2019 -2020

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Annual Report

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Formed in 2016 and incorporated in 2018, PMAT is a growing network of almost 80 diverse community groups from across Tasmania. PMAT is Lutruwita/ Tasmania's only independent organisation dedicated solely to advocating for a land use planning system that ensures civic participation and protects our natural environment, cultural heritage and democracy for people, nature and future generations.

PMAT Board Members:

President - Anne Harrison
Vice President - Todd Dudley
Secretary - Vicki Campbell
Treasurer - Oliver Cassidy
Public Officer - Eric Pinkard
Board Member - Kerryn Anne Smith
Board Member - Jennie Churchill
State Coordinator - Sophie Underwood

Annual General Meeting
5 September 2020

President's Report

Thanks to each and every group in the PMAT Alliance - 60 going on 70. From this Alliance, 20,000 members/supporters is a reasonable estimate.

One very discerning supporter, tuned in to media and PR, has recently said to me that PMAT is now a critical part of advocacy in Tasmania. In his view, PMAT is professional, informed, and our work across the Alliance empowers all other member groups. He told me we are definitely getting traction, and above all he can see how we are translating the dry, technical analytical side of land use planning into something which resonates with the public. After all, land use planning determines how our communities, cities, wild places and rural land look - and how they work.

Thank you to everyone here today for being part of this. We share the load, assist each other where possible, and all of us together have made PMAT a significant advocacy group.

Welcome to new groups recently arrived

NTAG (No Turbines Action Group), SOLVE (Supporting Our Loongana Valley Environment), Taroona Community Association, BBCA (Blackmans Bay Community Association), NWEC (North West Environment Centre).

We acknowledge the PIA award

PMAT is Tasmanian Planning Champion 2019. Special thanks to the Tasmanian Planning Institute for their vote, and to Evan Boardman for the original nomination.

Sophie Underwood, our State Coordinator and fearless leader, made a super video to accompany our nomination to the national awards and the very telling image on you-tube was a full, overflowing Hobart Town Hall.

Today, I am thrilled to be able to announce just last night PMAT was awarded National Planning Champion!

Sophie, you go above and beyond with your tireless work and effective leadership of PMAT's planning campaign. Your leadership of the 34 groups trying to navigate the Major Projects Bill (MPB) and find the way forward was exceptional; it entailed real sacrifice on your part. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we wish we could pay you double. Our successes are your successes!

When the Minister for Planning talked about 'formidable opposition' on ABC radio 3 weeks ago, he really meant it. He may well have been listening to one of our many Zoom meetings about the Major Projects Bill. I acknowledge all the groups involved, as well as people who attended many meetings at Parliament, especially East Coast Alliance Anne Held, Hobart not Highrise Brian Corr, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Peter McGlone and Sophie. The Environmental Defenders Office and their lawyers Nicole Sommer and Jasper Lambe have

been with us through this whole process and we are very glad for their clever, wise, legal advice.

In the middle of the MPB back in July, Sophie submitted a terrific piece on the **residential standards**. This is a contentious part of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) and this review has been a long time coming, since the end of 2016. Sophie's submission for PMAT was long, detailed and compelling. We want to stay at the table on this very important review, we want all residential groups to be involved in this review.

I also acknowledge the work of the PMAT Board, who have kept PMAT going and viable. Todd, Kez, Jennie. Vicki (such a champion) and Oliver (what a treasurer) - both have done an outstanding job for PMAT.

What PMAT needs
Right now we need assistance with facebook, the website and, above all, we need to place PMAT on a financially sustainable footing. This is a lot of work for the incoming Board. I would love to declare that PMAT is redundant, but we are not there yet, and it's not going to happen any time soon. PMAT is definitely going to be needed into the future.

Massive issues remain

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) is generic – it ignores topography, local character, the wishes of local communities.

We also know the SPPs, a huge part of the TPS, only look at planning on a block by block basis. This is the opposite of the neighbourhood/street approach. It's not holistic and it's not strategic. I think it works against, and definitely does not preserve, heritage, amenity and precinct planning (or planning for place).

This generic TPS simplifies design and could well allow for laziness on the part of developers.

One other issue in particular I want to share with you today that I have learned from Indra Boss, highly experienced planner with a Master in Environmental Planning and BSc (Hons) who advises TasPIN (Tasmanian Planning Information Network):

One of the fundamental problems of the new TPS (to come in later this year or next year) is that:

- TPS removes integration. It does not recognise the complex system that is planning, including the imperatives of social housing and climate change mitigation.
- A core aim of the TPS was to remove duplication and to rely on other acts administered at different stages. Hence, the TPS relies on:
  - Urban Drainage Act – to replace Stormwater Management Code
  - Local Government Building and Miscellaneous Act – for Open Space requirements. Open space is no longer in the TPS subdivision provisions.

The integrated governance structure has been split up. Dismembered. DIS-integrated.

One example of the erosion of integrated planning under the mantra of removing green and red tape is with the Bushfire Directive from 2017.

Bushfire Hazard Assessment for both visitor accommodation use and non-subdivision development has in effect been moved to the building stage. This is often too late for designs that could protect biodiversity or landscape values.

Contrast this to the Federal Bushfire Commission's Review and recommendations to plan more, and better for anticipated bushfires. Basically, that better planning is required.

Should PMAT be pushing for a new position of State Architect?

Tasmania used to have one, and the office created the Greater Hobart Plan which pulled together numerous infrastructure and other strategic and Council plans to create greater cohesion. WA has a State Architect and the role is described as:

> *"The Government Architect provides leadership and independent strategic advice to government to improve the design of public buildings and spaces and enhance the quality of the built environment."*

VIC has a team, namely the Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA) , and the role is described as:

> *"At OVGA, we put quality design at the centre of all conversations about the shape, nature and function of our cities, buildings and landscapes. We are an independent voice for Victorian design. Our team advocates for an approach founded in a deep understanding and respect for people and place. OVGA promotes high-quality design principles, processes and outcomes. We want to ensure that Victoria is a place that our community is proud to call home."*

Note the aspirational language – no mention of faster, cheaper, simpler, or cutting red and green tape.

It's an attitude and a set of values that go beyond economic thinking and focusing on creating certainty for developers.

Anne Harrison
President
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.

Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2020

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Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.
Association Information

ABN 14 901 724 768

Board of Management	Ms Anne Harrison	President
	Mr Todd Dudley	Vice president
	Ms Vicki Campbell	Secretary
	Mr Oliver Cassidy	Treasurer
	Mr Eric Pinkard	Public officer
	Ms Kerryn Anne Smith	Member
	Ms Jennie Churchill	Member
Primary consultant	Ms Sophie Underwood	
Principal place of business	130 Davey Street Hobart TAS 7000	
Bankers	Bank of Us	
Auditor	Michael Kennett 128 Willowbend Road Kingston TAS 7050	

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.
Officers Report

Your officers present this report to the members of the Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania's Principal Objectives

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) recognises that a strong planning system can improve outcomes in relation to public engagement, public health, environmental protection and sustainable development, equitable access, social inclusion and economic prosperity. PMAT considers that the planning system must be underpinned by the following six objectives:

To achieve the best future for Tasmania and all Tasmanians by promoting the establishment and implementation of a planning system that is underpinned by the following principles:

i. Community and environment — prioritise the health and well-being of the whole community, the liveability of cities, towns and rural areas, and the protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage

ii. Strategic vision — establish and implement a community endorsed, sustainable, long-term strategic vision for Tasmania

iii. Transparency and independence — ensure that planning and decision-making processes are open and transparent, and overseen by an independent commission, with appeals heard by an independent tribunal

iv. Community involvement — provide opportunities for informed community input in planning matters and decisions, including provision of appeal rights

v. Integrated approach — provide an integrated assessment process across all types of developments on all land tenures which includes consistent provision of mediation, public comment and appeal rights

vi. Implementation — consistent with the above principles, planning to be shared between state and local government, with local government to retain primary responsibility for local planning and development decisions, through community consultation.

Statement by the Management Board

The Management Board of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc. have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial report.

In the opinion of the Management Board the statement of cash receipts and disbursements and the notes to the financial report:

1. Presents a fair and true view of the financial position of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the financial year ended on that date
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Management Board:

President Dated
Hobart

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 $	2019 $
Income			
Donations		50,290	36,592
Total income		50,290	36,592
Expenses			
Consultants		34,526	19,783
Tasmanian Election Enquiry		-	4,750
Venue Hire		-	78
Website		-	75
Audit		300	-
Equipment		35	-
Total expenses		34,861	24,686
Net cash receipts		15,429	11,906
Reconciliation to Bank Statement			
Opening bank balance		11,906	-
Add net cash receipts		15,429	11,906
Closing bank balance		27,336	11,906

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.
Notes To and Forming Part of the Accounts
For the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 – Statement of significant accounting policies

The Board of management has determined that the association is not a reporting entity, and this financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (Tas)*. The financial report may not be suitable for any another purpose.

The financial report is prepared on a cash basis, and is based on the value of transactions recorded in the associations bank accounts. The association is not registered for GST.

Unless otherwise stated all financial figures have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

As at the date this report was signed there were no material subsequent events or going concern issues.

Michael Kennett
Registered SMSF Auditor
ABN 32 676 324 378

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AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PLANNING MATTERS ALLIANCE TASMANIA INC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Report on the financial report

I have audited the special purpose financial report of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc for the year ended 30 June 2020. In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with *Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (Tas)*.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibility* section of my report. I am independent of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc in accordance with the ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence that I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

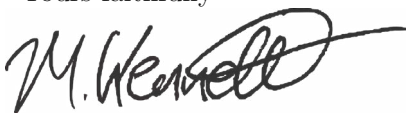
Responsibility of the Board for the financial report

The Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (Tas) and the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial report so that they are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.
In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is the intention to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibility

My responsibility is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

Yours faithfully



Michael Kennett CA
24 September 2020

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