



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Expansion of the Economic Stimulus Loans Package Welcomed

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has welcomed the State Government's extension of the Northern Economic Stimulus Loans Package to all councils statewide.

LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman said Tasmanian councils own and manage more than \$700 million worth of assets. "The additional \$7.3 million of loan funding announced will facilitate up to an additional \$60 million in loans for Local Government to invest in important infrastructure to support communities and facilitate economic activity," Mayor Chipman said.

The Association is pleased to note the continuation of funding for the full implementation of the Planning Schemes Online Project.

Mayor Chipman said the State Government has invested considerable time and resources in planning reform since elected, with the delivery of the State Planning Provisions in early 2017.

"It is pleasing that the Government has realised that significant resourcing and effort, at both the local and state level, is still necessary for implementation, with the announcement of additional funding of \$300,000 to assist councils to finalise their Local Provision Schedules and \$100,000 towards educating the Tasmanian community in relation to changes to the State Planning Provisions," he said.

Mayor Chipman also welcomed an additional provision of \$360,000 per annum ongoing to assist with the implementation of the Cat Management Plan in partnership with Local Government.

"Local Government supports the development of a statewide approach to cat management, however the effective management and control of cats is beyond the capacity of most councils in Tasmania," Mayor Chipman said.

"Tasmania is one of the last states to consider implementation of a Container Deposit Scheme, however the challenges for our State are unique, so it is pleasing to see the announcement of \$100,000 towards the development of a model Container Deposit Scheme that complements other mainland jurisdictions, in consultation with Local Government and industry," he said.

Ends....

**For media enquiries, please contact
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