

Key LGAT Activity – June 2016

Issue in Focus

June was a very busy month here at LGAT, with the preparation of a whole of sector submission on the review of the Local Government Act, the commencement of the Directions Hearings for the State Planning Provisions of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, final preparation for the Annual Conference and also our involvement in supporting councils following the floods through various activities, including participation in the State Government's Disaster Recovery Committee.

Policy/Project Activity

- Submission on the review of the *Local Government Act*.
- Preparation of papers for the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting in July.
- Development work and filming for a new Local Government television campaign.
- Judging of Local Government Awards for Excellence with external panelists.
- Participation in the Glenorchy Health Tracker Project.
- Development of the 2016/17 Annual Work Plan.
- Completion of the Draft Strategic Communications Plan.
- Review and input in to the Draft Workforce Planning Guidelines for Local Government.
- Release of an online training presentation for the LGAT Alcohol and Drugs Policy and Procedure.
- Updating of the Work Health and Safety Policy.
- Review and update of LGAT Governance Framework.
- Review of the Regulatory Impact Statement and associated material for the *Property Agents & Land Transaction Act Amendment Bill*.

Training and Workforce Development

- Preparation for the LGAT Annual Conference.
- Investigation of Online Learning System.
- Promotion of council careers at the Hobart College careers expo.
- Completion of the 'Think Big Work Local' project. From 2008 to 2016 councils funded this project to address skills shortages affecting Tasmanian councils. Highlights include:
 - The project's TV, video, web, conference and other advertising work – which promoted council careers to 60-80% of the Tasmanian TV audience, with up to 1500 new people per month seeking detailed information from www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au about council jobs.
 - Grants funding of ~\$300,000 for councils to obtain training for skills in short supply.
 - Development of a detailed Tasmanian council HR database with the help of councils, which predicts the impact of staff turnover to 2040 and enabled LGAT to create clear action orientated Workforce Plans for councils.
- LGAT will retain the best Think Big services as part of normal operations.

Media and Communications

- Three editions of *The Pulse* e-newsletter (2, 16 and 30 June).
- Diary Note to media - LGAT Annual Conference.
- Media Release - Councils Welcome Disaster Declaration.
- Finalised appointment of Ald Heather Chong (Clarence City) to the Premier's Physical Activity Council.
- Opinion Piece sent to *The Examiner* - Tasmania's Planning System - 7 June
- Opinion Piece sent to *The Mercury* - Tasmania's Planning System - 24 June
- *LGAT News* magazine - June edition
- Completion of the 'Better Councils Better Communities' TV commercial, which will be shown at the AGM. A big thank you to those councils that donated equipment, locations and staff. LGAT staff and family also volunteered their time to support filming of the advertisement.
- Media (print or radio) on floods, GM role, rates, Air BNB, Federal Election, the National General Assembly.

Meetings

- Meetings with the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- Meetings with the Planning Policy Unit.
- Meeting with the CEO's of the Regional Authorities.
- Housing Tasmania regarding new Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Visits to Circular Head, Central Coast and Meander Valley Councils.
- Planning Reform Taskforce meeting.
- VISTAS (State Government Valuation System) replacement Steering Committee.
- Australian Local Government Association Board and National General Assembly.
- Municipal Association of Victoria Insurance Board Meeting.
- Audit office to progress guidance on the introduction of Australian Accounting Standards on related parties.
- Regular meeting, Local Government Division.
- Meeting with new Chief Fire Officer.
- Meeting with Tasmanian Training Consortium.
- Institute of Public Administration of Australia (Tas) State Council meeting.
- Road Safety Advisory Council meeting and workshop.
- Consultancy Group Changemakers re Food Security.
- Skills Tas re Economic Development.
- National Procurement Network meeting.
- Integrity Commission.
- Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) group meeting (STCA).
- Regional Development Australia and State Growth re heavy vehicle access funding.
- Strategic Communications Planning Meetings.

- Attended ALGAs Local Government Workforce Development Group in Perth (by tele-meeting) to discuss training, HR and workforce policy with Local Government Associations.
- Attendance (by tele-meeting) at the National Environmental Officers Meeting.
- State Government Disaster Recovery Committee meetings.
- Pandemic readiness planning as part of the Tasmanian Health Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza.
- SES regarding the review of the *Emergency Management Act*.