

Key LGAT Activity – November 2015

LGAT provided its submission on the 2016-17 State Budget last week. This year, in addition to seeking feedback from our members, we invited contributions from the three regional Local Government Authorities and Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Tas. We also consulted with other peak bodies to identify areas where we had a common interest.

Our budget submission, entitled Better Councils, Better Communities, focuses on four areas: Reform, Land Use Planning, Infrastructure and Communities. Our submission identified resourcing the implementation of planning reform as a critical requirement going forward, as is the funding of lplan - the online tool which will be essential in enabling easy navigation of the new planning scheme. We are seeking commitments around supporting feasibility studies for mergers and resource-sharing, as well as meeting the costs of any transformation. We have continued to encourage the allocation of funds to former forestry roads that are key to communities and tourism, and we urge continued investment in education and economic development. The final submission will soon be available on our website.

Issue in Focus

LGAT is keen to improve on our training and advice for those who are considering running for Local Government as well as those who are newly elected. If you were elected for the first time last year, we would appreciate you taking the time to complete the following short survey which will assist us in targeting our future training and resource development efforts. Simply click on the link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNKZ7PQ>

Policy/Project Activity

- Advice to ALGA regarding disaster funding arrangements
- Continued advocacy regarding planning reform including meetings of the Technical Reference Group to the Planning Taskforce as well as the Taskforce itself
- Development of the Annual Plan 2015/16
- Feedback to ALGA and Worksafe Tasmania on the Australian Government Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's Residential Asbestos Identification Report
- Input into ALGA submission on the Harper Report on National Competition Policy
- Input into the draft MOU on Key Regulatory Requirements between the State Government and LGAT on behalf of Councils
- Ongoing work with councils and the Department of State Growth on the State- funded project assisting councils to assess their critical bridge infrastructure in order to facilitate strategic heavy vehicle access networks.
- Standards Panel Activity
- State Budget submission
- Submission on the "Single Tribunal for Tasmania" Discussion Paper
- Submission to the Department of Health and Human Services re draft Tasmanian Health Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza
- Updating of the Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017

Training and Workforce Development

- Tasmanian council job vacancies went down to an average of 26 during November after consistently high levels in August, September and October. Vacancies are expected to decline for the Christmas and New Year period but then rise in January. The monthly average of 26 vacancies is still higher than the same months figures for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Called for EOI from councils for LGAT to make a collective training grant application and prepared project suggestions. Councils have partnered with LGAT for 3 successful grant applications since 2010 and LGAT will advise councils of further training grants as they become available
- Joint application for Skills Tasmania Funding with ACELG regarding workforce development training
- Teleconference with the other LGAs, to discuss formation of new Skills Service Organisations (SSO) to replace Skills Councils, and utilising any unspent funds from the latter. The SSOs will have responsibility for shaping VET training courses and related services
- Successfully delivered the workshop for senior Local Government managers (2IC)
- Operational skills training delivered in Launceston and Burnie
- Delivered Forum on Finance, Assets and Infrastructure in Local Government - Launceston, November 12 & 13

Communication

- The Pulse e-newsletter (5 November)
- The Pulse e-newsletter (19 November)
- Compiled results of LGAT News Survey
- Development of the December edition of the LGAT News magazine

Media

- Annual Report
- Auditor General's report
- Business View Magazine – Interview with CEO
- Financial Assistance Grants.
- Land Use Planning
- Rules around Public Meetings
- Tasmanian Councils Unite in Support of Paris
- Voluntary Mergers/Resource Sharing

Meetings

- ALGA Board Meeting
- ALGA National Local Roads Congress
- ALGA Roads and Transport Advisory Committee
- ALGA State Associations Cultural Officers Meeting

- Auditor-General's office regarding report on Local Government
- Clarence City Council re Strategic Community Development planning
- Collaborative Leadership Sub Committee of the State Emergency Management Advisory Group
- Continuous Improvement Project Advisory Group meeting
- Council Visits: Hobart City Council Governance Committee and Executive Meetings; Wynyard; Central Coast, Burnie; Devonport; Brighton; Southern Midlands
- Deputy Secretary State Growth (Bob Rutherford) re economic development projects identified in Role of Local Government Project
- Employment and workforce officers from all state associations
- Governance Institute
- Huon Valley Council and TasWater regarding Trade Waste
- Integrity Commission – Acting CEO
- IPlan Steering Committee
- Law Society re subdivision legislation reform
- Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Tasmania regarding partnership
- Meeting with the Executive Chair of the Planning Taskforce re future work program
- Meeting with the Regional Authority CEOs – collaboration, alignment, future planning.
- Minister Grooms Economic Advisor (Adam Saddler) re Local Government's role in economic development
- National Local Government Cultural Forum
- PIA Awards
- Planning Reform Taskforce and Technical Reference Group
- Premiers Local Government Committee Officials Meeting
- Public Health Service Tasmania - Opportunities for working with LGAT
- Regular monthly meeting with the Local Government Division
- Resilience and Recovery Sub Committee of the State Emergency Management Advisory Group
- Review of the LGAT News magazine
- Southern Regional Stormwater Modelling Group Meeting
- Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority AGM
- State-wide Heavy Vehicle Permit Project Steering Committee
- State-wide Review Meeting re Heavy Vehicle Networks (with State Growth)
- Strategic Action Plan (Role of Local Government Project) Implementation Committee
- TasCOSS, COTA and Aged and Community Services Tasmania re budget submission.
- Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation grants program assessment panel meeting
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office - re Tasmanian Local Government LED Street Lighting Project
- Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards Dinner (as Expert Judge)
- Tasmanian Local Government LED Street Lighting Project

- Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Pandemic Influenza Risk Analysis Workshop
- Tasmanians for Recognition
- TasNetworks re Tasmanian Local Government LED Street Lighting Project
- TasPorts
- Teleconference with Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government re Resource Sharing Review
- Teleconference with Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government re VET Training for Local Government
- Tourism 21 Launch
- Tyre Working Group
- Volunteering Tasmania re CREW system for spontaneous volunteers in an emergency
- Wise Lord & Ferguson re Iplan Stage 2