

Key LGAT Activity – February 2019

Issue in Focus

February was a particularly busy month for LGAT is delivering and also finalising planning for a number of workshops and events. This included delivering three regional workshops on Councils' role as a Planning Authority, session 2 of the Engaging Champions Program, finalising event preparation for the regional Audit Panel sessions and the International Women's Day Event – both occurring later this week.

The Planning Authority sessions were particularly well attended, with over 70 participants across the three sessions discussing the Tasmanian planning system and the critical role councils play as Planning Authorities. The workshops also covered the who, what, how and why of planning in Tasmania, using case studies and input from experienced Local Government planners. The day was rounded out with a discussion on the current reform plans of the State Government and councils' critical role in local area planning. A special thanks to Ashley Thornton, Jo Oliver and James McIlhenny, who co-presented the session with LGAT.

A common theme across all sessions was the questioning of the value of councils remaining as Planning Authorities given the limitations in decision making and an inability to represent the community's view in major development proposals. This issue was also raised in sector feedback on the review of the *Local Government Act*, so it is sure to be a continuing discussion amongst the sector.

Policy / Project Activity

- Consultation on the remake of the *Road Rules 2009*
- Project plan for Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines
- Continued negotiation with TasNetworks and Ironbark in relation to contracts for the great southern lights project
- Initial engagement with councils in relation to shared procurement for energy for street lighting
- Advertisement and engagement with councils, local buy and contractors on Civil works contract
- Advertisement of new smart cities connected communities' contract
- Commencement of migration to an LGAT enterprise on Vendor Panel
- Review of draft functional requirements & service level agree for Planning & Building Portal tender
- Sectoral consultation and draft submission on the Review of the Local Government Act
- Establishment of Community Health and Well-being Project webpage
- Community Health and Wellbeing Project 6 monthly report to Department of Health
- Southern Council advice on recent SKM recycling plant closures in Victoria
- Sector advice on recent Supreme Court decision on a tied vote when acting as a Planning Authority

Media

- 6/2 Joint media release with Minister for Women and TasCOSS on International Women's Day Awards and Luncheon
- 7/2 news.com – media query on Economic Regulator's Report on Free Camping
- 14/2 ABC – media query on Sth Cross Care Court case and implications for UTAS accommodation
- 21/2 Fairfax – media query on LGAT submission to State Budget
- 27/2 Fairfax – media query seeking LGAT comment on role of councils as planning authority regarding development in wilderness areas
- 27/2 Local Govt News - media query on community satisfaction wit LG (to LGAT President)

Communication & Publications

- Better Councils Better Communities – [“Kingborough Council - Turning Recycling into Road”](#)
- [Pulse](#) February edition
- LGAT President featured in President's Comment column in February edition on [LG Focus](#)
- LGAT CEO article provided for Autumn edition of LOIS Magazine
- Update for National Local Government Handbook

Training and Events

For Members

- LGAT Stakeholder Event
- Planning and preparation (including working group meetings and judging panel) for Cross Sector International Women's Day Awards Event.
- Planning for General Manager's Workshop
- Engaging Champions Workshop
- Planning Authority Training in the north west, north and south

Meetings

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Strategic Planning Meeting (President and Vice President)
- Universal Design for accessibility – Kingborough, Glenorchy, Clarence City and Hobart City Councils
- Asbestos Eradication Agency – ALGA and State Associations
- General Management Committee
- Kate Huntington (UTAS) - teleconference
- Kingborough Council – CEO Visit
- Microsoft SharePoint Records Management Demonstration and Systems Review – Brighton Council
- Mike Blake regarding the Fire Service Act Review
- Local Government Workforce Development Group (LGWDG) – Conference planning for 2019 National Local Government Workforce Summit in Tweed Heads
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee

- Local Government Professionals Board Meeting
- University of Tasmania Symposium – Enabling Industry Transformation in Tasmania
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office [Electric Vehicle Working Group](#) Meeting #8
- State Emergency Management Committee
- Vendor Panel - LGAT migration
- City of Hobart - LGBTI Department of Premier and Cabinet Grants
- Aldridge lights - Great southern Lights project
- Office of Security and Emergency Management - Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Southern Planners Technical Reference Group
- UTAS School of Medicine, Department of Health, EPA – discussion regarding establishing a new course for EHO training
- Telstra Enterprise – opportunities for how Telstra can support Local Government
- State wide waste arrangements feasibility study - steering group meeting
- State wide waste arrangements feasibility study - regional workshops with Local Government, State Government and industry
- UTAS - Associate Degrees
- Planning & Building Portal - regular steering committee meeting
- Planning & Building Portal Project Director – review of functional requirements
- Archives Office – Record keeping requirements as a result of the Royal Commission
- Shelter Tas – Inclusionary zoning
- Waratah Wynyard Council – Financial and asset management training
- Review of the Local Government Act – Regional consultation
- Local Provision Schedule Project Team Leader – Council progress on LPSs
- Cat Management Coordinators Project Steering Committee meeting
- Joint ALGA Policy Directors and Communications Managers meetings

Operational

- Commenced budget preparation.
- Performance Reviews
- Review of HR Policies
- Shortlisting for Project and Policy Officer positions at LGAT