

Key LGAT Activity – August 2018

Issue in Focus

On the 1st of August changes to the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* (the Regulations) related to Local Government election campaigns came into effect – applying for the period commencing 9 August to 30 October. One aspect of the changes related to the maximum amount a candidate can spend on election advertising (spend limits).

While the advertising spend for the period was going to be \$8000 (inclusive of GST) for all candidates it belatedly became clear that the spend limit now included the cost of pamphlets. For many elections Local Government candidates had been advised that pamphlet costs were not included in advertising returns made to the Electoral Commission.

In recognition that the cost of distributing pamphlets is significantly more in larger urban councils, indeed likely to exceed the spend threshold, the Government agreed to LGAT's request to rapidly progress a change.

It was agreed that this limitation would definitely give an advantage to current councillors over those running for the first time and that the new thresholds (below) will better ensure that new candidates in large councils have sufficient opportunity to raise their profile as well as generally providing all candidates with greater flexibility in relation to their electoral advertising.

The most recent changes now mean:

- For councils with more than 15,000 properties (based on rateable valuation data collected by the Government) the spend limit will be \$16,000.
- For all other councils, the spend limit is \$10,000.

Policy / Project Activity

- Local Government (General) Regulations – Changes to election campaigns/advertising spend
- Evaluation and sign off the LGAT/National Procurement Network *Mobile Garbage Bin, Industrial Containers and Bins, Static Compactors, Associated Products and Services* preferred supplier panel arrangement.
- Liaise with a range of consultants concerning the development, management and delivery of the LGAT State-wide customer satisfaction survey and the more detailed individual council customer satisfaction surveys.
- Negotiate with Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Procurement – Reporting and rebate payments for MAV/LGAT/National Procurement Network contracts and panel arrangements
- Planning and filming for *Creating and Funding Great Playgrounds and Playspaces* Forums
- Development of draft RFQ for update to Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines
- Continue to progress Great Southern Lights LED project
- *Building Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018* – Sector consultation and submission on proposed amendments to the *Building Act 2016* and associated legislation

- Successful advocacy in getting Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) to make legislative amendments (still subject to Parliamentary approval) to extend “Expiry of old Permits” under the *Building Act 2016* by 18 months.
- Submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on Short Stay Accommodation
- Submission on the *Draft Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations 2018*
- Scope LGAT Digital Working Group next steps
- Review of the State Government’s proposed response to National Competition Policy as it relates to low cost council camping facilities
- Development of the LGAT Annual Work Plan
- Development of the LGAT Training Calendar
- Input into the City of Hobart Community Engagement Framework
- Council support on land under roads unit rates
- Council advice on the use of Glyphosate
- Planning for Active Living In Tasmania Forum with Department of Health

Media

- MR - Changes to electoral advertising spend
- ABC Radio/Win News/Mercury/Examiner – Changes to electoral advertising
- ABC Radio – Local Government Reform
- ABC Radio – Planning authorities
- ABC Radio – Zero Waste
- ABC Radio/ Examiner – Rating of Independent Living Units
- Examiner – Elections and reform
- ABC Radio/Mercury – Use of Glyphosate
- Mercury/Southern Cross News – Short stay visitor accommodation

Communication

- The Pulse e-newsletter
- LG Noticeboard
- Twitter

Training and Events

- Planning and preparation for General Managers Workshop
- Planning and preparation for 2IC workshop (subsequently cancelled – Insufficient registrations)
- Planning and preparation for new councillor training and resources
- AURIN Workshops 28/29/30 August – Spatial data and planning
- Planning and preparation for waste forum for Local Government (7th November)
- Development of the LGAT Engagement Champions Program

Meetings

- Advisor to Minister Gutwein – Regular catch up
- Advisory Committee Meeting – Community Health and Wellbeing Project

- ALGA / Other Association Environmental Management and Waste Officers meeting
- ALGA Policy Officer phone conference – Update on Local Government’s role in tourism in Tasmania
- Australian Early Development Census project manager – Regional playground forums
- Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation and EPA – General update and single use takeaway container phase out
- CBOS – Planning staff workshop on the Planning & Building Portal
- CEO TasWater – Regular catch up
- Commissioner Sarah Bolt, Equal Opportunities Tasmania
- Communities Tasmania – Child wellbeing Reforms
- Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) - Building Act issues and review
- COTA – Walkability Project discussion
- Cross Sectoral Women Project meeting
- Department of Health – Community Health and Wellbeing Project six-monthly report discussion
- Department of Health – Meningococcal Response Action Group meeting
- Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities - the development of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy
- Department of State Growth – Infrastructure risk rating meeting and information session
- Department of State Growth and Tasmanian council Local Road Managers – Heavy vehicle access
- Derwent Valley Council – Input on Health and Wellbeing in Council’s Strategic Planning process
- Director of Local Government – Monthly catch up
- EPA – State Waste Action Plan
- EPA – to commence MoU Workplan actions
- Federal Department of the Environment & Energy, Waste Taskforce – Update on the National Waste Policy
- Great Southern Lights council
- Great Southern Lights LED project - Project meeting
- Health by Stealth Steering Committee – Initial meeting
- Hobart City Council Smart Cities Forum – Participation on panel
- Institute of Architects - Partnership/promotion opportunities
- Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA) representative & councils – Scoping sector asset management activities and opportunities
- Ironbark Great Southern Lights project
- LG Pro Southern Branch AGM
- LG Risk & Governance group (northern Tasmanian councils)
- LG Skills Shortages and Workforce Planning Workshop
- LGAT Assist Board
- LGAT State Fire Management Council representative
- LGWDG - 2019 National Local Government Workforce Summit
- Local Government Professionals Board Meeting
- MAV Insurance Board Meetings
- MAV Procurement Manager – LGAT & MAV Procurement MOU
- Meltwater - Media monitoring
- National Local Government Associations Road and Transport Advisory Committee (RTAC) - Independent Review into Heavy Vehicle Over Size Over Mass permit delays (2 meetings)

- National Local Government Workforce Development Group (LGWDG) - National LG workforce and skills planning
- National Procurement Network – Teleconference for new Telecommunications panel planning, panel to be in place early May 2019
- Office of the State Archivist - Record keeping training for Local Government
- Planning & Building Portal Steering Committee meeting
- Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) National Directors – Discussion on current challenges in the Tasmanian Planning System
- Planning Institute of Australia Tasmania Conference
- Road Safety Advisory Council
- RTAC - Restricted Access Vehicle Route Assessment Tool (RAVRAT)
- Senior Policy Advisor, Planning Institute of Australia - update on current advocacy at a Federal Level
- Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) Meeting #35
- State Growth - State Roads and Bridges Emergency Management Plan
- State Recovery working group
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office – Climate Resilient Councils Project Steering Committee
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office – Electric Vehicle Working Group Meeting #6
- Tasmanian Planning Commission Executive Commissioner – Progress of Local Provisions Schedules
- TasPlan - Changes to Board
- TasWater Regional Briefing - South
- UTas Centre for Rural Health – Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Waste Management Association of Australia – Scoping State Waste Workshop

Operational

- Recruitment of new administration team member
- Transition of LGAT data and mobile phone arrangements
- Audit