

Key LGAT Activity – March 2016

Issue in Focus

The State Planning Provisions (SPPs) of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme were publically exhibited in mid March, with the period for comments closing on the 18th May. LGAT are running three full day regional workshops throughout April with Council Planners to run through the SPPs and to capture collective concerns to inform a whole of sector submission. In addition LGAT are meeting regularly with the Department of Justice and the TPC to discuss the process and also concerns being raised by the sector – it is hoped this early engagement (prior to the hearings) will aid the TPC in understanding and appreciating the key issues for the sector.

Policy/Project Activity

- Appearance before the Parliamentary Inquiry into State Fire Commission.
- Assessment panel - Naturally Inspired grants program.
- Distributed a brief to five potential providers, for the creation of a 30 sec TV Commercial ("Better councils, better communities"). When completed (estimated July) the advertisement will be screened on commercial TV and SBS to help promote a positive image of the role of councils.
- Input into ALGA Federal Election document and commenced preparation of Tasmanian supporting document.
- Judging Panel Volunteering Tasmania Awards.
- Preparation of General Meeting Papers.
- Presentation at the MAV Risk & Insurance Conference.
- Presentation at the Northern Risk and Safety Network Meeting.
- Review of LGAT Rules.
- Review of the LG Act including participation on the Steering Committee.
- Scoping of a shared process to re-negotiate energy contracts for Councils with contracts ending 30 June 2016.
- Submission on the Consultation Draft of the Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan.
- Submission regarding Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan draft.
- Submission regarding the Model Code of Conduct.
- Supporting the implementation of the new Code of Conduct provisions.

Training and Workforce Development

- LGAT applied for a Tasmanian Workforce Development Fund grant application to assist councils with development of their workforce, in order to promote economic development in the local area. If successful LGAT will offer councils free economic development seminars and mentoring service from specialist providers to strategically plan economic development functions and understand the future skills needs of Economic Development Officers, and other roles in tourism marketing and other areas.

- Promoted council job vacancies and future careers with councils, at the Big Meet at UTAS Hobart along with the City of Hobart.
- Promoted council job vacancies and future careers at the State and Commonwealth Government Jobs Fair held in Burnie. The Jobs Fair attracted well over a 1000 people and council job advertisements accounted for around 20-25% of vacant positions.
- Progression of joint LG Professionals/LGAT position including development of PD, advertisement, secondment agreement and contract.

Professional Development Activities

- General Managers 2 day workshop.
- Local Government Growing Tasmania through better workforce planning workshops.
- Partnered with Engineers Australia for a breakfast panel event on Local Government Reform.

Communication

- Actively working with the Department of Justice to improve communication about planning reform activities.
- *The Pulse* e-newsletter 10th March & 24th March.
- Finalised appointment of Clr Mary Knowles (Northern Midlands) to the Family Violence Consultative Group.

Media

- Media Release re Local Government being a Key Partner in Preventative Health – 17 March.
- Media Release re Council Cost Index – 18 March.
- Media release re State Roads Audit Highlighting importance of local government roads - 21 March.
- CEO Opinion piece around the life of a Councillor – short version Examiner, expanded in The Mercury.
- Letter to editor re TasWater.

Meetings

- Aurora regarding future energy contracts.
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting.
- Black Spot Funding Program Panel Meeting.
- Cat Management Plan reference group meeting.
- Council visits to West Tamar and Break O'Day Councils.

- Integrity Commission regarding Gifts and Benefits Policy.
- Law Society and UTAS Law School regarding subdivision legislation reform.
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting - four loans approved.
- Manager of Heritage Tasmanian.
- Meeting to scope Regional Access Officer Business Case.
- Meeting with Council Emergency Management Reference Group and Tasmania Police regarding Web incident management technology.
- Meeting with new LGAT Audit Team.
- Meetings with Justice, the Tasmanian Planning Commission and the Planning Institute of Australia regarding the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- Mike Brewster, TasWater – Regular CEO Catch Up.
- National Procurement Network meeting in Brisbane.
- Nomenclature Board Meeting.
- Northern Asset Management Group Meeting.
- Northern Street Lights Project meeting.
- Page Seager to discuss the Policy and Procedure Suite.
- Participation in and speaker at inter-jurisdictional meeting of Directors of Local Government.
- Planning Reform Taskforce Meeting.
- Pre briefing meeting with Australian Institute of Company Directors regarding Good Governance - the Role of the Council and Councillor training.
- Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tasmania Meeting.
- Road Safety Advisory Council Meeting.
- Selection panel meeting Code of Conduct members with the Local Government Division.
- State Growth regarding bus stop infrastructure.
- Tasmania Flood Consultative Meeting.
- Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Grant Assessment Panel meeting.
- Various meetings with State Growth regarding Heavy Vehicle Reform.
- Workforce Planning Project inception meeting.