

Attachment (A) for Agenda

Item 10.11

**Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) –
General Meeting Consideration of Motions**

21 March 2019



Local Government Association Tasmania

General Meeting

Agenda

29 March 2019

10.00am

(Coffee on arrival from 9.30)

**The Paranaple Convention Centre
145 - 151 Rooke Street
Devonport**

326 Macquarie Street,
GPO Box 1521, Hobart, Tas 7000
Phone: (03) 6233 5966
Email: admin@lgat.tas.gov.au
Home Page: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au>

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
RULES REGARDING CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

13. WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) Each Member shall be entitled to send a voting delegate to any Meeting of the Association, such voting delegate exercising the number of votes determined according to Rule 16(a).
- (b) After each ordinary Council election, the Chief Executive Officer shall request each Member to advise the name of its voting delegate and the proxy for the voting delegate for Meetings of the Association until the next ordinary Council elections.
- (c) Members may change their voting delegate or proxy at any time by advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing over the hand of the voting delegate or the General Manager prior to that delegate taking his or her position at a Meeting.
- (d) A list of voting delegates will be made available at the commencement of any Meeting of the Association.
- (e) Members may send other elected members or Council officers as observers to any Meeting of the Association.

14. PROXIES AT MEETINGS

- (a) Up to 1 hour prior to any Meeting of the Association, a Member may appoint another Member as its proxy.
- (b) The form of the proxy is to be provided by the Chief Executive Officer and is to be signed by either the Mayor or General Manager of the Council appointing the proxy.
- (c) The Chair of the meeting is not entitled to inquire as to whether the proxy has cast any vote in accordance with the wishes of the Member appointing the proxy.
- (d) Proxies count for the purposes of voting and quorum at any meeting.

15. QUORUM AT MEETINGS

At any Meeting of the Association, a majority of the Member Councils shall constitute a quorum.

16. VOTING AT MEETINGS

- (a) Voting at any Meeting of the Association shall be upon the basis of each voting delegate being provided with, immediately prior to the meeting, a placard which is to be used for the purpose of voting at the meeting. The placard will be coloured according to the number of votes to which the Member is entitled:

Population of the Council Area	Number of votes entitled to be exercised by the voting delegate	Colour placard to be raised by the voting delegate when voting
Under 10,000	1	Red
10,000 – 19,999	2	White
20,000 – 39,999	3	Blue
40,000 and above	4	Green

- (b) The Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the raising of a coloured placard as the recording of the vote for the Member and as evidence of the number of votes being cast.
- (c) Except as provided in sub-rule (d), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
- (d)
 - (i) When a vote is being taken to amend a Policy of the Association, the resolution must be carried by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
 - (ii) When a vote is being taken for the Association to sign a protocol, memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement, the resolution must be carried by a majority of votes capable of being cast by Members and by a majority of Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
 - (iii) When a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.

Table of Contents

A.	TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
1.	GOVERNANCE	5
1.1	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *	5
1.2	BUSINESS ARISING *	5
1.3	CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA	5
1.4	FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *	6
1.5	PRESIDENT'S REPORT	6
1.6	CEO REPORT.....	7
1.7	MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*	8
1.8	COUNCIL ROUND UPS	8
2.	ITEMS FOR DECISION	9
2.1	LGAT RULE CHANGE	9
2.2	21 ST CENTURY COUNCILS *	10
2.3	MOTION – RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIA DAY *	12
2.4	MOTION – CHARITABLE EXEMPTION – RATES *	14
3.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	15
3.1	COUNCILS ROLE AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY *	15
3.2	ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX ABUSE *	17
4.	ITEMS FOR NOTING	18
4.1	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW *	18
4.2	WASTE MANAGEMENT.....	20
4.3	PLANNING REFORM	22
4.4	LOW COST AND FREE PUBLIC CAMPING	23
4.5	ROADS AND JETTIES ACT 1935	24
4.6	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER TRAINING.	26
4.7	COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY	27
4.8	FINANCIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT	30
4.9	POLICY UPDATE.....	31
B.	FIRE SERVICES ACT	31
C.	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES.....	31
D.	PRICING ADVOCACY	31
E.	PROCUREMENT	32
F.	CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS.....	32
G.	RECYCLING	32
4.10	NATIONAL UPDATE	33
4.11	COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING UPDATE.....	34
4.12	LGAT ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE	37
5.	Other Business & Close	37

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

9.30	Coffee on arrival
10.00	Meeting Commences Council Round Up Mayor Kristie Johnston Glenorchy City Council
11.30	Morning Tea
11.45	Kathleen Priestly David Adams Festival of Learning – A Statewide Approach
12.00	Mr Garry Bailey Chair Road Safety Advisory Council
1.30 approx	Lunch

1. GOVERNANCE

Welcome and Apologies

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Decision Sought

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2018, as circulated, be confirmed.

Background:

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 December 2018, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation and are at **Attachment to Item 1.1.**

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

Decision Sought

That Members note the information.

Background:

At Attachment to Item 1.2 is a schedule of business considered at the previous meeting and its status.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Decision Sought

That consideration be given to the Agenda items and the order of business.

Background:

Delegates will be invited to confirm the Agenda for the meeting and the order of business.

1.4 FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background:

A table detailing action taken to date in relation to motions passed at previous meetings is at **Attachment to Item 1.4.**

1.5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on the President's activity from 30 November 2018 to 15 March 2019.

Media and Events

- Council of the Ageing Tasmania (COTA) Embracing the Future Launch
- Inaugural tri-sector International Women's Day Awards Luncheon
- LGAT Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- Media – Tassie Future Survey
- Pulse, LG Focus articles

Meetings

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting
- ALGA Strategic Planning
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Dr Rachel Bacon – Federal Deputy Secretary Regional Development and Local Government and Elizabeth Bennet Director Regional Development Australia
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT General Management Committee (GMC) Meetings (Dec and Feb)
- Premier's Local Government Council Meeting

1.6 CEO REPORT

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on CEO activity from 30 November 2018 to 15 March 2019

Policy, Projects and Presentations

- Teleconference with LGAT Peer Advisors – mid program check in
- Produced additional resource on asset management for website
- Significant input into Review of the Local Government Act review discussion paper
- International Women's Day Event – working group and Judging panel (Awards for Excellence)
- Planning/preparation for General Manager's workshop
- Planning for Mayor's Workshop
- Planning/preparation for General Meeting
- Planning/preparation for Elected Member Weekend

Media

- Container deposits
- Caravans
- Rating
- Cats

Meetings, Training and Events

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Dr Rachel Bacon – Federal Deputy Secretary Regional Development and Local Government and Elizabeth Bennet Director Regional Development Australia
- International Women's Day Award Luncheon – MC
- International Women's Day Event - Working Group Meetings
- Kate Huntington re partnerships with UTAS
- LG Professional President - follow up from joint workshop
- LGAT General Management Committee (GMC) Meetings (Dec and Feb)
- LGAT General Meeting
- LGAT Stakeholder Appreciation Event
- Local Government Legislation Review Steering Committee (monthly) and out of session work on discussion paper and reference group
- Local Government Professionals Board Meeting (teleconference)
- Mayors' Workshop (November 2018)
- Mike Blake regarding Fire Service Act Review
- Monthly Catch Ups with the Local Government Division
- Presented at the Break O'Day Councillor Induction
- Presented to Kingborough Council Workshop
- President and of EO Men's Sheds re opportunities to work together
- Road Safety Advisory Council

- Rosalie Woodruff (Greens) re LGAT Budget Submission
- Teleconference with Crime Stoppers re their strategic plan
- Tom Middleton (ALP) re LGAT Budget Submission
- Wayne Davy CEO Tasplan re new developments
- Women's Honor Roll Luncheon (as judge)

Operational

- Commenced recruitment/ undertook interview processes to replace Policy Officer/Project Officer
- Executive Assistant and Strategic Communications Director Annual Performance Review
- Organised and participated in combined Conference Workshop with LG Professionals (Refer Agenda Item 2.7)
- Budget preparation activities
- Preparation for Performance Review
- Review of new draft IR Policies for LGAT
- Demonstration SharePoint Records Management
- Update of LGAT Governance Framework

1.7 MONTHLY REPORTS TO COUNCILS*

Decision Sought

That Members note the reports for December 2018, January and February 2019.

Background:

Monthly reports to Councils that briefly outline Association activities and outcomes for the previous months are at **Attachment to Item 1.7.**

1.8 COUNCIL ROUND UPS

Decision Sought

That Members determine who will present briefings at the next meeting.

Background comment:

Glenorchy City Council has offered to conduct a brief presentation on a matter that is of interest in their municipality.

The session also allows time for questions and provides an opportunity to briefly share and highlight problems or opportunities facing councils.

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 LGAT RULE CHANGE

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That the Meeting agree in principle to a change to the LGAT Rules to enable the outgoing President to Chair both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting attached to the LGAT Conference, prior to the incoming President taking up the reins, with the change to be ratified at the LGAT AGM.

Background

At the December 2018 GMC meeting there was discussion around how to enable free participation at the LGAT AGM while still charging, as appropriate for participation at the adjacent General Meeting which comes at some considerable cost to LGAT (room hire, AV, catering). The cost of General Meetings has always been borne by Members on an attendance basis.

One of the difficulties of having the AGM at a set time is that in an election year, the AGM is held after the General Meeting as under the LGAT Rules the incoming President takes up the role at the conclusion of the AGM. It would be unfair to expect a new President to chair the biggest meeting of the year as their first duty.

Section 27 of the LGAT Rules (as adopted July 2018) is as follows:

- a. *Subject to Rule 27(d), the President shall take up office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting following his or her election and shall hold office for a two year term concluding at the end of the relevant Annual General Meeting.*

Note that 27(d) relates to an election where the President has vacated office for whatever reason.

The rule could be amended as follows:

- a. *Subject to Rule 27(d), The President shall take up office at the conclusion of the combined Annual General Meeting and General Meeting which immediately precede the LGAT Conference and*

Changing the rules to allow for chairing both meetings means that the AGM could be held first at a clearly advertised time with attendance at no cost (and no significant impact on costs/catering). Subsequently, those who have not registered and paid for the July General Meeting could be asked to leave at the conclusion of the AGM. It makes the AGM more accessible but not at a cost borne by delegates attending the General Meeting/Conference.

While technically the rule could not be changed until the AGM, by securing agreement in principle, this minimises any risk of foreshadowing the change in the conference registration forms.

Budget Impact

There is a small budgetary risk related to delegates not differentiating between the AGM and General Meeting. This means some delegates may not register for the General Meeting believing it is also free to attend, or some may not leave after the AGM despite not being registered (impacting on catering etc). This can be managed through clear messaging in the lead up to the AGM/Conference as well as advice on the day.

Current Policy

Currently attendance at the AGM is captured as part of the paid registration for the General Meeting.

2.2 21ST CENTURY COUNCILS *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members endorse the following methodology for progressing the discussion on the future of the Tasmanian Local Government Sector.

Background

At the July General Meeting, Members noted the outcomes from the State Government funded feasibility studies into voluntary mergers and resource sharing and the continued public debate about the structure and number of councils.

As a result, the following question was posed:

Are Tasmanian councils best orientated¹ to service the needs of modern Tasmanian Communities?

In order to begin to address this question, at the December General Meeting LGAT staff facilitated a qualitative session (“kitchen table”) focussing on three key questions:

1. What are the current issues/weaknesses in how we deliver Local Government services?
2. How could we address these?
3. How should we progress the conversation about the future with the sector more broadly?

¹ Or structured, aligned, organised, arranged

The results of this kitchen table session have been analysed independently by two LGAT staff, with the key themes and ideas documented. The paper at **Attachment to Item 2.2**, provides a discussion on the results and is split into three parts.

Part 1:

A summary of the themes and some general suggestions for action. The themes are broadly categorised into four areas resources, services/facilities, standards and identity.

Part 2:

A framework to support critical thinking and analysis around the future of Local Government. This consists of two suggested actions:

- A. A summary paper - This is an important step in bringing all Local Government stakeholders up to speed on the history, context and drivers of discussions to date – we are not all at the same starting point; and
- B. A stakeholder interest/outcomes paper – Reform is not an outcome, it is a process. There is significant interest in “Local Government reform” but what outcomes are different stakeholders actually seeking.

In order to develop strategies and a process to address needs and support the sector through change, there is a need to have a sound understanding of the varying interests and desired outcomes. It is important to have a clear understanding of the diverse interests of key stakeholders comprising Local Government staff and elected members, residents, various industry organisations and other levels of Government.

Part 3:

A series of pilot projects to test change ideas that fit with the issues raised in the kitchen table exercise and the ideas and issues emerging out of the Part 2 investigations.

Prior to scoping any pilot projects, there is a need to consider those matters considered important by the various stakeholders, including the benefits and risks of different options (Part 2). In order to progress any work on the future of our sector to successful outcomes requires small incremental steps with involvement of stakeholders at each point.

Budget Impact

Parts 1 and 2 can be undertaken within current resources, however Part 3 would require dedicated further investment to ensure the pilot projects are designed and implemented effectively.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Building Local Government’s reputation
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver.

2.3 MOTION – RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIA DAY *

Council - City of Hobart

Decision Sought

That LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day.

LGAT Comment

At its 23 October 2017 Meeting the City of Hobart Council resolved that-

- 1) The Council officially support a change of date for Australia Day, to be held on a day other than 26 January, advocated by
- 2) Submitting the following motion to the next Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General/Meeting “that LGAT lobby the Australian Government to change the date of Australia Day”.

At that time, it was less than twelve months since a similar motion had been considered by LGAT Members (put forward by City of Hobart at the July 2017 General Meeting) and which had been LOST.

Under 12c of the LGAT Rules:

“the General Management Committee may negotiate with a Member regarding the inclusion, or not, on the agenda of a subject matter seeking to be discussed at, or included in the Agenda of, a General meeting

If the subject matter or item:

- (i) Does not advance or concern the objects of the Association;*
- (ii) Has been considered at a General Meeting held in the period 12 months before the date of the notice from the Member;*
- (iii) Is considered by the General Management Committee not to concern a Sector Matter; or*
- (iv) Requires consideration by the Tasmanian Government and should be considered at the General Meeting to be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting.*

Hobart City Council had written seeking advice from LGAT with respect to progressing this matter and following feedback from GMC agreed to hold the item over so it was not debated again within 12 months. GMC also suggested that Council re-test the matter after Local Government Elections prior to resubmitting to LGAT was agreed.

LGAT Comment

At the July 2017 General Meeting the following motion was debated and narrowly lost (26 for, 27 against, 5 abstained) -

That LGAT, the 29 Councils and any individual Elected Members be requested to lobby the Federal Government to commence a conversation with the Australian public regarding the date of recognition of Australia Day.

A copy of the original motion and background is at **Attachment to Item 2.3**.

At the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (NGA) June 2017, a resolution was passed calling on the Assembly to encourage Australian councils to consider efforts they could take to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.

The Board of ALGA met subsequently to the NGA to consider this and other Assembly resolutions and determine Board Actions. While the ALGA Board noted the level of debate and the closeness of the result of the debate it was determined that it was not a priority for ALGA at that time.

In more recent times ALGA has responded to the Federal Government's commentary around Australia Day and Citizenship ceremonies. For example see **Attachment to Item 2.3** or the ALGA submission on Citizenship Ceremonies at <https://alga.asn.au/alga-submission-on-review-of-the-australian-citizenship-ceremonies-code/>

That submission notes:

"it is the responsibility of councils to be responsive to the views of their local communities. It appears that a very small number of councils that have moved their Australia Day celebrations and associated ceremonies away from 26 January are, in the spirit of Australian democracy, reflecting the desires of their communities. It may be uncomfortable to acknowledge the fact that some Australians identify 26 January as a day of mourning but this should not stop councils from trying to find a way to accommodate legitimate community views whilst celebrating everything that is great about our wonderful country. I do note that according to the Australia Day National Council, since Federation in 1901, Australia day has only been consistently celebrated on 26 January since 1988. It was previously celebrated on 30 July, 28 July and a variety of other dates".

2.4 MOTION – CHARITABLE EXEMPTION – RATES *

Council - Brighton

Decision Sought

That LGAT ask the State Government to immediately amend the *Local Government Act, Section 87, Exemption from rates*, to provide rate certainty and social equity. In particular rates should be applicable on all self-contained residential properties regardless of who owns the property.

Background

Currently there are issues with certainty and social equity around exactly who is exempt from rates under the *Local Government Act*. Councils and rate payers have recently relied on the courts to assist in certainty and in some cases resulting in social equity issues. The recent Full Court decision handed down in the Supreme Court in Hobart on 12 November supported retirement villages owned by charitable organisations to be exempt from rates, yet retirement villages owned privately are not exempt. Even the term charitable is not clear when applied to an organisation.

Another example includes where currently Housing Tasmania properties are subject to rates, yet uncertainty exists if rates are exempt where ownership of that same property is transferred to a not for profit entity to manage.

Clearly if more properties are now exempt from rates then the rate burden will fall greater on the remainder that are left to pay rates.

LGAT Comment

This matter was discussed at the December 2018 General Meeting, refer **Attachment to Item 2.4**.

The High Court has since dismissed the special leave applications made by Kingborough/Clarence/Hobart/Meander Valley in relation to Southern Cross Care's rating and those councils have been ordered to pay costs.

The decision will have broader implications for rates paid by other similar entities throughout Tasmania. Since the Full Court decision is now the law on the correct interpretation of this exemption, it will extend to other ratepayers which are in similar circumstances. Since that time LGAT has raised the issue for discussion at the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) and in meetings with the Director of Local Government. We have pressed the need to provide legislative clarity as soon as possible, rather than wait for the outcomes for the Review of Local Government Legislation and/or High Court proceedings.

Pending the outcome of this Agenda Item, LGAT will formally write to the Minister to seek an urgent review, and in the meantime is building an understanding of how charitable exemptions are dealt with legislatively in other States.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 COUNCILS ROLE AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the feedback from the recent regional Planning Authority training workshops and initial consultation as part of the review of the Local Government Act and discuss the long-term future of councils role as a Planning Authority.

Background

LGAT has recently completed regional training sessions with (predominantly) new elected representatives covering the Tasmanian Planning System and councils' role as a Planning Authority. These sessions were attended by over 70 people. At each of these sessions there was considerable discussion on the issues and benefits of councils role as a Planning Authority. The central point discussed was the limitations imposed on elected representatives when acting as a Planning Authority, in essence a tension between wishing to represent their community's view and making decisions strictly in accordance with the planning scheme. This is a common feature of feedback from newly elected councillors after each Local Government election.

In parallel, LGAT attended each of the regional consultation sessions on the review of the Local Government legislative framework. A number of themes emerged from these discussions but one common theme across each of the regions was again questioning councils role as a Planning Authority under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

As members would appreciate, when a council is acting as a Planning Authority it must make decisions only in accordance with the planning scheme, and also limited to the discretions triggered by a particular application. The Planning Authority can only consider community views (via representations) as they relate to the particular discretion(s) exercised in each case. There are numerous cases of councils determining applications on the basis of community feedback that does not relate to the discretions and these decisions being overturned by the Appeal Tribunal, often resulting in significant costs being awarded against the council.

It is important to note that the feedback from the processes discussed above indicated a strong desire to retain the development of planning policy, should there be any change to council's role. Strategic planning, local area planning etc, planning scheme development and amendments would remain a council function with only the statutory planning (development applications) considered as a part of any discussions.

Should there be an appetite from the sector to explore options around removing the role of Planning Authority from councils, then there are examples of a number of different models already operating in other jurisdictions that we can draw on. **Attachment to Item 3.1** was prepared in 2015 and provides a brief summary (correct at the time of writing) on the models in place interstate (Development Assessment Panels in particular).

It is worth noting that the current State Government planning reform agenda has created a negative public perception of our planning system, which by association includes Local Government's performance in delivering it.

Local Government has also had to be reactive to the various reforms, both from a resource and communication perspective and has meant that some of the critical aspects of the planning system, that many argue require reform, have been ignored to date.

While LGAT Members have had similar discussions over the last decade and determined not to press for change, the significant turnover in councillors, the public debate on planning matters and the extended planning reform agenda means that it is timely to once again test this matter.

Planning reform will be a significant and ongoing part of the State Government agenda for many years. As a sector we need to decide whether we wish to wait to see what further changes are proposed by State Government and react accordingly, or whether we get on the front foot and clearly articulate what we believe are the important reforms and lead the discussion accordingly.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

3.2 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX ABUSE *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) has been completed and the recommendations handed down.

On 4 November 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish a National Redress Scheme for individuals who experienced institutional sexual abuse as Children. In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government committed to joining the National Scheme.

Each State Government has been asked to engage with Local Government by the Scheme Operator (the Commonwealth Department of Social Services) to provide information which may assist your sector to consider whether to participate in the National Redress Scheme and how that may occur. Staff from the Tasmanian Royal Commission Response Unit in the Department of Justice are currently meeting with councils to progress this discussion.

Attachment to Item 3.2 provides a Fact Sheet on the National Redress Scheme in Tasmania.

In addition, there is also a project underway by the State Archivist to implement the recordkeeping recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission. The additional **Attachment to Item 3.2** provides a briefing note for General Managers and Mayors on this project.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW *

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on progress on the review of the Local Government Act.

Background

In June 2018 the Minister for Local Government announced a ‘roots and branches’ review of Tasmania’s Local Government legislation framework. Comment was sought on the Terms of Reference which were finalised in November 2018. There are a number of matters out of scope of this review including council amalgamations and Code of Conduct provisions.

A governance structure was finalised at the end of 2018. The Review is being governed by a Steering Committee. Local Government representatives on that Committee are the LGAT CEO Katrena Stephenson, former Tasman Mayor, Roseanne Heyward and former Meander Valley General Manager (and Chair of the Local Government Board) Greg Preece. The Steering Committee meets monthly.

The Steering Committee will be supported by a Reference Group comprising membership from a broad range of backgrounds including Local Government and Industry. Appointments to the Reference Group have now been announced. They are:

- Doug Chipman Mayor, Clarence City Council
- Peter Freshney Mayor, Latrobe Council
- Kerry Vincent Mayor, Sorell Council
- Cheryl Arnol Councillor, Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council
- Claire Smith Director Organisational Performance, Waratah Wynyard Council
- Lynette While Director Community & Development Services, Meander Valley Council
- John Brown General Manager, Break O'Day Council
- Andrew Paul General Manager, Clarence City Council
- Karen Abey Solicitor, Simmons Wolfhagen
- Margaret Taylor Community member
- Pamela Allan Adjunct Professor, School of Technology, Environment & Design, UTAS
- Craig Perkins CEO, Regional Development Australia, Tasmania
- Rhonda Skelton Board Member, Northern Midlands Business Association

- Kym Goodes CEO, Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCoss)
- Luke Martin CEO, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania
- Brian Wightman Executive Director, Property Council of Australia, Tasmania Division
- Michael Bailey CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)

The Reference Group will be independently facilitated with each meeting to focus on a particular subject matter. Reference Group meetings commence in March. Steering Committee Members will not be attending the Reference Group Meetings.

The Premier’s Local Government Council will have ongoing oversight of the project and following release of a Government Directions Paper, technical working groups will be formed to support the development of appropriate legislative responses.

A discussion paper was released in late 2018 inviting submissions until 1 March 2019. The paper is seeking only broad input on principles and represents Phase 1 of consultation. A number of forums were held regionally to allow for public, sector and industry input into the paper as well as through a survey or written submission. The Paper canvassed a range of questions around governance and powers, democracy and engagement, revenue and expenditure, performance transparency and accountability as well as seeking feedback on any other matters. Over 370 submissions were received. LGAT’s submission, the draft of which was tested with Members, is at **Attachment to Item 4.1**. All submissions, as well as a summary, are now available on the Local Government Division website.

There will be further opportunity for broad sector input into the process in Phase 2 (June to August 2019) with the release of the Directions Paper and in Phase 3 (March-May 2020) with the release of a draft Bill.

The Project Team are releasing a regular newsletter. Anyone can subscribe through the Local Government Division website.

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan

Focus Area Facilitating Change

Priority Area 2 Support the sector through the next stages of Local Government Reform

4.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT
Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

Improved waste and resource management has been an on-going and sustained area of LGAT advocacy for many years now, with recent activity including the commencement of the LGAT Statewide Waste Arrangements Feasibility Study (the Study). The Study is looking at how existing or new arrangements would potentially cover the planning, co-ordination and delivery of waste policies, strategies, programs and services to support better waste management across the state of Tasmania. In the latter part of 2018 LGAT was successful in securing a 50% funding contribution from the State Government for this work, reducing council contributions to \$45,000.

In late 2018 tenders were sought from a range of providers to undertake the Study. There were four very high-quality submissions, with Victoria based firm Urban EP selected to undertake the work.

The project is being delivered in two parts:

- Part A:** Collate evidence and present findings on the needs for and benefits of a Statewide Waste Management Arrangement.
- Part B:** Develop the purpose, role, functions and governance of this statewide arrangement as necessary to deliver on its agreed functions and support local and regional initiatives.

In delivering on Part A, engagement with core stakeholders was seen as integral to building the evidence base for a statewide arrangement. Further, engagement will build legitimacy in the study’s findings and help bring councils together in prosecuting the case for a statewide arrangement (pending the project’s outcomes and recommendations).

Workshops were held from 13 to 22 February 2019. The table below summarises the organisations that participated in each two-hour workshop, with attendance facilitated through invitations and reminders sent by LGAT & regional waste authorities.

Date & locatio	Targeted participants	Representation achieved
13 Feb 2019 Hobart	Waste Strategy South Member council staff Member council elected representatives	12 participants spanning: Hobart Council Huon Valley Council Kingborough Council Brighton Council Derwent Valley Council Glenorchy Council

15 Feb 2019 Burnie	Cradle Coast Waste Management Group Member council staff Member council elected representatives	14 participants spanning: Devonport Council Latrobe Council Kentish Council Waratah-Wynyard Council Circular Head Council Burnie Council Central Coast Council
20 Feb 2019 Hobart	Tasmanian Government representatives (officers and managers)	6 participants spanning: EPA Tasmania Department of State Growth
20 Feb 2019 Hobart	Resource recovery industry representatives	3 participants spanning: Veolia Waste Management Glenorchy Recovery Shop
22 Feb 2019 Launceston	North Tasmania Waste Management Group Member council staff Member council elected representatives	12 participants spanning: Launceston Council West Tamar Council George Town Council North Midlands Council Break O'Day Council Meander Valley Council

The workshops each involved an introduction and background to the project and two exercises with participants.

Exercise 1 involved having participants share their views on the successes and challenges in waste management at statewide, regional and local levels. This activity yielded a range of thematic areas that could then be delved into during Exercise 2 and provided an indication of the areas of demand to which a statewide arrangement could potentially respond.

The purpose of **Exercise 2** was to unpack up to three priority themes where it was felt (across the workshop) that current outcomes in waste management could be improved, potentially via the introduction of additional functions at a statewide level.

Based on this exploration of themes during the workshops, the Part A report will focus its analysis on the case for a statewide arrangement that carries functions associated with the following priorities, while retaining scope to adapt to emerging concerns:

- Organics resource recovery;
- Package waste recycling and minimisation;
- Addressing barriers to services and infrastructure; and
- Managing end of life tyres and dealing with illegal dumping.

For the Part A report, which will be completed by early April, a comparison with other jurisdictions will examine how these themes are dealt with in those locations, as well as investigating how state, regional and local entities work together to deliver better waste management outcomes across those various scales.

At the completion of the Part A report, the Project Reference Group will make a recommendation for General Management Committee endorsement if the Study moves to Part B. This will be based on Part A demonstrating a need and benefits from additional or amended Statewide Waste Management Arrangements in Tasmania.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.3 PLANNING REFORM

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

The State Government's number one planning reform priority is to establish the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which they accept can best be achieved by supporting councils in the preparation of their Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs). The Government has indicated that the other key areas of reform, being the development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies, update of the regional land use strategies, review of the residential provisions and improvements to subdivision legislation, will only commence once all councils have submitted their LPSs to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC).

Councils are currently preparing their LPSs, with a number having been submitted to the TPC in draft form and Meander Valley Council advertising their LPS in the latter part of last year, with hearings expected in the next few months. The Minister for Planning has set a target date for the submission of all LPSs to the TPC by the middle of 2019. To support this target the Government has established a specialised project team within the TPC, to assist the councils. The team is currently working with council planners to identify what further assistance might be required. Council visits are also underway by the TPC Commissioner, John Ramsay, to provide councillors with an update and outline important aspects of the process.

In addition, LGAT facilitated a statewide meeting of Local Government Strategic Planners in late 2018 to discuss issues and concerns and to share information on beneficial approaches. At this meeting the online platform that Meander Valley Council used for public exhibition of their LPS was discussed and generally recognised as useful. LGAT has collated a list of councils interested in utilising it and has secured a commitment from the State Government to contribute towards a whole of sector licence, to reduce the cost for interested councils, which will be hosted by LGAT. We are currently awaiting further details from the State Government.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.4 LOW COST AND FREE PUBLIC CAMPING

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

At the December 2017 Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting, the State Government agreed to establish a stakeholder group to provide advice to Government on the practical application of competitive neutrality principles to council-owned RV parking and camping facilities. This was in response to Local Government concerns on the interpretation and application of National Competition Policy principles.

This review has been overseen by senior representatives from the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance and State Growth. As part of the process a stakeholder reference group was established with representatives from LGAT and Local Government generally, caravan park operators and RV tourists and camping facility consumers. The stakeholder group met on three occasions, the first to outline issues and concerns and the second and third to provide feedback on draft options papers developed by Treasury.

The Final Policy Statement for the application of Competitive Neutrality Principles has now been approved by the Minister for Local Government and is available on the Department of Treasury and Finance's website at:

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/public-camping-competitive-neutrality-policy>.

The Final Policy predominantly provides a codification of the general approach that the Economic Regulator has been applying to all the recent complaints. Although there are some useful improvements that have been made. These include confirming a threshold of 10%

within a 60km drive for determining significant business activity and also allowing councils to get a Ministerial Statement confirming a public benefit to not applying full cost attribution.

Pages six and seven of the policy provide a useful summary and the two attachments will be useful for their relevant applications.

The release of the policy generated significant public interest, with a number of external stakeholders contacting LGAT with concerns. LGAT has maintained our initial position that updating the competitive neutrality policy for public camping was not addressing a number of the key causes of the issue, being a lack of understanding around the demand and supply of low cost (and commercial) camping in Tasmania. Since the release of the policy we have continued our advocacy for this work to occur.

While this is a Final Policy statement, LGAT has written to all General Manager's to invite feedback on the practical application of the Policy over the next twelve months, to inform future advocacy efforts.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.5 ROADS AND JETTIES ACT 1935

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

At the March 2018 General Meeting, LGAT Members considered and approved a motion (Item 2.5) for LGAT to advocate to the Tasmanian Government to amend section 11 of the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*. The aim was to improve the way this section delineated road maintenance responsibilities between State and Local Government.

LGAT has been successful in its advocacy and the Tasmanian Government has passed amendments to section 11 of the Act, which now reads:

11. Maintenance of State highways, &c., in cities, &c.

- (1) Subject to [subsection \(2\)](#), where in a city, town or village there is a footpath on one side or both of a State highway or subsidiary road –
 - (a) the Minister is required to maintain and reconstruct –
 - (i) the carriageways and the surface lying between them, in the case of 2 paved carriageways divided by a median strip;

- (ii) *the carriageway and the overtaking lane, in the case of a single paved carriageway incorporating an overtaking lane;*
 - (iii) *a paved carriageway not exceeding 7.4 metres in width, in the case of a single undivided paved carriageway;*
 - (iv) *a paved carriageway not exceeding 4.3 metres in width, in the case of a carriageway providing a traffic lane to a traffic interchange; and*
 - (iva) *in the case of a State highway comprising more than one lane in a single direction, the carriageway; and***
 - (v) *the culverts and bridges over which the State highway or subsidiary road runs; and*
 - (b) *the remainder of the State highway or subsidiary road, including drainage and shoulders but not culverts and bridges, shall be maintained and reconstructed by the local authority.*
- (2) *The Minister, with the agreement of the relevant council, may maintain or reconstruct a State highway or a subsidiary road otherwise than in accordance with [subsection \(1\)](#).***

Councils may now negotiate an alternative maintenance arrangement with the Tasmanian Government through agreement with the Minister for this Act, currently the Minister for Infrastructure², Jeremy Rockliff MP.

Although this amendment provides more and better options for councils in delineating road maintenance responsibilities, the change opens up the potential for varying and inconsistent arrangements and delineations across the state. Therefore, councils may want to consider liaising with their neighbouring councils when proposing road maintenance arrangements with the State. Furthermore, early discussions with Department of State Growth personnel are recommended prior to formal proposals being presented to the Minister.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability

² See *Administrative Arrangements Order 2019*:

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sr-2019-006#JS1@HS14@EN>

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER TRAINING.

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the following update on training and workforce development for Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).

Background

At the July 2018 General Meeting, members supported a motion for LGAT to lobby the University of Tasmania (UTAS) for the continuation of the Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) or similar tertiary degree that is eligible for the Environmental Health University Course Accreditation with Environmental Health Australia.

UTAS' Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) was a professionally accredited program designed to produce graduates who could work as EHO's in State and Local Government and specialised allied health fields. In January 2017 the University announced the course was in teach out mode (that is to be phased out).

LGAT, the Department of Health, EPA and Environmental Health Australia (EHA Tas) have had a number of discussions with UTAS for a replacement course. The University's School of Medicine has agreed to progress with collective planning and mapping for a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health course, with a course commencement in 2020, subject to UTAS approving the course governance and business planning processes.

As part of this training course, the need for student placements within Tasmanian councils was raised as an issue that would need to be addressed.

The likely replacement course for EHOs in Tasmania will go some way to addressing the workforce shortage, however there are a number of other factors that must also be addressed. To investigate these factors and also support the development of the Graduate Diploma, LGAT is lobbying the Department of Health, UTAS and the EPA to support a project that would result in a workforce development plan for EHOs. If successful, the plan will:

- Document the legislative and desirable tasks required of an EHO in Tasmania;
- Determine the factors influencing the recruitment and retention of EHOs in Local Government; and
- Determine strategies to support training for a Tasmanian environmental health workforce.

If completed the workforce development report would inform the course development process of UTAS, but also help to characterise and address the other challenges to establishing a sustainable EHO workforce in Tasmania. At this stage there is strong support for the concept

from the key stakeholders but a final agreement has not been reached on level of contribution.

Budget Impact

Being undertaken within current resources.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Facilitating change
- Fostering collaboration
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.7 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Contact Officer – Deb Leisser

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report and indicate to LGAT their interest in being involved in the community satisfaction at the local council level by 30th April.

LGAT State-wide Survey

The Community Satisfaction Survey, being conducted by Metropolis Research, is close to completion. To date around 1000 of the 1200 surveys have been completed and some preliminary key results (State-wide) are below.

Rating Scale

<i>Excellent</i>	Scores of 7.75 and above are categorised as excellent
<i>Very good</i>	Scores of 7.25 to less than 7.75 are categorised as very good
<i>Good</i>	Scores of 6.5 to less than 7.25 are categorised as good
<i>Solid</i>	Scores of 6 to less than 6.5 are categorised as solid
<i>Poor</i>	Scores of 5.5 to less than 6 are categorised as poor
<i>Very Poor</i>	Scores of 5 to less than 5.5 are categorised as very poor
<i>Extremely Poor</i>	Scores of less than 5 are categorised as extremely poor

Satisfaction with Council's Overall Performance

Overall satisfaction with council is 6.92 out of ten, which is “good”, it’s notably lower in the City regions (Burnie, Clarence, Devonport, Glenorchy and Launceston) at 6.5 and notably higher in the Urban regions (Brighton, Central Coast, Kingborough, Meander Valley and West Tamar) at 7.46.

The previous satisfaction survey in 2015 reported average satisfaction of 70, which equates to 7.00 on the scale used for this survey. Metropolis Research advises that it is too early to report change over time with significant certainty, however the preliminary judgement is that satisfaction has effectively remained the same.

Satisfaction with Services and Facilities

Average satisfaction with services and facilities was 7.2 out of ten or “good”. Highest satisfaction was for the regular garbage collection service (8.11) or “excellent” and the lowest satisfaction was for Council planning and building (5.61) or “poor”.

Satisfaction with Governance and Leadership

Satisfaction with aspects of governance and leadership were marginally lower than overall satisfaction (which is as expected) but all have satisfaction scores in the “good” range.

The fact that satisfaction with governance and leadership is lower than overall satisfaction reflects that satisfaction with services and facilities tends to be a significant factor underpinning the higher overall satisfaction result.

Customer service

A little more than one-quarter of respondents had contacted Council in the last twelve months. Most contacts were via telephone (52%) and visits in person (32%). Overall satisfaction with the customer service experience was 6.83 “good”.

Most Important Issues to Address in the Local Area

The most important issues that respondents believe should be addressed in their local area were roads maintenance and repairs, traffic management and planning and development issues.

The Image of Local Government

The image of Local Government more broadly was rated at only 6.11 or “solid”, a result that is measurably lower than satisfaction with Council’s overall performance (6.92). This is an interesting result and will be explored further in the final report.

Population Growth

Satisfaction with the change in population over the last four years was 6.64 “good” and, satisfaction with planning for population growth was 5.99 “poor”.

Housing

Average satisfaction with the availability of housing that meets community needs was 5.02 out of ten “very poor” and satisfaction with the affordability of housing was almost identical at 5.08 “very poor”.

These housing related results are very low and suggest significant community concern around housing availability and affordability. They are clearly correlated with the satisfaction with population growth results.

Perception of Safety

The average perception of safety during the day was very high at 8.62, with just 3.2% of respondents feeling unsafe (rating 0 to 4). Safety at night was lower than during the day at 7.72, with 10.2% of respondents feeling unsafe in public areas at night.

The surveying will continue until 1200 surveys are completed. The final report will provide data analysis at the City, Urban and Rural and South, North and North East and Northwest and West area levels.

Community Satisfaction at the Local Council Level

Individual council surveys will follow and LGAT will work with interested councils and Metropolis Research to develop and run these surveys that will provide accurate and reliable information at the local level and compare local area level performance with region and state performance.

So far Glenorchy City, Northern Midlands, Break O'Day, City of Launceston, Central Coast, City of Hobart and Sorell have expressed early interest in working with LGAT and Metropolis Research to complete Local Government area level surveys. Other interested councils are requested to let Deborah Leisser (Deborah.Leisser@lgat.tas.gov.au) know by Tuesday 30 April.

Budget Implications

The State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey is already funded through council contributions to LGAT.

Facilitation and coordination of Community Satisfaction Surveys at the individual council level by LGAT (in consultation with councils) is not currently funded and will be costed on a fee for service basis, with the cost to be determined once the final number of interested councils is known.

Current Policy

Strategic plan:

- Building Local Government's Reputation
- Developing Capacity and Capability to Deliver

Priority Area 8

Deliver a refreshed statewide community satisfaction survey.

4.8 FINANCIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Contact Officer – Michael Edrich

Decision Sought

That Members note the following report.

Background

LGAT is continuing to support councils in asset management. To do this, LGAT is collaborating with Local Government asset management professionals and supporting council-led initiatives.

One outcome of the statewide asset management meeting in October was a desire from professionals for improved communication with and guidance from the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO). Consequently, LGAT met with the TAO Deputy Auditor-General, Ric De Santi, who was very willing to contribute to the continuing professional development of the sector through attendance and presentations at our state-wide meetings, responding to sector questions and issues, providing input into the production and upkeep of LGAT's asset management resources, and other options. The next statewide meeting is in April and will include participation from the TAO and also the Local Government Division.

Amongst the resources hosted on the LGAT Extranet is a set of twenty-one Financial and Asset Management Practice Summaries, a copy can be found for reference at <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=623>.

These Practice Summaries provide guidance for asset managers on a range of topics, specific to the Tasmanian context and legislation. These resources are now four years old, so LGAT is liaising with IPWEA members and the Tasmanian Asset Management Group to scope a project to update the practice notes (reflecting updates to legislation and accounting standards) and to identify useful additions or improvements to the set. The TAO has given an early indication of willingness to assist in technical review.

LGAT will continue to support the collaboration between councils' asset management professionals and find ways to promote the initiatives that arise from it.

Budget Impact

Asset Management Practice Summary Update project work is currently being scoped, but as the original Financial and Asset Management Project retains some residual funding, the update work is intended to be fully funded within that residual amount.

Current Policy

Strategic Plan:

- Building Local Government's reputation
- Fostering collaboration
- Promoting financial sustainability
- Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.9 POLICY UPDATE

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That Members note the Policy Update which provides a brief overview on a range of matters.

Emergency Management

Fire Services Act

The State Government is currently reviewing the *Fire Services Act 1979* and all subordinate legislation. An issues paper was released in June last year with several councils and LGAT providing submissions. The Independent Chair of the Steering committee, Mr Michael Harris, resigned from his position on 30 January 2019 and has been replaced by Mr Michael Blake.

Mr Michael Blake met with LGAT in February to discuss the LGAT submission and Local Government issues. It is expected that a further discussion paper with a range of options will be released to stakeholders for consultation in the next couple of months.

Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines

LGAT and the State Emergency Service were successful in receiving grant funding to update the Municipal Emergency Management Guidelines to support Municipal Emergency Management Committees in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. The Guidelines will incorporate the plethora of changes to the emergency management arrangements since 2010, including changes to the Act, risk assessment, and relief and recovery arrangements among other things.

Andrea Heath has been engaged as the consultant to manage the project and consultation. The project plan has been completed and consultation commenced.

Energy

Pricing Advocacy

LGAT has been active in its advocacy role around the TasNetworks network and distribution pricing reset, particularly in relation to street lighting. LGAT has provided two submissions to

the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in relation to the TasNetworks pricing reset. The revised TasNetworks proposal included some savings to councils for street lighting but it is hoped that when the AER hands down its final decision in April further savings will be included.

Procurement

In 2014 non-metred public lighting energy became contestable. As a result, LGAT facilitated two rounds of competitive procurement processes for the sector, which to date has resulted in significant savings (approximately \$500K- \$800K per annum) for the sector. The latest contract is coming to an end on 30 June 2019 and LGAT will run a similar combined competitive procurement process for non-metered public lighting for the sector. A request for quotation is currently being put together for a consultant to coordinate the tender process.

Climate Change Projects

LGAT is continuing to support councils on climate change related issues through coordinating with the Tasmanian Government and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) on several projects.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office's (TCCO) *Coastal Hazards Management for Existing Settlements and Values Project* is at its final stage, with the report understood to be complete. LGAT assisted in an advisory capacity and document review. The Tasmanian Government is now beginning the process of considering the findings and how to take them to the next stage. The report may be released to stakeholders or the public in the future.

The TCCO's Climate Resilient Councils project is temporarily on hold as the Office undergoes some reorganisation.

LGAT is also collaborating with the STCA Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) in two projects, a Regional Coastal Hazards Strategy and a combined Regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Template. Although necessarily focused on STCA councils, LGAT's involvement represents an opportunity to both support southern councils and share lessons from the projects with north and north-west councils in pursuing their own regional responses and strategies or informing state wide initiatives involving Local Government.

Recycling

Many of you would have seen the media reports on the temporary closure of a couple of SKM's facilities in Victoria (Laverton and Coolaroo).

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-18/melbourne-councils-send-recycling-to-landfill-after-plants-shut/10814412>

In mid February, SKM voluntarily shut down its Geelong site in order to prevent a level of stockpiling that would attract a further notice from EPA. It seems likely that most of the affected councils (approx. 30 Victorian councils) will have little choice but to start sending recyclables to landfill.

The following has been taken from a recent report from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV):

Victoria's recycling industry is in crisis, with four sites of one of the major recyclers, SKM, unable to receive recycling material due to significant non-compliance issues of concern to the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) at two of those sites. Another recycler, Polytrade has also been served with a non-compliance notice on one of its sites. As a result, many councils have had no option but to redirect their kerbside recycling to landfill. The stockpiling of recyclable materials is causing EPA and others significant concern with an EPA taskforce set up to regularly inspect high risk sites they have identified across the state.

For Southern Tasmania, our understanding is that to date there has been no impact on services as the majority of recyclables processed at Derwent Park are sent direct to markets both within Australia and Internationally. The only product that is sent to Victoria's SKM facilities are some bulk grades of paper, and SKM is looking to move these deliveries direct to market from Derwent Park, rather than to Victorian Materials Recovery Facilities.

LGAT is monitoring the situation closely.

4.10 NATIONAL UPDATE

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Decision Sought

That Members note the report on activity being undertaken by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Background

In February this year, the ALGA Board undertook a facilitated strategic planning meeting to consider a variety of corporate and strategic issues. Matters discussed included waste and recycling, population, settlement, housing and planning, community services, Local Government workforce issues, regional tourism and arts and culture. The Board Members also had the opportunity to meet with the Federal Minister for Local Government, Bridget McKenzie and the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Stephen Jones.

Participants considered outcomes against the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan as part of the broad review and generally agreed that the priorities were still current with one revision to be considered at the 14 March Board meeting relating to preparation and response to disasters. Also to be considered is the draft Action Plan, developed to reflect the Board's detailed discussions on strategy and priority areas for action over the next year.

Additional items for discussion at the forthcoming Board Meeting include:

- Federal election advocacy;
- 'State of the Assets' reporting;
- The National Waste Policy Action Plan; and
- The upcoming National General Assembly (16-19 June)

A further verbal update will be provided at the LGAT General Meeting.

Budget Impact

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Focus Areas

Building Local Government's Reputation, Fostering Collaboration.

4.11 COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

Decision Sought

That Members note the following updated regarding LGAT's communications, events and training.

Communications

LGAT's monthly e-newsletter, the Pulse, brings you information regarding Local Government activities, policies, legislation and LGAT's advocacy activities as well as upcoming LGAT events and training for members. The Pulse includes links to the LG Noticeboard and our Better Councils Better Communities page. Sign up [here](#).

Also keep an eye out for the next edition of LGTas, due to be released in April 2019. LG Tas is a bi-annual online magazine style publication to promote the Local Government sector with a focus on Member's achievements and activities.

Overview of Activities

Proactive communications activities since the last General Meeting in addition to media queries include:

- LGAT President feature article on Tasmanian Local Government Sector in LG Focus February edition;
- Articles promoting the LG Tas sector submitted to Australian LG Handbook and LOIS Magazine;
- Letter to the editor Advocate 11 March 2019 correcting and providing context on rates capping; and
- The Pulse February edition.

Since the last General Meeting LGAT has facilitated key events and training activities including:

- Mayors' Professional Development Day;
- Break O' Day Councillor induction;
- Fire abatements training;
- LGAT Stakeholder Event;
- Engaging Champions Workshop;
- Cross Sectoral International Women's Day Awards Luncheon;
- Audit Panel Training; and
- Planning Authority Training in the north-west, north and south

International Women's Day Awards Luncheon

This inaugural event, held on 8 March attracted over 270 attendees. The Awards represent a partnership between LGAT, TasCoss and the State Government with sponsorship by Tasplan. The event was designed to inspire and recognise excellence being achieved by women in the Local Government Sector, the Community Service Industry and the State Public Service in Tasmania. Attendees were addressed by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, Minister for Women the Honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP and Kat Henry (NIDA Corporate) over lunch. The event was live-streamed to Devonport.

Local Government Award Winners were Mayor Bec Enders (Huon Valley Council) and Erica Lowry, Community Services Project Officer (Break O' Day Council).

See the latest edition of The Pulse for more <https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=a3fb6b694cc457805027bda84&id=8d06564b9e>

Upcoming Events and Training

The LGAT Events Calendar can be found on our website [here](#)

Upcoming Training and Development opportunities include:

March 2019	Date	Location	Information
Elected Members Professional Development Weekend	23-24 March	Launceston	Click here
April 2019			
Engaging Champions Leadership Program Session 3	1 April		
General Managers' Workshop	3-4 April		
May 2019			
LGAT Regional Breakfasts	8,9, 16 May		
Mayors' Professional Development Day	30 May		
June 2019			
2IC Workshop	5 June		

LGAT Annual Conference

The 2019 LGAT Annual Conference will be held from 3-5 July at Wrest Point, Hobart. Planning for the Conference, themed "Finding Your Voice" is well under way. The Sponsorship Prospectus has been launched with many sponsors and trade exhibitors already coming on board.

Program development is almost complete including the following Plenary Speakers:

- Heather Rose, Award winning Tasmanian Author;
- Mayor Tim Shadbolt, New Zealand's longest serving Mayor;
- Penny Terry, ABC radio presenter and Creative Director of Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd;
- Matt Pinnegar, CEO LGA South Australia; and
- David O'Loughlin, President ALGA.

We will also be bringing back the Panel discussion by popular demand, featuring our federal elected representatives following the federal election.

Based on feedback from Members, the workshop series will be refreshed, with a greater focus on showcasing Tasmanian councils' achievements as learning opportunities. In addition, there will be greater opportunity for members' networking and direct contribution through a revised structure incorporating symposium style shorter presentations and collaborative working. Registration will be available very soon!

Budget Impact

Within current budget.

Current Policy

LGAT Strategic Plan:

Building Local Government's reputation

Fostering collaboration

Developing capacity and capability to deliver

4.12 LGAT ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE *

Contact Officer – Dion Lester

Decision Sought

That the Members note the following report against the LGAT Annual Plan.

Background

At **Attachment to Item 4.12** is a report against the LGAT Annual Plan for consideration.

Budget Implications.

Within current budget.

5. OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE
