group and better utilising teleconferencing and web conferencing.

More specifically funding would cover -

- Television advertising (\$60,000).
- Web site maintenance.
- Sectoral training grant applications and management of grant funding and related reporting.
- Basic advice on training available (but no individual council application support).
- Workforce Survey biannually with sectoral and individual council analysis.
- Monitoring job advertising, website visits, TV reach etc for KPIs.
- LGAT presentations at 4-5 key careers expos in Tasmania as well as presentations to six UTAS, TAFE, Careers Advisors and other stakeholders each year.

- Support for councils to participate at regional/local expos (tools, tips, flyers etc). Advice in relation to events such as speed dating, bus visits etc but Councils to self manage/fund otherwise.
- Maintain basic relationship with Intrastate Agencies such as Government Skills Australia, Local Government Workforce Development Group, National HR Conference Committee with support from Policy Director and greater use of teleconferencing.
- Based on 0.5 FTE

If budget savings were desired, it is proposed to hold off advertising for a period of 1 year. This would reduce the annual cost to \$65,000 in Year 1.

**Current Policy**

This is well aligned with our Strategic Plan Priority Area 4: Building Sector Capacity.

**West Tamar Council/Circular Head Council**

**That subscriptions be increased by 2.63% to meet the operating costs of the Association.**

**Carried**

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

The application of the LGAT formula for subscriptions involves using the Total Assessed Revenue of councils, in accordance with State Grants commission data, with an application of the Council cost index then applied across the various categories of councils.

The result this year sees five councils moving up a category and two moving down. It is generally not expected that there would be as much movement but the circumstances are such that a number of councils were closely aligned with the upper threshold of the range in their previous category.

Break O'Day, West Coast, Kentish, Latrobe and Waratah Wynyard will face increases in category levels, while Dorset and Glenorchy go down.

The total to be received from subscription revenue next year is \$1,023,693. It should be noted that while the funds that would otherwise have been payable by Hobart City Council, had it retained its membership, were met from reserves last year, the "Hobart cost" has been passed on to all members this year.

The subscription table for councils is at **Attachment to Item 6** and is submitted to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

**Dorset Council/Northern Midlands Council**

**That the Meeting adopt the Budget as presented.**

**Carried**

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

There are no significant variations to the budget for the upcoming year with the exception of the introduction of a new service being provided to councils for workplace behavioural issues, an increase in ALGA subscriptions, a reduction in network and internet costs and a bringing to account of employee entitlements.

The first matter represents a significant benefit to councils where a sectoral contract has been negotiated with a service provider to provide councils with templates and up to date services and information, as well as training, on workplace issues. The Association will make a small margin on the transaction for administration purposes.

With the withdrawal of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) from ALGA, the shortfall is to be accommodated in an increase in subscriptions across other jurisdictions. The formula used to calculate the additional contribution does not favour Tasmania relatively but the subscription formula overall is considered equitable. The cost to LGAT will be some additional \$10,000.

Network and internet charges have reduced considerably under a new service provider with a decrease in budget proposed of \$8000 next year. With regard to other employee entitlements, traditionally, we have budgeted on the basis of what would normally be expected to be taken in the form of holidays in the financial year. Better practice is to calculate this figure against a potential liability spread. This takes into account the possibility that those eligible for long service leave may actually take it. The result is an increase in the budget of some \$35,000.

Standard increases are expected in salaries and superannuation.

The budget bottom line is break even with the imposition of an increase in subscriptions of 2.63% in line with the Council Cost Index.

A copy of the budget is at **Attachment to Item 7.**

**Launceston City Council/Central Coast Council**

**That Members note the amended Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017 and the Operational Plan for 2014/2015.**

**Carried**

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

During April, LGAT staff met to review progress against the current Annual Plan and agree likely future actions for the year ahead.

GMC approved the amended strategic plan and endorsed in principle the operational plan at their May 2014 Meeting.

The key change to the Strategic Plan is removal of the priority area relating to Water and Sewerage as LGAT no longer has a significant role in this space.

Priority Area 2 has shifted in focus reflecting the end of the Constitutional Recognition campaign and is now entitled: *PA2: Leading Reform And Lifting The Sector's Profile*.

The key focal areas are improving the image of Local Government and developing research and analysis to allow meaningful responses to reform agendas or to support Sector initiated reform.

The Annual Operational Plan has been developed after consideration of what has been already achieved and what still needs to be achieved and tries to anticipate likely future activity based on the election of a new State Government. The Operational Plan is a living document and will be reviewed as the policy agenda for Local Government and relevant related activity under the new Liberal Government become clearer.

New initiatives include:

- Taking the LGAT News Magazine to market.
- Build a strong relationship with the Department of State Growth and the Co-ordinator General
- Promote all-in, all-out elections and advise communities and voters what this means for them.
- Provide support to potential Local Government candidates through forums and written resources.
- Implement a LGAT Twitter Feed and participate in National Twitter Day.
- Identify and implement new training opportunities such as:
  - Master Class for 2IC's
  - Master Class on Rating
  - Community Development Networking Forum (possibly including or in addition to an Arts and Recreation Forum)
  - Workshops for Roads Managers re pre-consent classification of vehicles
- Continue to work collaboratively with members to identify and understand land use planning issues and advocate on those for the sector including:

- Participation on the Planning Taskforce
- Driving resolution of issues arising from implementation of the Bushfire Code
- Advocate for members on the planning/policy interface issues with regard to social infrastructure and objectives (eg healthy by design, public transport, active transport)
- Contribute to improvements in planning and building processes through the Planning Schemes Online Project and the Business Tasmania Online Project (smart forms).
- Investigate opportunities to improve consistency of approach and modernise a range of planning/building documentation including permits forms and 337s.

Copies of the Strategic Plan and Draft Annual Operational Plan are at **Attachment to Item 8**.

### **Current Policy**

The Strategic Plan sets the broad direction for LGAT activity. The Annual Operational Plan has been developed in accordance with that Plan.

### **Budget**

Future activity has been reflected in the development of the LGAT Budget.

**9.1 Terms of Office Extension - Members of the General Management Committee**

**Burnie City Council/Southern Midlands Council**

**That the term of office of all GMC Members, with the exception of the President, be extended for a period of one year.**

**Amendment Motion**

**Derwent Valley Council/Kentish Council**

**That term of office of all General Management Committee members, with the exception of the President, be extended to December 2014.**

**Lost**

**Burnie City Council/Southern Midlands Council**

**That the term of office of all GMC Members, with the exception of the President, be extended for a period of one year.**

**The Original Motion Was Carried**

Derwent Valley Council voted against the Motion.

The current Rules of the Local Government Association of Tasmania require an election of the General Management Committee members in the year following a Council election. The delay of council elections until October 2014 this year means that under the current Rules it is not possible to conduct an election for GMC membership this year.

It is proposed, therefore, to extend the terms of office of all GMC members for a further year with elections to be held in 2015. Although moving to all in all out for councils, it is proposed that GMC positions be only for a two year period with "mid-term" elections. This has previously been endorsed by councils on the basis of it providing greater opportunity to serve on the LGAT Executive.

All members of GMC have indicated a willingness to continue in their role with the only issue arising being if they are not successfully returned as councillors in the October elections.

The Rules presently provide for the extension of the term of office of the General Management Committee (Rule 21(c)) by any meeting of the Association for such period as the meeting determines.

With the decision by the current President to not re-contest his council seat and foreshadowing his resignation as President, a fresh election for President will be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting, subject to amendments to the Association's Rules being passed.

### **Policy Implications**

The present Rules allow for the extension of the term of office of GMC members for any period determined by a Meeting of the Association.

### **Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

## **9.2 Local Government Elections & GMC Membership**

### **Burnie City Council/Derwent Valley Council**

**That the meeting adopt the changes to the Rules in relation to**

- 1. Withdrawal of Hobart City Council as a Member of the Association; and**
- 2. Changes to Local Government elections.**

**Carried**

Two sets of changes to the LGAT Rules are presented to the Annual General Meeting. One to overcome the fact that if a council is not a member of the Association, it should not be able to have a representative on the General Management Committee and the other, to address the election of GMC members in the move to all in all out elections.

The first arises directly as a result of the withdrawal of Hobart City Council from the Association. Section 18(a) of the current rules states that

The General Management Committee shall consist of:

- (i) The President
- (ii) The Lord Mayor or proxy;
- (iii) Six members to be elected, as provided in sub-rule (b), from the three electoral districts ...

By virtue of this reference, it could be suggested that the Lord Mayor has a right of representation on GMC regardless of Hobart City Council membership.

The proposed rule change that will be taken to the Annual General meeting will be inserted as a new 18(a)(ii)

***provided the Hobart City Council is a current Member, the Lord Mayor or proxy; and***

The second rule change follows the move to all in all out elections.

The existing provisions within the Rules of the Association contemplate an election for President and members of the General Management Committee in the period following an ordinary council election. The Rules do not contemplate a postponement of an ordinary council election for a year.

In addition, the shift to all-in / all-out elections means that there will only be an ordinary council election each four years. This means that in order to provide for two-yearly terms of office for the President and GMC members, an amendment will be required of the Rules.

This constitutes a relatively minor amendment to the Rules which would differentiate between a “council election year” and a “mid term year”, the latter being a calendar year occurring two years after the holding of an ordinary election immediately following a council election year.

Further, the current Rules do not allow an election to be held for the President until the office becomes vacant.

Legal advice has been provided on these matters and explanatory information is provided to members and is at **Attachment to Item 9.2** in the appropriate format for reference along, with a draft copy of the proposed Rules, amendments included.

In summary, proposed amendments to the Rules will allow for the conduct of an election while the President is incumbent, thus allowing a speedier transition to the new office holder. The other amendments will allow for the conduct of two yearly elections, the first following the conduct of ordinary elections and the other during the “mid-term” of the council office period.

The impact of the Change to the Rules relating to the election of President means that the President will now be able to give formal notice of his decision to step down as President as at a certain date and the conduct of an election to occur during his incumbency. The current President will not be standing for council re-election in October 2014 and thus would be ineligible to continue as President. While the Vice President could assume the role until the next election, it has been agreed that a fresh election for President would allow for an earlier alignment with the State Government on key issues. This has been discussed in detail at GMC as well as being discussed and supported at the last General meeting in March during the debate on topical issues.

### **Policy Implications**

In accordance with Rule 16(d)(iii) of the Association’s Rules, when a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.

### **Budget Implications**

The cost of the Presidential election is minimal.

**10.1 Voting Categories****Derwent Valley Council/West Coast Council**

**That the Local Government Association of Tasmania Rules Regarding Conduct of General Meeting be amended by deleting from rule 16 voting by population categories and replacing it with one (1) vote per Council.**

**Lost**

**Background Comment**

This matter has been discussed at General Meetings and rejected on the basis of the Scale of fees payable, but it is our view that the Local Government Association of Tasmania does not represent the public (ratepayers) they represent the member councils.

The current process is in our view not democratic by having weighted voting at meetings of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

In reading the rules of the Municipal Association of Victoria for meetings and for State Council meetings the rules state as follows:

**14. Voting Entitlements at Meetings**

*At any meeting of the Association other than a meeting of State Council members will vote by a show of hands and the Chairperson in taking the sense of the meeting will put the question first in the affirmative, then in the negative, and the result of the vote will be recorded in the minutes.*

**15. Voting Entitlements at State Council Meetings**

*15.1 At any meeting of State Council, voting entitlements on any motion or amendment will be*

*15.1.1 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which exceeds the mid point between the lowest and highest subscriptions will have two (2) votes; and*

*15.1.2 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which does not exceed that mid point will have one (1) vote.*

*15.2 and questions will be decided on the basis of the votes of the representatives voting.*

*Should there be an equality of votes on any question before a meeting the Chairperson has the casting vote.*

The method used in Victoria appears slightly better than that used in Tasmania, but that is only because the maximum vote is two (2) as opposed to four (4) in Tasmania.

It would in our view, be an option for the Local Government Association of Tasmania to trial for a twelve month period one (1) vote for all members councils and then review the situation at a future Annual General Meeting.

### **LGAT Comment**

The present voting structure of the Association is based on the premise of representation, the greater the size of the council population, the higher the voting weight. The one council one vote issue has been raised on a number of occasions but has not to date received support.

## **11 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES \***

### **Derwent Valley Council/Circular Head Council**

- (a) That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.**
- (b) That Conference acknowledges the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.**

**Carried**

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2013/14 financial year.

Representatives on Bodies are requested to provide a report for Conference and are also requested to provide regular reports back to the Association during the year.

- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**  
Mr David Moser
- **Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC)**  
Mr Neil Blaikie
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**  
Ms Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- **LGAT Assist**  
Mr Kay Reeves
- **Local Government Board**  
Mrs Liz Gillam
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**  
Mayor Jock Campbell, Clarence City Council
- **State Fire Commission**  
Mr Rod Sweetnam, Launceston City Council, Clr Hannah Rubenach, Break O'Day Council
- **State Fire Management Council**  
Dr Stephen Bresnehan, Hobart City Council
- **State Grants Commission**  
Mr Grant Atkins and Mr Hugh Denny
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**  
Mr Peter Button, Launceston City Council, Ald Jeremy Ball, Launceston City Council
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**  
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Ald Doug Chipman, Clarence City Council and Clr Susan Nolan, Kingborough Council, Ms Kym Matthews, Break O'Day Council;
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**  
Ms Sandra Hogue

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 11**.

## 12 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President, Mayor Barry Easter, declared the meeting closed at 12.25pm.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

### Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2014

	Note	Assist 2014 \$	General 2014 \$	Assist 2013 \$	General 2013
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	685,666	673,411	749,487	949,666
Trade and other receivables	4	-	69,623	-	43,005
Financial assets	5	429,762	2,050,000	398,438	1,922,478
Other assets	6	972	60,989	1,420	50,013
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,116,400</b>	<b>2,854,023</b>	<b>1,149,345</b>	<b>2,965,162</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Financial assets	5	60,542	-	35,520	-
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	1,014,779	-	1,015,861
Intangible assets	8	-	890	-	1,476
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>60,542</b>	<b>1,015,669</b>	<b>35,520</b>	<b>1,017,337</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,176,942</b>	<b>3,869,692</b>	<b>1,184,865</b>	<b>3,982,499</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables	9	5,088	277,064	5,756	306,172
Unexpended grants	10	-	435,608	-	541,612
Provisions	11	-	249,186	-	227,735
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,088</b>	<b>961,858</b>	<b>5,756</b>	<b>1,075,519</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Provisions	11	-	65,639	-	45,463
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>65,639</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,463</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,088</b>	<b>1,027,497</b>	<b>5,756</b>	<b>1,120,982</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,171,854</b>	<b>2,842,195</b>	<b>1,179,109</b>	<b>2,861,517</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Accumulated surplus		1,171,854	2,842,195	1,179,109	2,861,517
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>1,171,854</b>	<b>2,842,195</b>	<b>1,179,109</b>	<b>2,861,517</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	General 2014	General 2013
	\$	\$
<b>Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government grants	172,970	360,580
Fees and commissions	79,202	65,917
Interest - general account	94,216	129,071
Interest – building proceeds	3,308	3,047
Interest – Constitutional Rec	-	6,035
Surplus/(Deficit) on sale of plant and equipment	1,500	(3,950)
Sponsorship, conferences/seminars	228,574	240,416
Subscriptions	997,405	968,035
Other Subscriptions	138,449	212,482
Other	191,491	487
	<b>1,907,115</b>	<b>1,982,120</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Advertising	1,268	454
Accommodation expenses	676	475
Accounts administration	12,629	12,033
ALGA	106,345	104,672
Amortisation - computer software	586	973
Annual conference	155,789	135,708
Auditors' remuneration	14,115	13,635
Bad Debts Expense	50,920	-
Catering	3,524	5,550
Cleaning	4,363	4,256
Consultancy fees	9,005	9,095
Council careers and skills shortage	112,710	100,219
Community Satisfaction Survey	8,100	18,900
Conferences and seminars	15,036	32,490
Constitutional Recognition	159,627	190,500
Cost Recovery - grant administration	(79,399)	(78,061)
Depreciation - computers	6,897	9,178
Depreciation - motor vehicles	18,954	16,644
Depreciation - furniture and equipment	2,953	3,076
Division 43 Deduction	1,441	1,274
Fringe benefits tax	10,458	14,853
Land & Buildings Running Costs	3,934	-
Insurance	29,545	30,096
Members emoluments	58,959	56,911
Motor Vehicle - running expenses	7,609	9,111
Motor Vehicle - repairs and maintenance	1,166	1,869
Network and internet	12,782	14,119
Other expenses	7,886	8,825

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	General 2014 \$	General 2013 \$
<b>Note 16 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure (cont'd)</b>		
Postage	5,534	5,949
Power	9,543	6,750
Printing and publications	5,612	5,387
Rates and taxes	8,566	1,603
Rentals	1,888	2,055
Salaries, wages and employee benefits (incl. Grant Staff)	788,414	736,260
Software	4,085	2,781
Sponsorship	1,700	3,450
Stationery	2,558	2,899
Subscriptions - general account	9,236	9,422
Superannuation contribution (incl. Grant Staff)	92,793	84,552
Telephone	19,622	19,189
Travelling Expenses	16,090	20,389
Government grants expenditure (excluding wages and superannuation):		
Environmental Dispute Resolution	3,783	-
Tasmarc - Climate Connect	3,107	16,667
26TEN - Plain English Guide	27,570	-
Container Deposit Scheme	18,562	-
Household Hazardous Waste	-	35,879
eDAIS	-	286
Coastal Adaption Pathway Project	10,000	124,991
LG Reform	72,018	172,691
LG Liveable Places	87,880	30,566
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,926,437</b>	<b>1,998,621</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) - general account</b>	<b>(19,322)</b>	<b>(16,501)</b>

Charges incurred for the administration of both the LGAT Assist account and grant projects have been recharged to LGAT Assist or the specific project. The recovery of these costs is then shown as Cost Recovery so that the expenses on the General Account are more accurately reported.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	Assist 2014	Assist 2013
<b>Note 17 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Interest on Loans	39,505	34,198
Other Interest Revenue	24,552	30,347
	<b>64,057</b>	<b>64,545</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
LGAT Assist Accounts Administration	34,298	33,524
Auditors Remuneration	4,705	4,545
Bad Debts Written Off/(Recovered)	1,659	2,076
Donations and Research Projects	13,000	16,000
Grants to Members – Welfare	17,500	9,414
Other Expenses – Welfare	150	127
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>71,312</b>	<b>65,686</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) – LGAT Assist</b>	<b>(7,255)</b>	<b>(1,141)</b>

### Note 18 Commitments

At 30 June 2014 the Association had no outstanding commitments.

Local Government Association of Tasmania  
Profit and Loss (Budget Analysis)  
1 July 2014 to 16 June 2015

Attachment to Item 3

4-000	Income	Selected Period	Budget For 2014/2015	Difference	Difference %	Comments
4-0500	Annual Conference	304,667.26	215,000.00	89,667.26	41.71	Actuals for 2014/15 Conference \$200,845.43 Income will be adjusted at end FY
4-1000	Conferences/Seminars	55,589.02	25,000.00	30,589.02	122.36	
4-1500	Cost Recoveries	- 19,033.05		-19,033.05		
4-1600	LGAT Training - Cost Recovery			0.00		
4-2000	Fees & Commissions	76,585.52	80,000.00	-3,414.48	-4.27	
4-3000	Interest	44,041.84	80,000.00	-35,958.16	-44.95	
4-3100	Interest - Building Proceeds	2,033.15	3,000.00	-966.85	-32.23	
4-3500	Other	222.00		222.00	100.00	
4-5000	Profit Sale on Plant/Equip.			0.00	0.00	
4-6000	Subscriptions	1,050,613.00	1,023,700.00	26,913.00	2.63	HCC rejoined, subscriptions for 14/15 paid pro-rata
4-6100	Subs - Council Careers	131,577.00	125,000.00	6,577.00	5.26	As above
4-6115	Subs - Community Sat Survey	14,736.00	14,000.00	736.00	5.26	As above
4-7000	Industrial Awards - HR Tools	87,165.00	90,000.00	-2,835.00		
	<b>Income</b>	<b>1,748,196.74</b>	<b>1,655,700.00</b>	<b>92,496.74</b>	<b>5.59</b>	
	Less 2015/16 Conf Income	103,821.83				
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,644,374.91</b>				
<b>6-0000</b>	<b>Expenses</b>					
6-1050	Accomm exp - GMC	1,345.00	1,000.00	345.00	34.50	
6-1100	Accounts Administration	12,580.00	14,000.00	-1,420.00	-10.14	
6-1200	Advertising	250.43	1,500.00	-1,249.57	-83.30	
6-1250	ALGA - Meeting expenses	23,022.36	20,000.00	3,022.36	15.11	
6-1300	ALGA Subscription	89,789.00	90,000.00	-211.00	-0.23	
6-1350	Annual Conference	153,263.96	155,000.00	-1,736.04	-1.12	Actuals for 2014/15 Conference \$136,017.29 Expenses will be adjusted at end FY
6-1400	Auditors Remuneration		18,900.00	-18,900.00	-100.00	
6-1450	Bank Fees & Gov. Charges	3,329.43	3,000.00	329.43	10.98	

6-1475	Bad Debts Expense	- 50,920.00		-50,920.00	100.00	Bad Debt expense was taken up in 13/14, now the funds are to be recovered, the Bad Debt Expense from the previous year is reversed in 14/15
6-1500	Catering / Entertainment	6,762.80	4,500.00	2,262.80	50.28	
6-1600	Cleaning and Supplies	4,404.58	5,000.00	-595.42	-11.91	
6-1610	Community Satisfaction Survey	8,550.00	14,000.00	-5,450.00	0.00	
6-1650	Conferences/Seminars	30,626.53	10,000.00	20,626.53	206.27	
6-1700	Consultants Fees	5,900.00	10,000.00	-4,100.00	-41.00	
6-1705	Consultants Fees - HR Tools	80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00	0.00	
6-1710	Council Careers/Skills Short	65,950.00	125,000.00	-59,050.00	-47.24	
6-1800	Equip & Venue Hire		1,000.00	-1,000.00	-100.00	
6-1850	Elections - GMC Bi-annual	2,162.20	2,000.00	162.20	0.00	
6-1900	Fringe Benefits Tax	7,653.35	13,000.00	-5,346.65	-41.13	
6-2000	Depreciation Expense	22,224.00	25,000.00	-2,776.00	-11.10	
6-3100	Insurance	28,210.94	32,000.00	-3,789.06	-11.84	
6-3200	Land & Building Running Costs	1,333.59	4,000.00	-2,666.41	-66.66	
6-3400	Members Emoluments	57,903.18	60,000.00	-2,096.82	-3.49	
6-3410	President travel expenses	3,393.57	5,000.00	-1,606.43	-32.13	
6-3450	Motor Vehicle lease/hire	42.70	500.00	-457.30	-91.46	
6-3500	Network & Internet	12,343.97	10,000.00	2,343.97	23.44	
6-3580	Office Requisites	751.31	1,500.00	-748.69	-49.91	
6-3600	Other & Miscellaneous	30,273.20	1,000.00	29,273.20	2927.32	CEO recruitment
6-3800	Other Employment Entitlements	12,566.34	44,000.00	-31,433.66	0.00	
6-3900	Postage	4,896.80	6,000.00	-1,103.20	-18.39	
6-4000	Power	8,468.94	10,000.00	-1,531.06	-15.31	
6-4100	Printing & Publications	6,524.74	6,000.00	524.74	8.75	
6-4300	Rates & Land Tax	8,999.94	10,000.00	-1,000.06	-10.00	
6-4310	Rentals	1,231.32	1,500.00	-268.68	-17.91	
6-4350	Repairs & Maintenance	1,715.28	1,500.00	215.28	14.35	
6-4400	Salaries & Wages	726,303.44	737,000.00	-10,696.56	-1.45	
6-4500	Software	2,382.00	3,000.00	-618.00	-20.60	
6-4550	Standards Panel		500.00	-500.00	-100.00	
6-4600	Stationery	2,103.73	3,500.00	-1,396.27	-39.89	
6-4700	Subscriptions - Membership etc	9,501.83	10,000.00	-498.17	-4.98	
6-4800	Superannuation	90,695.65	91,500.00	-804.35	-0.88	
6-4900	Sponsorship/Research/Donations	1,500.00	5,000.00	-3,500.00	-70.00	

6-5100	Telephone	15,914.13	19,000.00	-3,085.87	-16.24	
6-5200	Travelling Expenses	20,245.51	10,000.00	10,245.51	102.46	
6-5250	Staff Training	239.40	9,000.00	-8,760.60	-97.34	
6-5300	Uniform Expense	48.00	300.00	-252.00	-84.00	
6-7000	Motor Vehicle Expense	11,815.01	12,000.00	-184.99	-1.54	
6-7960	Grant Cost Recoveries	- 15,349.11	-		0.00	
6-7970	LGAT ASSIST - Cost recoveries	- 29,095.00	- 31,000.00	1,905.00	-6.15	
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>1,481,854.05</b>	<b>1,655,700.00</b>	<b>-173,845.95</b>	<b>-10.50</b>	
	Plus Bad Debt Recovery	50,920.00				
	Less 2015/16 Expenses	17,246.67				
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,515,527.38</b>				
	<b>Operating Profit(Loss)</b>	<b>128,847.53</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>128,847.53</b>		
<b>8-0000</b>	<b>Government Grants Income</b>					
8-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution	46,152.62				
8-1015	26TEN - How To Guide	13,500.00				
8-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project	33,946.79				
8-2150	LG Reform Fund	342,008.93				
	Healthy Communities	80,000.00				
	<b>Total Government Grants Income</b>	<b>435,608.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>435,608.34</b>		
<b>9-0000</b>	<b>Government Grants Expenditure</b>					
9-1000	Enviro Dispute Resolution					
9-1015	26TEN - How to Guide	13,500.00				
9-1500	Coastal Adaptation Project					
9-2150	LG Reform Fund	90,454.55				
	Healthy Communities	9,727.05				
9-6000	LG IT Strategies	25,814.14				
	<b>Total Government Grants Expend</b>	<b>139,495.74</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>139,495.74</b>		
	<b>Operating Profit(Loss)</b>	<b>424,960.13</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>424,960.13</b>		

**Subscription Table**  
Based on Assessed Revenue Category

Attachment to Item 5

Grp	Council	2014/15 Subs Paid		2015/16 Subscriptions		Careers Project	Survey	Planning Secondment	Total Contribution
		% of	Subs	% of	2.48%				
1	Flinders Island	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
1	King Island	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
1	Tasman	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
1	Central Highlands	1.90	19,450	1.77	18,569	2,213	248	708	21,737
2	Southern Midlands	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	Kentish	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	Dorset	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	George Town	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
2	Derwent Valley	2.80	28,663	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
3	Break O'Day	3.70	37,877	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
3	West Coast	3.70	37,877	2.65	27,801	3,313	371	1060	32,544
3	Glamorgan Spring Bay	2.80	28,663	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Latrobe	2.80	28,663	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Waratah Wynyard	4.20	42,995	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Brighton	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Meander Valley	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Northern Midlands	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
3	Circular Head	3.70	37,877	3.55	37,242	4,438	497	1420	43,597
4	Sorell	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
4	Central Coast	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
4	West Tamar	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
4	Huon Valley	4.20	42,995	4.05	42,488	5,063	567	1620	49,737
5	Burnie	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
5	Devonport	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
5	Kingborough	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
5	Glenorchy	4.77	48,830	4.55	47,733	5,688	637	1820	55,878
6	Clarence	5.26	53,846	5.04	52,874	6,300	706	2016	61,895
6	Hobart	0.00	-	5.04	52,874	6,300	706	2016	61,895
6	Launceston	5.26	53,846	5.04	52,874	6,300	706	2016	61,895
<b>Total Subscriptions</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>1,023,693</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,049,081</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>1,228,081</b>

Increased - Glamorgan Spring Bay, Latrobe

Decreased - Break O'Day, West Coast, Waratah Wynyard

**The above amounts do not include GST**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA  
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE  
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2014/15	2015/16	Comparison
<b>Income</b>			
Annual Conference and seminars	240,000	250,000	10,000
Fees and Commissions	80,000	90,000	10,000
Interest (Excl. Interest on grants)	80,000	80,000	-
Interest on Capital from Building	3,000	3,000	-
Profit on Sale of Plant & Equip	-	-	-
Project Admin/Cost Recovery	-	-	-
Assist Revenue	31,000	31,000	-
Subscriptions	1,023,700	1,049,081	25,381
Careers Project	125,000	125,000	-
<b>Extraordinary Income via Subscriptions</b>			-
Community Satisfaction Survey	14,000	14,000	-
Industrial Awards - HR/IR Tools	90,000	90,000	-
Planning Taskforce - Secondment		40,000	40,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,686,700</b>	<b>\$1,772,081</b>	<b>85,381</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>			
Accommodation Expenses - GMC	1,000	1,000	-
Accounts Administration	14,000	14,500	500
Advertising	1,500	1,500	-
ALGA Subscriptions	90,000	92,000	2,000
Auditors' Remuneration	18,900	19,300	400
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	3,000	3,000	-
Catering, receptions, etc	4,500	5,000	500
Cleaning and Supplies	5,000	5,000	-
Community Satisfaction Survey	14,000	14,000	-
Conferences/Seminars	165,000	175,000	10,000
Consultants' Fees	10,000	10,000	-
Consultants Fees - HR/IR Tools	80,000	80,000	-
Council Careers	125,000	125,000	-
Depreciatio Building Division 43	1,000	1,000	-
Computers	7,000	7,000	-
Furniture & Equip	1,000	1,000	-
Motor Vehicles	15,000	20,000	5,000
Amortisation	1,000	1,000	-
Donations/Research/Scholarships	5,000	5,000	-
Equipment and Venue Hire	1,000	1,000	-
Fringe Benefits Tax	13,000	14,500	1,500
GMC Elections - Bi-annual	2,000	2,000	-
Insurance Fidelity Guarantee	1,000	1,000	-
General	9,000	9,000	-
Public Liability and PI	15,500	15,500	-
Workers Compensation	6,500	6,500	-
Land & Building Running Costs	4,000	6,000	2,000
Members Emoluments	60,000	62,000	2,000

	2014/15	2015/16	Comparison
Motor Vehicles - Running Costs	9,000	14,000	5,000
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000	5,000	2,000
Lease/hire	500	500	-
Network and Internet	10,000	10,000	-
Office Requisites	1,500	1,500	-
Other and Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	-
Other Employee Entitlements	44,000	24,500	- 19,500
Planning Taskforce - Secondment		40,000	40,000
Postage	6,000	6,000	-
Power	10,000	10,000	-
Printing and Publications	6,000	6,000	-
Rates and Land Tax	10,000	11,000	1,000
Rentals	1,500	1,500	-
Repairs and maintenance	1,500	1,500	-
Salaries (exc Grant Staff)	737,000	760,000	23,000
Software	3,000	3,000	-
Stationery	3,500	3,500	-
Subscriptions - membership etc	4,000	4,000	-
Superannuation	91,500	95,000	3,500
Standards Panel	500	-	- 500
Telephone	19,000	19,000	-
Training	9,000	9,000	-
Travelling expenses ALGA	20,000	20,000	-
Interstate	10,000	12,000	2,000
President	5,000	10,000	5,000
TTC Subscription	6,000	6,000	-
Uniform expense	300	281	- 19
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,686,700</b>	<b>1,772,081</b>	<b>85,381</b>
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

All figures are ex GST

**LGAT ASSIST  
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>Comparison</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Interest	31,000	31,000	0
Interest on loans	37,000	37,000	0
Assist Loan Application Fees	2,000	2,000	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Accommodation Expenses	500	500	0
Accounts Administration	35,000	36,000	1,000
Advertising	1,000	1,000	0
Auditors' Remuneration	5,000	5,200	200
Bad Debts	12,000	12,000	0
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	250	250	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	25,000	25,000	0
Grants to members	10,000	10,500	500
Other and Miscellaneous	500	500	0
Printing and Publications	1,000	2,000	1,000
Welfare Write Offs	200	200	0
Special Projects	2,000	2,000	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>92,450</b>	<b>95,150</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>Change in net assets from operations</b>	<b>-\$22,450</b>	<b>-\$25,150</b>	<b>-\$2,700</b>

**All figures are ex GST**

<b>Council</b>	<b>Rate income</b>	<b>LGAT</b>	<b>Percentage of</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Based on</b>	<b>Based on</b>
	<b>Grants Commission</b>	<b>Subscriptions</b>	<b>Rate Income</b>		<b>Population</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Rate Revenue</b>
	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013/14</b>			<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Break O'Day	\$ 5,782,151.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.49682203	Break O'Day	6430	\$ 13,160.86	\$ 18,123.12
Brighton	\$ 5,628,075.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.673480719	Brighton	15813	\$ 32,365.90	\$ 17,640.20
Burnie	\$ 15,918,000.00	\$ 47,878.00	0.300778992	Burnie	19986	\$ 40,907.16	\$ 49,892.13
Central Coast	\$ 11,026,071.00	\$ 42,891.00	0.388996225	Central Coast	22347	\$ 45,739.63	\$ 34,559.25
Central Highlands	\$ 2,319,360.00	\$ 19,949.00	0.860107961	Central Highlands	2355	\$ 4,820.19	\$ 7,269.62
Circular Head	\$ 5,963,785.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.635569525	Circular Head	8287	\$ 16,961.75	\$ 18,692.42
Clarence	\$ 31,646,559.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.167364167	Clarence	53582	\$ 109,671.13	\$ 99,190.49
Derwent Valley	\$ 4,872,471.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.58957765	Derwent Valley	9886	\$ 20,234.57	\$ 15,271.89
Devonport	\$ 19,705,510.00	\$ 47,878.00	0.242967576	Devonport	25628	\$ 52,455.15	\$ 61,763.41
Dorset	\$ 4,779,000.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.793136639	Dorset	7158	\$ 14,650.93	\$ 14,978.92
Flinders	\$ 1,048,460.00	\$ 19,949.00	1.902695382	Flinders	784	\$ 1,604.68	\$ 3,286.21
George Town	\$ 5,708,859.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.503200377	George Town	6828	\$ 13,975.49	\$ 17,893.40
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	\$ 4,862,749.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.590756381	Glamorgan/Spring Bay	4437	\$ 9,081.61	\$ 15,241.42
Glenorchy	\$ 24,484,130.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.216323798	Glenorchy	45537	\$ 93,204.70	\$ 76,741.14
Hobart	\$ 53,641,009.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.098739753	Hobart	50473	\$ 103,307.66	\$ 168,128.17
Huon Valley	\$ 8,541,253.00	\$ 42,891.00	0.502162856	Huon Valley	16159	\$ 33,074.09	\$ 26,771.03
Kentish	\$ 3,817,509.00	\$ 19,949.00	0.522565893	Kentish	6495	\$ 13,293.90	\$ 11,965.30
King Island	\$ 1,546,166.00	\$ 19,949.00	1.290223689	King Island	1605	\$ 3,285.10	\$ 4,846.18
Kingborough	\$ 18,886,440.00	\$ 47,878.00	0.253504631	Kingborough	35201	\$ 72,049.07	\$ 59,196.18
Latrobe	\$ 4,977,321.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.577157873	Latrobe	10655	\$ 21,808.55	\$ 15,600.52
Launceston	\$ 45,981,300.00	\$ 52,965.00	0.115188131	Launceston	67035	\$ 137,206.61	\$ 144,120.18
Meander Valley	\$ 7,776,328.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.487427999	Meander Valley	19543	\$ 40,000.43	\$ 24,373.51
Northern Midlands	\$ 7,373,513.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.51405619	Northern Midlands	12754	\$ 26,104.77	\$ 23,110.96
Sorell	\$ 8,407,384.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.450841784	Sorell	13537	\$ 27,707.40	\$ 26,351.45
Southern Midlands	\$ 3,677,572.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.781140383	Southern Midlands	6271	\$ 12,835.42	\$ 11,526.69
Tasman	\$ 3,100,000.00	\$ 19,949.00	0.643516129	Tasman	2363	\$ 4,836.57	\$ 9,716.40
Waratah-Wynyard	\$ 7,334,796.00	\$ 37,904.00	0.516769655	Waratah-Wynyard	14291	\$ 29,250.68	\$ 22,989.61
West Coast	\$ 4,981,918.00	\$ 28,727.00	0.576625308	West Coast	4707	\$ 9,634.24	\$ 15,614.93
West Tamar	\$ 11,318,002.00	\$ 42,891.00	0.378962647	West Tamar	23012	\$ 47,100.74	\$ 35,474.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 335,105,691.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,329.00</b>	<b>0.554160702</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>513159</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,329.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,329.00</b>



**REPORTS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

to be presented to the

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Wednesday 22 July 2015**

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## STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Stephen Bresnehan

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Five

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The State Fire Management Council has the following functions, as per section 15 of the Fire Service Act 1979:

- (a) To develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning;
- (b) To advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as are referred to it by the Minister and on such matters concerning vegetation fire management as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Minister;
- (c) To advise the Commission on such matters relating to the prevention and mitigation of vegetation fires as are referred to it by the Commission or land managers and on such other matters as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Commission;
- (d) To perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct;
- (e) To provide an annual report to the Minister on its activities, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G; and
- (f) To provide an annual report to the Commission on the activities of the Fire Management Area Committees, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G.

In addition to the above, the Council is to consider each Fire Management Area Committee fire protection plan submitted to it under section 20(1)(c) and may –

- (a) Approve the plan as submitted; or
- (b) Approve the plan subject to such modifications as it thinks fit; or
- (c) Reject the plan and instruct the Committee to recast the plan.

### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

#### **Fire Management Area Committees**

The ten Fire Management Area Committees have each produced an inaugural Fire Protection Plan for their area. The plans were endorsed by the State Fire Management Committee in late 2014 and early 2015. Work is currently underway to implement the Fire Protection Plans and to develop the next iterations for the 2015-16 season. Executive summaries of all plans can be viewed at <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/committees>

#### **TFS Fuel Reduction Unit**

The SFMC Executive Unit has been restructured and expanded to form the new TFS Fuel Reduction Unit. The unit retains a key role in supporting Fire Management Area Committee activities and assisting in coordinating Fire Protection Plan implementation. The FRU is in the process of developing future risk management works programs based on the work of the Fire Management Area Committees.

### **Fuel Management Program**

This four-year, 28 million dollar project was formally launched on the 23rd March 2015, and represents a substantial commitment of resources to manage landscape scale bushfire risk.

The program is prioritized through the risk assessment work done presented in the report *Bushfire in Tasmania – A new approach to understanding our statewide relative risk* (available for download at the State Fire Management Council website <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/> ) and detailed local knowledge through the Fire Management Area Committees. Implementation will be coordinated through the TFS Fuel Reduction Unit, and on-ground works will involve TFS, P&WS, Forestry Tasmania, other agencies and contractors.

The ongoing implementation of this program is expected to be a major component of SFMC activity through 2015.

### **Red Hot Tips project**

Red Hot Tips is a State Government funded program designed to build the capacity of landholders to safely and effectively conduct planned burning on their properties. The project has developed a range of tools, information and training about planned burning, primarily at a small localized scale.

The project's second round of activity commenced in August 2014 and will finish in June 2015. Round 3 will commence in May 2015 and end in June 2016. Each round offers 20 landholders across the state the opportunity to participate. More details can be accessed here: <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/red-hot-tips>

### **State Vegetation Fire Management Policy**

The current State Vegetation Fire Management Policy was endorsed in 2012. The policy is based on the Indicative National Bushfire Principles:

- Bushfires are understood, accepted and respected
- Shared responsibility
- Decisions within a risk management framework
- Integration of learning and knowledge
- Manage fire according to the landscape objectives
- Consistency of purpose and unity of command
- Protection of lives as the highest consideration
- Monitoring performance

The policy is due for review in 2015.

## TASMANIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Alderman Doug Chipman, Alderman Sandra French,  
Councillor Susan Nolan, Mrs Kym Matthews

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Four

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The role of the board is to provide advice to the Minister on any issue relating to library services.

### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

1. Adult Literacy Plan
2. Client Survey 2014
3. Strategic Plan 2014-17
4. Business Plan 2014-15
5. Volunteer Literacy Tutors
6. Family History Web
7. Budget
8. Digitisation
9. LINC Tasmania Strategy Portfolio Structures
10. Launceston LINC redevelopment plans
11. Digital Literacy – Workforce Development
12. Lending Library Usage
13. Home Library Service
14. 26Ten Strategy
15. Archive & TAHO management
16. Service Tasmania cooperation
17. Workforce Surveys
18. Financial Reports
19. Reimagining Reference Services

## STATE GRANTS COMMISSION

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Grant Atkins and Rod Fraser

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** 11 plus council hearings and visits

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The State Grants Commission is an independent statutory body responsible for recommending the distribution of Commonwealth Assistance Grant funding to Tasmanian councils. The decisions of the Commission are guided by a set of national principles that are prescribed in the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. The Commission also recommends the distribution of the amount allocated by the Tasmanian Government to councils from heavy vehicle motor tax revenues.

To provide some structure in its distribution methods the Commission operates a triennial review policy whereby major changes to methodology are only introduced every three years. Data input and minor changes are applied each year. To ensure the available funds are allocated on an equitable basis the Commission continually monitors council practices and updates its assessment methods and data as appropriate. Should any significant changes to the current model be considered necessary following the Commission's recent hearings, they will be introduced into the 2015-16 distribution.

#### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

The current Commission consists of four members. State Government legislation to amend the State Grants Commission Act 1976 has recently passed Parliament. The amending legislation (State Grants Commission Amendment Act 2015) will reduce the number of commissioners from four to three. Two of the members on the restructured Commission will be nominated by local government and the third will be an independent chairperson to be nominated by the Department of Treasury and Finance and approved by the Treasurer.

Current members of the Commission are Rob Close (Independent Chairman), David Hudson (representing Department of Treasury and Finance), Grant Atkins and Rod Fraser (both representing Local Government).

Hugh Denny retired from the Commission in August 2014 after 11 years on the Commission and the current Chairman, Rob Close, will retire after 15 years of service when the amending legislation is proclaimed in May. Both Mr Denny and Mr Close have given distinguished and outstanding service to the Commission and their expertise will be missed.

The Commonwealth announced in its 2014-15 budget that it was ceasing the practice of bringing forward payment of 50 per cent of the grant entitlement before the end of the prior financial year. The Commonwealth also announced that it was suspending indexation of the total funding pool for three years commencing July 1 2014.

Due to Tasmania's relative population decline compared to the rest of Australia, this will result in the base grant received by Tasmania over the three year period reducing in both real and absolute terms. As Tasmania receives funding from the Commonwealth road grant funding pool, based on historical (fixed) proportions, it is anticipated the road funding allocation should remain constant in absolute terms.

In the 2014-15 financial year, Tasmania received a base grant allocation of \$34,943,827 from a national pool of \$1,585,269,379, being a 1.5% reduction on the 2013-14 year entitlement, and a road grant allocation of \$37,276,854 from a national pool of \$703,430,675, being equivalent to the previous year's entitlement.

In March 2015 the Commission completed the latest round of hearings and visits. Part of this round included consideration of two significant discussion papers. The first discussion paper sought to consider the components of revenue in the base grant model and the second paper discussed whether there should be an additional funding allocation for roads with significant cost disadvantages. A third paper, prepared mainly for information, outlined the status of the current triennium review. The Commission was pleased with the submissions it received in response to the discussion papers and with the interaction it had with councils during recent visits.

## HEALTH COUNCIL OF TASMANIA

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Councillor Graham Bury

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The Health Council of Tasmania (HTC) is a high level committee established to provide advice to the Minister, who addressed the HTC at its first meeting.

The committee is working with the substantial changes in administrative and governance arrangements that will arise as the One State Wide Health Service is established, particularly as the role delineation of clinical services is developed.

With a Local Government representative on the committee it is possible to stress the need for the community to be well informed as these changes occur and offer the Local Government Association of Tasmania as a mechanism for doing so.

## STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF MEDICARE LOCAL

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Councilor Graham Bury

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

Medicare Local has the responsibility for the provision of wide ranging services in primary health.

With the change in Federal Government it was understood that the provision of Primary Health care may change and discussion at meetings has been overlain by this prospect.

The Federal Government recently invited tenders for the provision of Primary Health services and Medicare Local has provided a submission with results still to be advised.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Elizabeth Gilliam

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** The Board did not meet in the last financial year

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

Established under the Local Government Act to

- (a) Carry out reviews;
- (b) Advise the Minister on any other matters the Minister may determine.

### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

The Board's report into Councillor numbers at West Coast Council was finalised and handed to the Minister in June 2014. The Minister did not accept the Board's recommendation.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue as the LGAT representative on the Board.

## ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION (ACDC)

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Neil Blaikie

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Nine

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### OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

- To consider applications for dam permits and, if granted, to determine the conditions to be applied.
- To issue Notices requesting additional information when required
- To specify the appropriate level of on-going safety management of dams

The ACDC considers natural and heritage values, and dam safety in its assessment of Dam Works applications.

### MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Under the Act, "dam works" means any works for the construction, erection, enlargement, modification, repair or removal of a dam, or for the conversion of land to a dam, or any work on any such dam which may significantly increase the dam's safety risk.

The provision of a separate statutory approval process for dam works, outside the State's more general development application process under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, reflects the fact that dam developments generally cover a larger land area, have potential for greater off-site impacts and pose more significant public safety risks than any other routine type of development proposal.

The Committee receives advice from a Technical Advisory Group in relation to the various technical aspects of dam permit applications, with group membership drawn from various government departments and agencies. The advice includes information on dam safety and environmental issues including Aboriginal and cultural heritage, threatened species and communities, environmental flows, water quality and fish passage. The Committee also receives operational and management advice and support from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

All decisions by the Assessment Committee to issue Notices and grant or refuse permit applications are open to appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. Since 2000, less than one percent of them have been subject to appeal, a record which reflects the Committee's strict adherence to processes and judicious deliberations.

The Water Management Act provides time limits in which the Committee must finalise its decisions to seek further information from applicants or to grant or refuse permit applications. The Committee not only strives to fully meet these limits but also to establish procedures to reduce the time taken to below these limits.

To this end, decisions on applications for more simple dam works proposals of less than 100 megalitres, where no additional information is required from the applicant and where there are no representations received, have been delegated to officers within the Water and Marine Resources Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

The Committee's work in determining dam safety requirements for tailings dams at mine sites has also increased over the last couple of years with increased mining activity in the State. The Committee provides expert input on dam safety for works on tailings dams directly to the relevant body responsible for their overall approval (the local council or the Environment Protection Agency).

The ACDC's services remain strongly in demand. This is indicated by the following dam statistics:

<b>1 July 2014 to 20 April 2015</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Storage volume (ML)</b>
New applications accepted	48	10,095
Applications approved by ACDC	17	9,810
Approved under delegation	23	667

<b>As at 10 March 2015</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Storage volume (ML)</b>
Applications under technical assessment	10	937
Applications under Notice for Further information	9	1,876

- All significant applications are submitted to the relevant council for their consideration.
- Mr Blaikie carefully considers the implications for council assets in his wider assessment of dam applications.
- The State Government has decided to cease the role of the ACDC. This will require changes to the Water Management Act. The end date for the ACDC is yet to be determined.
- Mr Blaikie's current membership of the ACDC expired on 12 March 2015, however, he is continuing his membership for up to six months, as allowed by the Act, to cover the anticipated transition period. Mr Blaikie will need to be formally re-appointed should the transition period extend beyond 12 September 2015.

## TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Sandra Hogue

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Nine

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The Tasmanian Planning Commission is an independent statutory body established under the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997.

The Commission has specific statutory responsibility in a number of key areas, including statutory planning, the assessment of major projects and use of public land, as well as the provision of advice to the Minister for Planning and Local Government and to Councils in matters related to land use planning.

The Commission's core business activities are undertaken in accordance with the following legislation, and usually initiated by a direction from the relevant Minister:

- Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
- State Policies and Projects Act 1993
- Public Land (Administration and Forests) Act 1991
- National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Water Management Act 1999.

### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

- Compliance check report on all draft Southern Interim Planning Schemes completed
- Finalised the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme
- Commenced assessment for all draft Cradle Coast Interim Planning Schemes
- Commenced assessment process for all draft Northern Interim Planning Schemes (other than Launceston and Flinders Island)
- New legislation came into effect on 1 January 2015 to streamline the process for completing the interim planning schemes planning reform in readiness for introducing the government's election commitment of a single statewide planning scheme
- Significant progress with the Planning Schemes on-line project – Launceston Interim Planning Scheme and all draft southern interim planning schemes lodged electronically
- Review of amendments to the draft Wellington Park Management Plan 2013
- Numerous planning scheme amendments

Note that Sandra Hogue resigned as LGAT nominee in January 2015. A new nominee is yet to be appointed.

## STATE MARINE POLLUTION COMMITTEE

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Andrew Brown

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** One

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The State Marine Pollution Committee (SMPC) is responsible for administering the Tasmanian Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan (TasPlan) and ensuring that marine pollution response arrangements in Tasmania are in a satisfactory state of preparedness at all times.

### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

Only one meeting has been held during this period. Projects being undertaken affecting the committee are:

- Updating the TasPlan – Tasmanian Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan including a review of the Local Government roles and responsibilities to reflect those identified in the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan (**TEMP**) ie: provide information on stormwater systems and supply labour and machinery to support DPIPWE.
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (**AMSA**) will be offering a free training session on Shoreline clean up towards the end of the year. This will be an opportunity for Councils with coastal borders to be active in the protection of their areas.
- Stage 2 of the Oil Spill Response Atlas (**OSRA**) and in particular the sharing of the information and establishing a suitable method of delivery. This does not have an impact on Local Government.
- Arrangements between Tasmania and Victoria in pollution responses in Bass Strait. This does not have an impact on Local Government other than the responsibilities listed in the TEMP.

No minutes have been issued yet.

## TASMANIAN SPATIAL INFORMATION COUNCIL (TASSIC)

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Alex Crothers, City of Launceston

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Five

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) is the key forum for increased collaboration between public, private and community sectors in the collection, maintenance and use of spatial information in Tasmania.

The Council reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water and has representatives from:

- TASSIC independent chair
- State Government - Department of Premier & Cabinet
- State Government - DPIPWE
- LGAT
- University of Tasmania
- SSSI (Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute)
- SIBA (Spatial Industries Business Association)

TASSIC Strategic priorities and activities for 2014-2016 are:

- 1 Reinforce and promote the role and value of spatial information and the Tasmanian spatial information community
- 2 Promote broader, more effective use of spatial information, products and services to strengthen government, business and community decisions
- 3 Facilitate development of the skills, capability and capacity necessary to maximise the use of spatial information across the Tasmanian community

#### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

Firstly I wish to thank LGAT for my appointment in December 2014 as LGAT representative on the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council and thank outgoing representative Mark Wise for his service and support. Since my appointment I have attended two TASSIC meetings and have enquired into the activities of the council over the last year. The following is my report on these activities for the financial year 2014 - 2015.

The TASSIC vision of 'abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all' is now being realised after a great deal of work behind the scenes. This is especially the case for Local Government with many of the barriers to spatial data now lifted.

For Example the State Government LIST recent adoption of Open Data licensing and provision of data as web services and downloadable data to the public through an open data portal <http://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/opendata/> is a great tool for Local Government and the whole community.

During 2014 - 2015 TASSIC has been active in advising on:

- Cadastral reform and the 'Cadastre 2034' report
- State ICT Policy especially as it relates to Open Data, the 'freeing up' of data.
- Spatial data as a means to Government efficiency and the digital economy, advising on policy direction.
- Advocacy - Increasing knowledge and spatial skills across traditionally 'non-spatially-aware' government agencies
- Promoting the spatial sciences to primary industry groups and the benefits applicable to precision agriculture. TASSIC presentations given at the Precision Agriculture Expo at Deloraine in April.
- Supporting a case for the capture and delivery of statewide LiDAR - high resolution elevation mapping.
- Providing media statements highlighting LIST services and the value of spatial information to the community.

For more information on TASSIC please visit the web site at [www.tassic.org.au](http://www.tassic.org.au) . A full activity report for 2014/15 is due for publication here in late June.

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Rod Sweetnam and Hannah Rubenach

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2014/2015:** Ten

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**

The State Fire Commission (SFC) is constituted by the Fire Service Act 1979 ('the Act') which vests in the Commission the responsibility for the control of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) which delivers fire prevention and suppression throughout Tasmania. The Commission oversees and directs the affairs of the TFS. The SFC is accountable within the responsibilities under the Fire Service Act 1979.

The Commission sets the strategic direction of the TFS within its Corporate Plan. The Commission must ensure that TFS management's objectives and activities are aligned with the Commission's strategic expectations and also address the risks identified by the Commission.

The Commission has a number of mechanisms in place to ensure this is achieved including:

- Approval of a strategic plan designed to meet stakeholders' needs and manage business risk;
- Ongoing development of the strategic plan and approving initiatives and strategies designed to ensure the continued sustainability, viability and success of the TFS; and
- Implementation of budgets by management and monitoring progress against budget - via the establishment and reporting of both financial and non-financial key performance indicators.

### **MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:**

During 2014/15 the major inputs into the operations of the TFS have been:-

- Development of the 2015-16 to 2017-18 Corporate Plan which was approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Management
- Progress towards meeting the recommendations stemming from the 2013 Bushfire Inquiry
- The Introduction of Fire Permits Periods:
  - 20 November 2014 – Whole of State
- The Declaration of Total Fire Bans put in place:
  - 27 September 2014 - South
  - 3 January 2015 – South and North

### **MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR THE COMMISSION INCLUDED:**

#### **Review of Delivery of Corporate Services across DPEM**

The Department of Police & Emergency Management are undertaking a review to ensure a cohesive and sustainable model for the delivery of Corporate Services across the department. A Steering Committee was established and Wise Lord & Fergusson was engaged to look at potential governance models for consideration. The Commission has been kept abreast as to the status and potential implications of the integration of Corporate Service business units as integration progresses. One of the key issues for consideration is financial modelling to delineate what services or action require State Fire Commission and the broader Department of Police & Emergency Management funds.

## **State Emergency Services (SES)**

The management reporting line transition for State Emergency Service from Tasmania Police to Tasmania Fire Service took place and was well received.

## **TasFire Training Review**

The State Fire Commission has provided oversight into a review into the ongoing viability and subsequent potential business models for TasFire Training (TFT). TFT compete against private sector companies so a number of commercial sensitivities exist. Wise Lord & Fergusson have been engaged to undertake this process.

## **Emergency Management – “The Future Of”**

The State Fire Commission supported and had significant input into the contents of a paper titled “Emergency Management – The Future Of” and forwarded it to the review committee at the Department of Justice for consideration in their “independent review to develop a suitable model for integrated and interoperable emergency management arrangements in Tasmania”.

## **Fire Fighting Appliance Replacement Program**

The Commission's major capital priority is its fire fighting appliance replacement program. Over the past few years this program has enabled the replacement of a significant number of older appliances. The new vehicles, which are purpose designed and built locally, provide greater safety and efficiency for brigades responding to fires.

## **Fire Station Build Program**

The fire station build program continues to be an important priority for the Commission. In 2014-15 the following stations received significant upgrades to their buildings:

- Burnie storage area and demolition of old church and completion of Youngtown additional floor.
- As well as these upgrades, three brigades, Wynyard, Glenorchy and Rokeby have undergone separation of Personal Protective Clothing gear modifications.

## **Community Fire Protection Planning Program**

The State Government provided funding for three years from January 2010 to support the development of Community Protection Plans throughout Tasmania.

The objective has been to develop plans to mitigate the impact of fire and other natural hazards on Tasmanian communities, with an initial focus on bushfire.

In recognition of the value demonstrated by community protection planning, Tasmania Fire Service (through the State Fire Commission) is continuing to fund the project beyond the initial three years, continuing to focus on bushfire.

The program received national recognition in 2013, winning the State & Territory Government category of the state and national Resilient Australia Awards.

The program produces three types of plans; bushfire protection plans for local communities, bushfire response plans for emergency responders, and bushfire mitigation plans to address fuel management on the urban-rural interface and for at risk critical infrastructure.

To date, 210 of Tasmania's most bushfire-prone communities have protection and response plans in place, and eight communities have mitigation plans. Ninety-two Department of Education schools and two private schools have mitigation plans. This initiative is dubbed Bushfire-Ready Schools, which are often used by community members as places of shelter during intense bushfires.

## **Community Education and Awareness Program**

The Commission has overseen the introduction and growth of the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) Program.

Following a successful community development pilot program part funded by the Commonwealth, 2013-14 has seen an increased commitment of resources to roll-out community development in Tasmania's most bushfire-prone communities.

Community development is a successful and cost-effective approach for changing behaviour, by accessing existing community networks and resources and supporting communities to develop specific local strategies.

Some of the bushfire preparedness activities flowing from this initiative include community forums, workshops, field days, bushfire rehearsals, women's programs, BRN groups, and property assessments.

This initiative, which seeks to increase the preparedness of bushfire-prone communities, and hence their resilience, is consistent with the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

Following in the footsteps of Community Protection Planning, the program received national recognition in 2014, winning the State & Territory Government category of the state and national Resilient Australia Awards.

While sixteen bushfire-prone communities are the initial focus of the program, BRN staff are also active in several other communities across the State.

## **State Fire Management Council**

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$28.5 million over four years to significantly increase fuel reduction burning across the State. Strategically reducing risk in the areas that provide the most protection to communities is the priority; therefore, areas of both private and public land will be included – a "tenure-blind" approach.

The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) is one of three main organisations involved with the management of bushfires in Tasmania, along with the Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania.

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) Unit, which resides within the TFS, has transitioned to the Fuel Reduction Unit (FRU), and has a key role in coordinating the implementation of the program across the whole-of-Government.

The Commission has raised some governance issues which were considered in relation to clarifying the reporting lines between State Fire Management Council, State Fire Commission, the Chief Officer and the Minister of Police & Emergency Management.