

Call for Submission of Motions
*Councils are invited to submit motions for debate
to be Included at General Meetings*

Name of Council : Burnie City Council

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Date of General Meeting for Motion to be Included: 8 December 2022

Motion Requirements:

In order for a Motion to be considered please indicate if the proposed Motion:

- Addresses the objectives of the Association¹.
- Concerns a local government matter.
- Is a matter of common concern to councils and not a specific local issue.
- Is linked to LGAT's current Annual Plan, available [here](#)
- It not an existing resolution of the sector (please refer to the Follow up of Resolutions Report in the preceding General Meeting for a list of current resolutions).
- Has not been considered at a General Meeting in the 12 months prior.
- Relates to existing, or sought activities/policy of the Tasmanian Government and would benefit from members understanding the Tasmanian Government position prior to considering².

LGAT staff are happy to assist you in developing your motion. Please phone 03 6146 3740 in the first instance.

Please attach –

The proposed Motion, which should clearly articulate the action required of LGAT or the policy position being sought from the sector.

The attachment should also include additional background comments to ensure members have a complete understanding of what is being sought and how the Motion addresses the requirements listed above.

Email to admin@lgat.tas.gov.au

¹ The objectives of LGAT are

- (a) Protect and represent the interests and rights of Councils in Tasmania;
- (b) Promote an efficient and effective system of local government in Tasmania; and
- (c) Provide services to Members, councillors and employees of Councils.

Details of Motion

Motion Title **MEETING TIMES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL WORKSHOPS**

Decision Sought

THAT LGAT:

“Adopt a policy position that ensures that council meeting and workshop times occur at times that are conducive to and facilitate increased participation across a broader cross-section of community candidates, particularly bearing in mind time constraints and commitments that would apply to those working full time, young people and those with caring responsibilities.”

Background Comment

At its meeting of 26 July 2022, Burnie City Council resolved to submit a motion to the upcoming LGAT General Meeting, asking the above policy be adopted. (A copy of Burnie City Council’s Motion is attached)

The motion raises valid considerations about the practical structural barriers that might preclude the fullest range of community members from participating as councillors. It would be counter-productive to prescribe the times at which Council meetings and Workshops should be held, as this may cause more problems than it solves. But making the issue of structural barriers more explicit and having each Tasmanian Council consider and determine meeting times to facilitate participation and access is worthy.

The demographic make up of elected councillors across the state is often a cause for discussion. There are persisting stereotypes that Councils are not particularly representative of the demographics of the communities from which they hail. Considering and minimising structural barriers that might preclude candidates from particular demographics is one way on improving the representative make-up of Councils.