

Key LGAT Activity – August 2017

Issue in Focus

Opposing the State Government's proposed takeover of TasWater has continued to be a significant task for the Association this month. This has involved a number of press releases and other media, ongoing support of councils in the work they are doing to inform the community and perhaps most significantly, preparing the LGAT submission to the Legislative Councils Select Committee.

The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee are:

1. The benefits, disadvantages and challenges associated with the Tasmanian Government's proposal to take control of TasWater; and
2. Any other matters incidental thereto.

While extensive, the LGAT submission covered the following key points:

- There is no crisis in water and sewerage upgrades in Tasmania;
- TasWater has a 10 year fully funded plan in place;
- Would the Government do a better job of running TasWater than the independent skills based board;
- The Government has no plan and no financial modelling;
- Under council ownership TasWater directly benefits local communities with dividends funding local infrastructure and services; and
- Under the Government's plan, after 2024-25, there will be no further return on the water and sewerage assets to the communities who invested in them.

The initial hearings are scheduled for Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th September. LGAT will be presenting on Friday 22nd September.

Policy/Project Activity

- Advice provided to SES in relation the Blake Flood Review for inclusion in a briefing for the Ministerial committee
- Advice to the Office of Security and Emergency Management on council flood modelling capability
- Attended session on the draft National Waste and Hazardous Materials Reports
- Consolidation of Code of Conduct Discussion Paper Feedback
- Developed draft contract templates for council use. Targeted consultation has commenced to inform finalisation
- Expression of Interest to councils regarding prescriptive burning training and fire abatement training

- Further subscription modelling to be discussed at General Manager's Workshop
- Input in to the National HR Conference in Sydney 15 – 17 November
- Judging for Tasmania Resilience Australia Awards
- Liaison with Aurora in relation to street lighting data
- Negotiated further stages of Goanna energy consultancy related to street lighting contracts
- Ongoing advice to council officers regarding LED streetlighting project
- Preparation of papers for General Management Committee
- Provided nominations for the State Fire Commission and State Fire Management Committee to Minister
- Recruitment of Strategic Communications Director and Policy Officer
- Researched the use of Employee Assistance Programs in councils, with an emphasis on understanding any potential synergies for elected members
- Review of Container Deposit Scheme RFQ for consultants to undertake a review and design of a scheme for Tasmania
- Scoped web videos to support the Workplace Behaviour Toolkit. When completed, 19 animations will illustrate about 40 scenarios
- Submission to Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiring into TasWater

Media and Communications

- Preparation of Articles for LG Tas
- Radio on the TasWater Select Committee, Derwent Valley and TradeWaste
- Represented LGAT at Reconciliation Launch
- Media Releases – TasWater (7, 16 & 19 August)
- Opinion piece for the Mercury - Planning (18 August)
- Letter to The Editor of The Mercury – TasWater (23 August)
- Published four new council stories on the Better Councils Better Communities webpage <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=783>.
- Published the Pulse <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=635>.

Training and Development

- Finalised agenda for General Managers workshop
- Participated in the UTAS, TasTAFE and Department of Education 'Creating My Career' events for southern Tasmania high school students

Meetings

- ACIL Consultants - Fourth Impact Assessment on Gambling in Tasmania
- CEDA Digital Inclusion Breakfast
- CEO Engineering Australia (Tas) - water and sewerage
- Cancer Council - presentation of cheque from conference fundraising
- Circular Head and Clarence City Councils - Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Climate Resilient Councils Steering Committee
- Consumer Building and Occupational Services – regular Building Act key stakeholder meeting
- DHHS Alcohol Modelling Project Focus Group
- DHHS Public Health Services - Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- DHHS Public Health Services - developing policy on sharps disposal
- DPAC collaboration on Sport and Recreation
- DPIPWE – Cat Management Plan
- EPA – review of Memorandum of Understanding
- General Management Committee
- Glenorchy Council Domestic Violence consultation
- Heart Foundation CEO - Health and Wellbeing Matters.
- Hobart City Council - Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Huon Valley Council - Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Inaugural Meeting of the Premier’s Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council
- Launch of the Glenorchy City Council Community Engagement Framework
- Launch of the Reconciliation Council of Tasmania (President speaker)
- Local Government Association Diversity and Inclusion Officers Group (Teleconference)
- Local Government Division monthly meeting
- Local Government Professionals Tasmania Board Meeting
- Office of Security and Emergency Management - relief and recovery policy discussion
- Planning Institute of Australia (Tasmania) Conference Panel
- Planning Taskforce
- Road Safety Advisory Council
- SES - Blake Report Working Group meeting
- Tas Community Fund briefing - funding for Health and Wellbeing Project
- TasLeaders Annual Conference Panel
- TasPlan CEO - partnership opportunities
- Tasmanian Health Service, Health Promotion - Community Health and Wellbeing Project
- Telstra - Digital Inclusion
- TasNetworks - Consultation with councils on pricing reset 2019-24 for public lighting
- Tasmania Fire Service and Kingborough Council - prescribed burning training discussion
- Water and Sewerage Steering Committee Regular Meetings