



MEDIA RELEASE

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State Roads Audit Highlights Important Role of Local Government in Managing the State's Road Network

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has welcomed the recent release of Infrastructure Tasmania's State Roads Audit report and its acknowledgement of Local Government's important role and improved capacity in managing the State's local road network.

"Councils collectively manage approximately 14,400 kilometres of the State's 18,000 kilometre, publicly accessible road network, including the vital local roads and critical bridge infrastructure that connect communities, businesses, industries and iconic tourist destinations," said LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman.

The dispersed nature of the State's population, resources and rural industries, dictates that the source of much of the produce and product being carried is invariably adjacent to the local, council-owned road network.

"The State road network as a whole is only as good as its 'weakest links'," said Mayor Chipman. "The audit report identifies key road managers across the State, including Local Government, and the critical role each plays in managing their component parts of the network," said Mayor Chipman.

Of particular concern to councils in recent times has been the management and funding of former forestry roads, particularly those that act as high use tourist routes.

"The Association has repeatedly outlined to the State Government the adverse economic, access, safety and amenity issues likely to emerge within an under-resourced and inappropriate management framework," said Mayor Chipman.

The audit highlights the need to consider the longer-term management of these roads and whether there is merit in transferring ownership - for example to the Department of State Growth - to ensure that the necessary resources and expertise can be provided.

Mayor Chipman said that the LGAT will continue to lobby the State Government for a resolution to this issue.

A copy of Infrastructure Tasmania's State Roads Audit report can be found [here](#).

**For further information or interviews, please contact
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