

Key LGAT Activity – April 2016

Issue in Focus

The State Government have released the discussion paper for consultation on changes to the Local Government Act as part of a targeted review focussed on improving governance, providing role clarity and reducing red tape. The process allows for individual submissions but as always, LGAT will be working to map key issues of concern and common ideas for a broad sectoral submission.

In terms of process, LGAT will collect feedback from councils via written submission (letter or email) as well as provide specific forums for Mayor's and General Manager's given the particular focus on their roles. LGAT is happy to receive feedback directly from individual elected members but individual submissions won't necessarily be fully replicated by LGAT – we summarise common concerns – and so you are encouraged to also provide that information directly to the Local Government Division.

LGAT will need feedback for our submission by 3 June. Submissions to the State Government close on 10th June.

All the information you need can be found on the Local Government Division's website www.dpac.tas.gov.au/lgd.

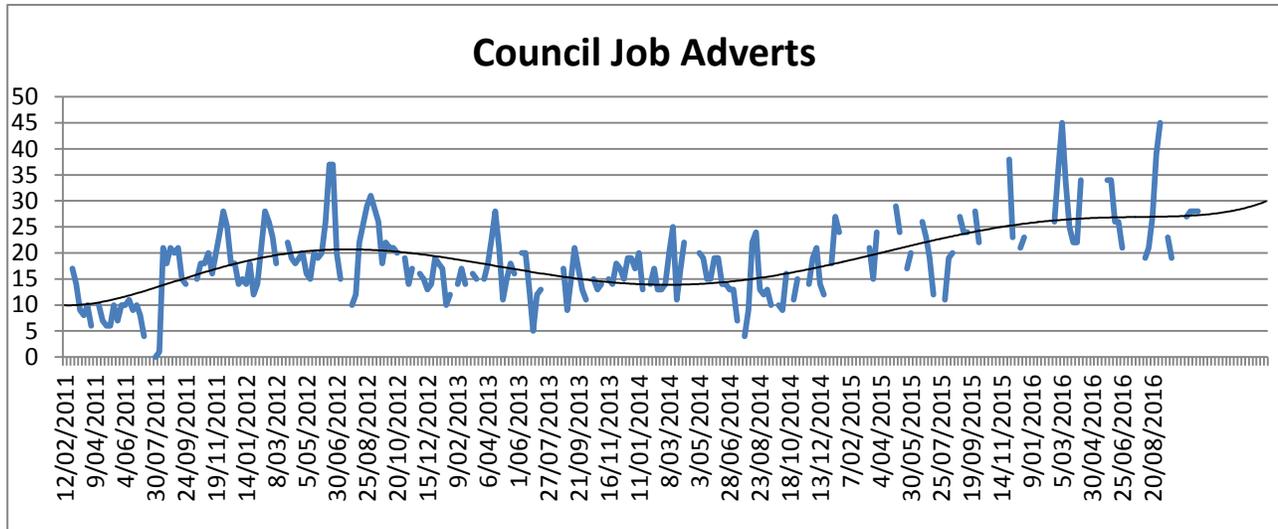
Policy/Project Activity

- Confirmed all sponsors and trade exhibitors for LGAT Annual Conference and finalised speakers.
- Coordinated shared energy procurement and rate benchmarking process buying group of 8 Members.
- Developed LGAT's Federal Election advocacy document: Partnering in Prosperity and preparation for launch on 3 May.
- Organised Pre-conference Land Use Planning Workshop.
- Sectoral submission on A Healthy Tasmania - 5 year Strategic Plan.
- Sectoral submission on the Coastal Hazards Package.
- Submission on Tasmanian Government Climate Change Action Plan
- Submission Biosecurity Legislation Review Discussion Paper.
- Submission Review of the Integrity Commission Act.
- Three (3) full day regional workshops with LG Planners on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- Two (2) full day workshops with other LG staff on the Stormwater Code and Natural Assets Code.

Training and Workforce Development

- Agreed in principle to provide Engineering Australia (Tas) with data on the number and type of roles employed in Tasmanian councils and the estimated need for new graduates to 2040 based on LGAT's 'Local Government Workforce Report'. Engineering Australia has engaged a consultant to help improve the training 'pathways' to engineering, with TasTAFE being a particular focus for work.
- Continued to monitor Tasmanian council job vacancies, finding the average number of weekly council jobs vacancies for April was 28.

- From 2014 to date, the average number of job vacancies has been rising, and is now at its highest average number since monitoring began in 2010. Increasing amounts of part time work may be playing a role, as well as increasing staff turnover or the creation of new roles. It is likely that council vacancies will peak either side of the financial year end, where councils will be competing with other employers making hiring decisions in relation to budgets.



- Interviews for the joint LGAT/Local Government Professionals Executive Officer. Position offered and accepted.
- Liaison with the ombudsman’s office regarding Right to Information training for council officers.
- Preparation for, and delivery of training on Good Governance – the role of the council and councillor professional development by the Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Submitted Skills Tasmania Grant application for workforce development (Economic Development Officers)

Media and Communications

- The Pulse e-newsletter - 8 April and 21 April
- Submitted abstract for the International Cities Conference
- Media regarding the Federal Election, the West Coast High Court Decision (marine farms) and Glenorchy City Council.
- Announced 2016 Local Government Awards for Excellence. All councils encouraged to make applications for the Awards with winners to be announced at the LGAT Conference.
- Received and assessed three quotes for production of the “Better Councils Better Communities” TV commercial. Selected the winning bid from a local provider based on quality and price, and formed an agreement for the TVC to be produced quickly through June. LGAT has identified a range of council services to feature in order to promote the value of the sector, and will be approaching southern councils for assistance in making the TVC economically by supplying staff, equipment and locations very soon.

Meetings

- ALGA National Local Government Cultural Forum Meeting
- Attendance Good Governance- the role of the council and councillor professional development.
- Attendance Local Government Growing Tasmania through workforce development workshop.
- Australian Local Government Association meeting of communications officers.
- Building Risk Categories Workshop.
- Climate Change Action Plan Roundtable.
- Collaboration in complex systems workshop.
- Community Road Safety Grants Panel Session.
- CT Management Group, to discuss their analytical methods and services.
- Department of Health and Human Services regarding preventative health.
- Director Public Health and State Manager Environmental Health.
- Disability Access Working Group.
- General Meeting of the Association.
- Housing Industry Association on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- Integrity Commission and Local Government Division re Code of Conduct for Audit Panels.
- Lara Giddings regarding the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- LG Professionals Tasmania Awards for Excellence.
- Mayor's Professional Development Day.
- Planning Policy Unit in the Department of Justice on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- Planning Reform Taskforce Meeting.
- Premier's Local Government Council Officials Meeting.
- Project Steering Group meeting for sharing natural hazard information with the community project.
- Regional consultation meetings with planners regarding the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- Regular Meetings with the Local Government Division.
- Role of Local Government Strategic Action Plan Implementation Committee Meeting.
- Stormwater Code workshop.
- State Growth regarding State-wide Heavy Vehicle Access Networks.
- Targeted Review of the Local Government Act Steering Committee.
- Tasmania Audit Office regarding new accounting standards requirements for Councils.
- Tasmanian Planning Commission on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.