



# GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

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## Public Copy

Notice is hereby given  
that a Special meeting of Council  
will be held on

**Tuesday 14 May 2019**

in the Council Chambers  
Anne Street, George Town  
commencing at **9.00am.**

Shane Power  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

**George Town Council  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 14 MAY 2019  
AGENDA**

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**Meeting Commencing at 9.00am.**

**AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Council shall be digitally recorded as provided for by Regulation 33 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 15(2).

Therefore no recording shall be made of this meeting.

**1. PRESENT**

**1.1 APOLOGIES**

**1.2 IN ATTENDANCE**

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**2. GENERAL MANAGER'S DECLARATION**

I certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendations provided to Council with this Agenda:

- the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and
- where any advice is given directly to Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.



Shane Power  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

***LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 – SECTION 65***

***65. Qualified persons***

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –
  - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing –
    - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
    - (ii) that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
  - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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**4. GENERAL MANAGER**

**4.1 REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE – JUNE 2019 COUNCIL MEETING**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** General Manager

**REPORT DATE:** 2 May 2019

**FILE NO:** 14.12

**ATTACHMENT:** Nil

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**SUMMARY**

To submit a request to Council to approve the rescheduling of the June 2019 Council meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

At the ordinary meeting of the 21 November 2018, Council adopted its 2019 Council meeting and workshop schedule.

The June 2019 Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 18 June 2019 commencing at 1.00pm.

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Regulation 6 and 7(4).

**CONSULTATION**

No prior consultation with Councillors has taken place. Subject to Council decision, the public will be formally advised of the revised June 2019 Council meeting date via advertisement in The Examiner and on Council's website.

**RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

As a formal decision of Council is sought to reschedule a Council meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Regulation 6, no risk in rescheduling the meeting is recognised.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications are recognised other than those associated with the advertising of the rescheduling of the meeting.

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**4.1 REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE – JUNE 2019 COUNCIL MEETING (CONT.)**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Goal 5**

Ensure Council listens to and understands community needs and continues to make responsible decisions on behalf of the community

**Key Objective**

Consistently achieve a high standard of internal financial and governance arrangements.

**OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor and General Manager will be attending the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra over the period 16 to 19 June 2019 inclusive. The June 2019 Council meeting is scheduled to be held on the 18 June 2019 commencing at 1.00pm.

Due to the nature of the reports to be presented for adoption at the June 2019 Council meeting including the 2019/2020 budget, it is recommended that Council agrees to push the Council meeting out one week to the 25 June 2019 to provide for the attendance of the Mayor and General Manager at the Council meeting.

It is not considered necessary to reschedule the Council workshop to be held on the 18 June 2019 as this will enable Elected Members additional time to review the 2019/2020 budget and the 2019/2020 Annual Plan prior to their formal adoption at the proposed 25 June 2019 and the 16 July 2019 Council meetings respectively. Council's Team Leaders will attend and present at the 18 June 2019 workshop.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council agrees to reschedule the June 2019 ordinary Council meeting from the 18 June 2019 to the 25 June 2019 commencing at 1.00pm.

**DECISION**

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

**REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL**

**George Town Council  
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**4.2 FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** General Manager

**REPORT DATE:** 2 May 2019

**FILE NO:** 14.12

**ATTACHMENT:** Nil

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**SUMMARY**

To present information to Council together with a request that Council supports the Australian Local Government Association and the Local Government Association of Tasmania in respect to their collaborative efforts to influence political decision makers to increase funding through the Financial Assistant Grants for Local Government.

**BACKGROUND**

Financial Assistant Grants (FAGs) are a vital part of the revenue base of all councils, and this year councils will receive \$2.4 billion from the Australian Government under this important program.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is leading a national advocacy “Fairer Share” campaign leading into the 2019 Federal Election. In summary, the campaign aims to:

- Seek and achieve a commitment from both major parties to increase funding for local councils;
- Seek and achieve a commitment from both major parties, to return the funds lost as a result of the 2014-15 indexation freeze; and longer term to
- Secure a fairer share of national taxation revenue for Local Government that reflects the role of councils and the needs of local communities.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is asking members to participate in the national “Fairer Share” campaign by also sharing and/or incorporating some of the national campaign key messages in their own election advocacy work. Further information on the campaign is available via <http://fairershare.com.au/>

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995

**CONSULTATION**

ALGA and LGAT are currently consulting with member councils via email to gain support for the “Fairer Share” campaign. Information in respect to the campaign is also publicly available via their respective websites.

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**4.2 FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY (CONT.)**

**RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

No risks are identified in supporting the Australian Local Government Association and the Local Government Association of Tasmania in respect to their collaborative efforts to influence political decision makers to increase funding through the Financial Assistant Grants for Local Government.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications are identified in supporting the efforts. Should the efforts result in an increase of the Financial Assistance Grant allocation, this would have a positive impact on the operating budget for Council.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

Ensure Council listens to and understands community needs and continues to make responsible decisions on behalf of the community

**Key Objective**

Consistently achieve a high standard of internal financial and governance arrangements.

**OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The value of the FAGs has been declining for more than 20 years. In 1996 the level of funding for the FAGs was equal to around 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue but this has steadily fallen since 1996 under successive Federal Governments until it has reached a level now less than 0.55% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue. This decline was exacerbated by a three-year freeze on the indexation of FAGs from 2014-15 to 2016-17 which has cost local government an estimated \$925m in foregone FAGs funding.

FAGs are essential for many councils, particularly those in regional and remote areas of Australia which have very limited access to alternative revenue sources such as rates. These councils are dependent on the FAGs for the provision of infrastructure and services for their communities.

At the national level there has been an increasing level of demand from the community for local services and a growing expectation for a higher standard of services. This comes at the same time as cost shifting by state and territory governments onto local government continues to be a problem and state and territory governments in several states impose revenue restrictions on councils through rate capping.



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**4.2 FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY (CONT.)**

The Australian Local Government Association has made the restoration of the FAGs and the provision of a Fairer Share for local communities a key election initiative and ALGA and the state and territory local government associations are seeking the support of Council for the campaign and asking Council to engage directly with local candidates in the Federal Election to seek their support for a Fairer share of Federal funding for our community.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the importance of federal funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program for the continued delivery of council services and infrastructure;
2. Expresses its concern about the decline in the value of Financial Assistance Grants funding at the national level from an amount equal to around 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue in 1996 to a current figure of around 0.55%.; and
3. Calls on all political parties contesting the 2019 Federal Election and their local candidates to support the Australian Local Government Association's call to restore the national value of Financial Assistance Grants funding to an amount equal to at least 1 % of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue and therefore to provide a Fairer Share of Federal funding for our local communities.

**DECISION**

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

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**5. CLOSED SESSION**

**5.1 INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved: Cr  
Seconded: Cr

That Council move into closed session at ..... to discuss the following item:

**Item No. 1    General Manager Performance Plan and Appraisal - Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 r.15(2) (a) & (b)**

**REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL**

**DECISION**

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

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**5.3 OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

*In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 regulation 15(8) while in a closed meeting the Council is to consider whether any discussions, decisions, reports or documents relating to that closed meeting are to be kept confidential or released to the public, taking into account privacy and confidentiality issues.*

Moved:

Seconded:

That Council moves out of Closed Session and endorse those decisions taken while in Closed Session and the information remains Confidential.

**DECISION**

**VOTING**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at .....

**Cr Tim Harris  
DEPUTY MAYOR**