

Key LGAT Activity – April 2018

Issues in Focus

LGAT continued its sustained advocacy effort in relation to TasWater post the State Election culminating in the recent announcement of a MOU between TasWater and the State Government which outlines the principles to a new collaborative way forward to be taken to councils for consideration. The State Government, TasWater and the Chief Representative of the Owners' Representatives Group reached in principle agreement to work together to progress water and sewerage reform, with the following key principles:

- The State Government to become a part owner (10%) of TasWater, involving revised governance arrangements;
- the State will provide contributions to TasWater, to a total of \$200 million over the ten year period commencing on 1 January 2019, with the first contribution in the 2018-19 financial year;
- TasWater will accelerate its water and sewerage infrastructure investment program;
- Future regulated water and sewerage prices in Tasmania will be capped until 30 June 2025; and
- Under the proposal, TasWater will continue to be a majority council owned, sustainable and financially viable corporation, with an appropriate governance, that delivers water and sewerage services in Tasmania effectively and efficiently.

Policy/Project Activity

- Submission on the Draft Local Government Relief and Recovery Policy to Office of Security and Emergency Management, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Development of a submission to Australian Energy Regulator on TasNetworks Pricing Reset Proposal
- Initiated consultation with Councils on Draft Emergency Management Amendment Bill
- Preparation of draft Workforce Development Grant for Environmental Health Officers (EHOs)
- Negotiation of updated contract variation for recycling on behalf of southern Tasmanian Councils
- Input into Code of Conduct position paper by Local Government Division
- Update the LGAT Awards for Excellence
- Preparation of procurement workshop at the LGAT Annual Conference
- Sector consultation on planner resourcing within councils
- Collation of council data on rental vacancy rates and visitor accommodation compliance activities
- Council advice on Federal Government proposal for changes to regional airport security
- Ministerial briefing notes (Local Government and Environment Ministers) on impact to Tasmanian Councils of Chinese recycling policy changes
- Council advice on Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act

- Research on other jurisdictions public space by-laws
- Update the Guide for Minute Takers Handbook
- Finalised LGAT’s draft Model Credit Card Policy and released it for consultation with all councils as well as key stakeholders in the State Government
- Development of website content and audio-visual material to promote nominations to run for council elections
- Session chair at the Coast to Coast Conference, Local Government workshop on Coastal Adaptation.

Media

LGAT Media	Date	Publication
Opinion Editorial – <i>Setting Rates a Balancing Act for Local Government</i>	30.4.2018	Advocate
Feature Article – <i>What lies ahead for Local Councils</i> LGAT CEO Dr Katrena Stephenson interviewed by Lucy Stone	24.4.2018	Examiner
Radio Interview and online article – Tasmania Talks on Recycling: LGAT CEO Dr Katrena Stephenson interviewed by Brian Carlton	19.4.2018	Tasmania Talks
LGAT Media Release:		
Council Cost Index	12.4.2018	
LGAT CEO Contract Renewed	9.4.2018	

Drafted another Opinion Editorial for The Examiner (not yet run) on Road User Charging.

Communications

- LGTas - The April edition of LGTas showcases Local Government collaboration and partnerships; celebrating the achievements of our Members. Read it [here](#).
- The Pulse e-newsletter March
- LG Noticeboard
- Twitter.

Training and Events

- Development of a range of new web-based materials targeted at candidates for the October Local Government elections
- Altered the Better Councils Better Communities TV advert to help promote nominations to run for council elections
- MAV/JLT Risk Forums – LGAT presented at both Sorell and Meander Valley Forums
- Exploring event partnership opportunities with LG Professionals Tas.

Meetings

- Australian Energy Regulation and Consumer Challenge Panel - TasNetworks pricing reset proposal 2019-24
- Australian Institute of Company Directors – Training for Local Government
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – Planning policy officers phone conference
- Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business – opportunities for Local Government and communities
- Australian Energy forum - TasNetworks pricing reset proposal 2019-24
- David O’Byrne MP - Local Government matters
- Department of State Growth – Planning policy discussion
- Derwent Estuary Group (Incl. Glenorchy, Kingborough, Hobart, Clarence Councils) – Tracks, trails and promoting walkability
- Department of State Growth – Heavy Vehicle Access regional group meetings with councils
- Director of Local Government - Regular meeting
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Community Health and Wellbeing Project KPI discussion and future grant opportunities for councils
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards Employer Breakfast
- DHHS, Glenorchy Council – Prevention Tracker Advisory meeting teleconference
- DHHS – Walkability for Transport Project
- DHHS, EPA and EHA Tasmania - EHO Workforce development grant consultation
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council - Farewell of Bertrand Cadart, representing the LG sector.
- Hobart and Launceston Councils – EHO Workforce development grant consultation
- Ironbark Sustainability – scoping assistance for LG in dealing with climate variability risk
- Institute of Internal Auditors – Training for Audit Panels
- Officer of Security and Emergency Management, Department of Premier and Cabinet – Recovery update
- MAV Insurance - Board meeting
- Minister for Planning – Local Government planning reform priorities
- National Reference Group teleconference – Local Government toolkit for Domestic and Family Violence prevention
- Natural Assets Code Working Group – scoping guidelines for implementation
- Planning Information Network – presentation on planning reform
- RDA Tasmania - Board meeting
- SKM – Discussion to update the recycling contract variation for Southern Tasmanian Councils
- Sorell Council – Workforce development project
- State Emergency Service - Joint Natural Disaster Resilience Program Grant application
- State Government – TasWater
- TasNetworks Customer Council
- TasNetworks - Great Southern Lights project discussion with CEO
- TasNetworks - revenue reset stakeholder forum
- TasNetworks - public lighting and revenue reset

- TasWater – scoping way forward
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office (DPAC) Electric Vehicle Working Group – scoping Tasmanian Government support for Local Government initiatives to facilitate Electric Vehicle uptake
- Tasmanian Youth Local Government – planning for LGAT workshop and Youth Local Government conference
- UTAS - Food Policy Council consultation
- Veolia – future waste workshop opportunities
- Volunteer Tasmania – network meeting.