



MEDIA RELEASE

**Embargoed until 9.30pm
Thursday, 27 July 2017**

Latrobe Mayor Recognised with Meritorious Service Award

Latrobe Mayor Peter Freshney was tonight awarded a Meritorious Service Award, jointly co-ordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and the Life Members of the Association. The Life Members Award for Meritorious Service was launched in 2011 to recognise individual service and significant achievements by an elected member.

In presenting the award at the LGAT Annual Conference Dinner at Wrest Point, Life Member, Sue Smith commended nominees for this year's award for having given excellent service to Local Government and to the Tasmanian community.

Mrs Smith said Peter Freshney was a standout, epitomising what a great leader is when a community faces a crisis.

"The record breaking floodwaters last June hit communities across Tasmania," Mrs Smith said. One of the hardest hit was the Latrobe township, with 121 properties directly affected, one life lost, two homes and significant numbers of livestock swept away, devastating the community."

"Peter Freshney led from the front. He went above and beyond in his Mayoral role, displaying dedication, compassion and resilience. Above all, he stepped up to be a leader when the community really needed it," she said.

Mayor Freshney was an integral part of the emergency response and recovery. In particular, he was appointed Chairman of the North West Regional Flood Recovery Committee, evidence of the esteem in which he is held.

"The judging panel felt this level of commitment, in addition to family commitments, mayoral duties and personal business pursuits, undoubtedly would have been challenging, but Mayor Freshney took it all on with determination, compassion and a genuine desire to make a difference to those affected," Mrs Smith said.

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