

23 June 2020

TWWHA Tourism Master Plan Project Manager  
Project Management Office  
PO Box 44  
HOBART 7001

Email: [TourismMasterPlan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:TourismMasterPlan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

**Tourism Master Plan Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)  
Draft for Public Comment**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the *Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian Tourism Wilderness World Heritage Area* (the Plan).

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the representative for Local Government in Tasmania.

The objectives of LGAT are to:

- Protect and represent the interests and right of Councils in Tasmania;
- Promote an efficient and effective system of Local Government in Tasmania; and
- Provide services to Members, councilors, and employees of Councils.

In turn, our Member Councils' functions are to:

- Provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
- Represent and promote the interests of the community; and
- Provide for the peace, order, and good government of the municipal area.

LGAT commends the acknowledgment in the Plan of the cultural, historical, environmental, and economic considerations that must be considered in the management of the *Tasmanian Tourism World Heritage Area*. It is a Master Plan that intends a strategic and planned approach and it notes that it is "*an economic driver for regional communities providing business opportunities and employment and provides for health and well-being outcomes for locals*" (p. v). However, there is absence of any consideration in the Plan of regional communities through engagement of Local Government, particularly those council areas that cover the World Heritage Area.

Local Government, as a significant stakeholder in the Plan, is invisible and the directly adjacent council areas of Huon Valley, West Coast and Meander Valley are not mentioned. Central Highlands is mentioned once. Strategic Principle 4, supporting regional communities, acknowledges that *"tourism can bring undesirable consequences to regional communities. This can occur if supporting infrastructure and services do not meet demand"* (p. 12). Achieving the purposes of that Principle requires explicit collaboration with the relevant councils.

This omission must be remedied for the Plan to demonstrate a comprehensive strategic and planned approach through inclusion of these key stakeholders. Councils have formal responsibilities, knowledge and experience directly relevant to the effective development and implementation of the Plan, particularly *"in the consideration of future tourism proposal in the TWWHA, when being considered through existing legislative, regulatory and assessment processes"* (p. 10).

These councils' own strategic plans demonstrate strong interest in the Plan's strategic principles. Councils will be invaluable partners in achieving the Plan's vision. The goals of keeping infrastructure and impacts outside the TWWHA implicitly relies on local communities, their councils and community infrastructure to achieve it, so the Plan must interface effectively with Local Government infrastructure planning.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss how the valuable potential of Local Government experience and expertise may be included in the final Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrena Stephenson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Katrena Stephenson  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**