2023- 2024

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Annual Report

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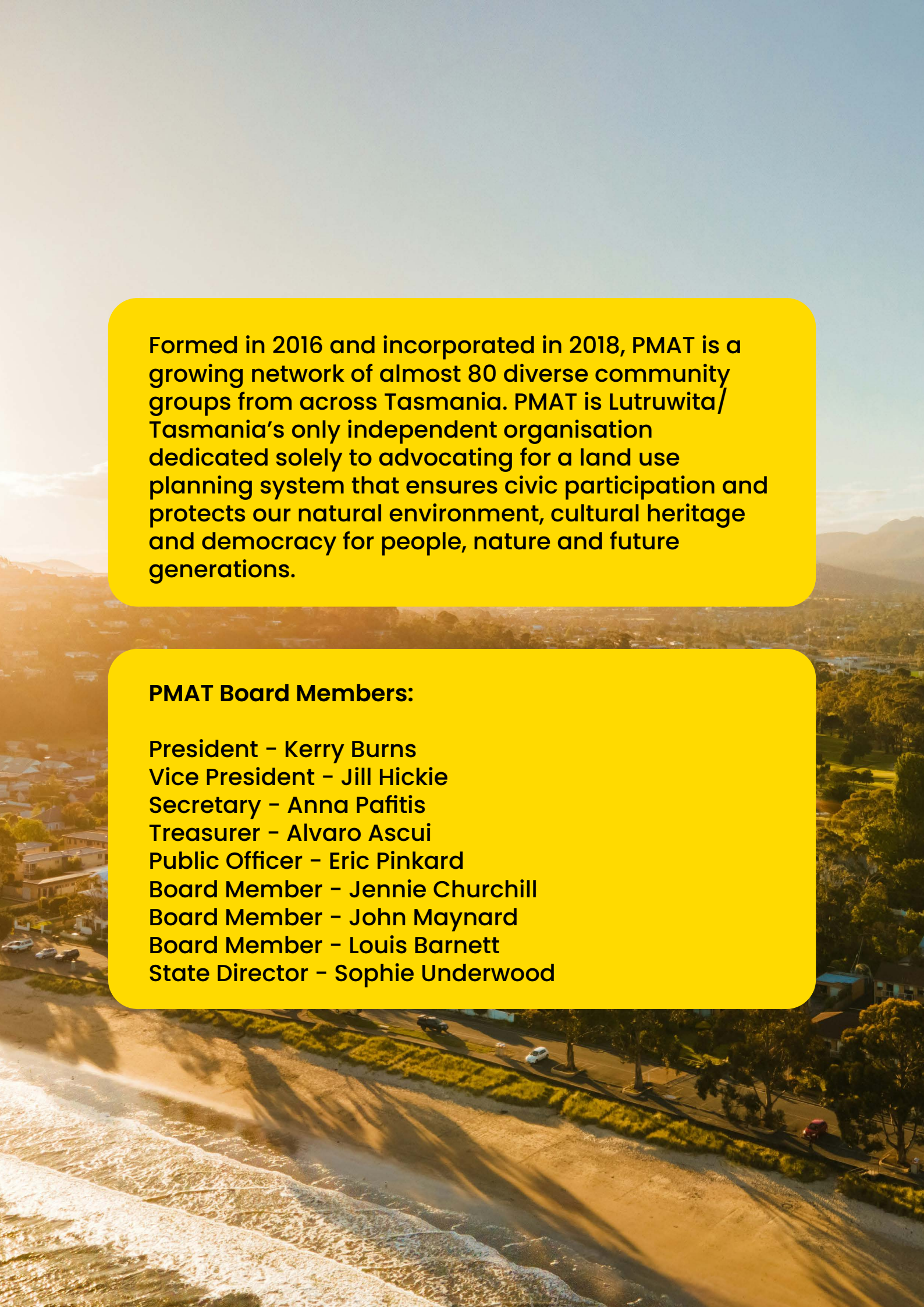

Formed in 2016 and incorporated in 2018, PMAT is a growing network of almost 80 diverse community groups from across Tasmania. PMAT is Lutruwita/ Tasmania's only independent organisation dedicated solely to advocating for a land use planning system that ensures civic participation and protects our natural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

PMAT Board Members:

President - Kerry Burns
Vice President - Jill Hickie
Secretary - Anna Pafitis
Treasurer - Alvaro Ascui
Public Officer - Eric Pinkard
Board Member - Jennie Churchill
Board Member - John Maynard
Board Member - Louis Barnett
State Director - Sophie Underwood

Annual General Meeting

24 August 2024

President's Report

During 2023 – 2024 PMAT continued to work hard to achieve best practice planning and a healthy democracy based on our values and principles.

An important part of working towards best practice planning is helping the Tasmanian community to understand planning and the part that it plays in the lives of individuals and communities, and for our natural environment. The Resource Management and Planning System and the various planning, environmental regulation and review elements that form part of it are complex and difficult to understand.

In arguing for a better system, PMAT has a responsibility to articulate what an alternative vision for planning in Tasmania might look like. Our Strategic Plan 2024-2029 includes a renewed commitment to developing a Values-Based Planning vision for Tasmania. We are currently developing a discussion paper – based on broad concepts of individual, community and environmental well-being – to inform our future work. The aim is to share this with Alliance member groups and others for comment soon.

We have continued to face big challenges over the past year. During 2023 – 2024 PMAT has had to respond to a succession of proposed changes to the planning system. These have continued the pattern of weakened planning controls that place Tasmania's environment and the many things we value about living in our State at risk. At the same time, we see the capacity for effective public participation in the process being diminished.

However, it is encouraging that we have had some success this year in raising awareness about the planning system and its impact on us all, and in helping to limit some of the proposals that would otherwise have further compromised the planning system. Of course, much more needs to be done and, as ever, new challenges continue to emerge.

The PMAT Board has continued to work closely with Sophie looking for ways to spread the message about good planning and to influence government and the media where we can. This has been particularly important since the commencement of the new State Parliament in May. The make-up of both houses has changed significantly and we have been actively seeking to brief members on PMAT and our key issues.

Sophie also continues to do so much to support Alliance members and get PMAT's message across. This includes commenting in the media, working with local communities, convening public meetings and talking to key people and organisations on planning issues. This work – along with that of our communications consultant Monique Kreis – is critical.

Our planning system work over the past year

So much of PMAT's work over the past year has been in response to State Government efforts to introduce further planning reforms and initiatives that would put more pressure on our communities and the environment:

- **Development Assessment Panels (DAPs)**. Since the late 2023 announcement of proposals to allow DAPs to replace Councils in assessing development applications (with no merit-based appeals), PMAT has led the campaign to keep local government as the planning authority. In March we convened the largest public meeting held during the State election campaign on DAPs and the parallel push for **Independent Assessment Panels** to assess development in our national parks and reserves (Reserves Activity Assessment reform).

  These will continue to be major issues in 2024 – 2025.

- The **State Coastal Policy** has long been critical in protecting Tasmania's coastlines. PMAT has played a key role, working with other groups, in arguing against the legislation now before Parliament to change the application of the Policy and questioning a proposed review that risks weakening the protections within the Policy.
- **Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs**). The final draft TPPs have been considered by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) and PMAT appeared before the Commission in October 2023 in support of its submission on the draft. There remain serious concerns about how the TPPs will provide much needed strategic guidance to the planning system.
- PMAT remains engaged in the current review of the **State Planning Provisions (SPPs**) that has been underway since 2021. Securing improvements to the SPPs will be central to improving the planning system. Currently, feedback is being sought by the State Planning Office on *Draft Recommendations for Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania* and on *Draft Medium Density Design Guidelines*.

- PMAT continues to be involved in the **Review into the Future of Local Government in Tasmania** following our major effort in mid 2023 to organise nine public meetings around the State to raise awareness of the Review and encourage local community discussion on issues including forced amalgamations and Councils' role in planning. We made a submission on the Stage 2 Interim report and presented at the Local Government Board hearings (August 2023). In my view, PMAT has had a genuine impact in shaping this debate.

- The State Government has committed to resuming 5-yearly *State of the Environment* reporting. PMAT has been part of the push for this and will be looking closely at the next report when it is released.

- As part of the **State election 2024**, PMAT surveyed candidates on the DAP issue and published the results.

- In support of PMAT's values around democracy and transparency, in late 2023 we wrote to the Legislative Council encouraging support for amendments to the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Bill 2022,* seeking to prohibit political donations from property developers. PMAT also joined other organisations in an open letter on the operation of Tasmania's Right to Information system.

Making PMAT more effective and sustainable

The Board has continued its efforts to strengthen the Alliance, engage the wider community, and to support Sophie in her role as State Director. Much of this is behind the scenes, but essential to enable PMAT's ongoing operation. Highlights include:

- **PMAT Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029.** Followed a review by the Board in May.
- Effective communication is essential and the past year has seen a complete redesign and rebuild of the **PMAT website.** It is now more responsive, easier to navigate and information-rich, with updates on planning issues continually added. Our mailchimp database, social media presence and donation system have all been upgraded.
- We continue to strengthen our budgeting and compliance systems.
- PMAT is now listed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission as a registered charity.
- It was wonderful to welcome three new member groups to the Alliance this year – Westbury Region Against the Prison (WRAP), South Hobart Sustainable Community and Cultural Heritage Practitioners (Tasmania) – we now have more than 70 Alliance groups.

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make PMAT a success

- **PMAT member groups**. You are the Alliance and I would like to thank you all for your support and the huge amount you do individually on planning issues.
- **Our State Director and Communications consultant**. Thank you to Sophie Underwood for her energy and commitment to PMAT – it is what allows PMAT to operate so effectively. Thanks also to our Communications consultant Monique Kreis for her huge effort in allowing PMAT to better present its message.
- **Our donors**. Thank you to all of those individuals and organisations that support PMAT. Our work is totally reliant on you, and your wonderful generosity is very much appreciated, especially so in the current economic climate.
- **PMAT's volunteer Board.** The Board works very hard behind the scenes to keep PMAT effective and viable. Thank you all for your hard work and expert guidance collectively, and for all you do individually to help PMAT to operate.
- **Campaign Advisory Group (CAG**). These community leaders provide key advice on, and assistance with, planning advocacy. Thank you all for your commitment and hard work.
- Many thanks to Eric Pinkard, our **Public Officer**.
- A special thank you again this year to **Anne Harrison** for her support with fundraising and other aspects of PMAT's work. Anne's expertise and experience continues to be invaluable.

Kerry Burns
State President
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

Annual General Meeting
24 August 2024

State Director Report

Introduction

Thank you to everyone for being here today.

Thank you to the PMAT Board for everything you do to keep our organisation on track and well governed

Thank you to our Alliance member groups – especially the ones who are here today.

I am sure most of you know Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania and our work, and I thank you for your continuing, important support. I want to assure you, our focus continues to be advocating for best practice planning in Tasmania, and for democracy and transparency in political processes. In particular, we work to raise community awareness about planning and encourage and facilitate community engagement in the planning process.

Key Activities

PMAT's work is diverse, here is a summary of our activities during the past financial year.

1. Public advocacy and community participation

PMAT hosted ten public meetings in 2023 - 2024

- PMAT hosted nine Future of Local Government Review public meetings across the state in 2023. These were instrumental in the State Government abandoning forced amalgamations – announced in July 2023.
- In March 2024, delivered the largest public event ever held during a state election campaign. Over 400 attended Hobart Town Hall *#ScraptheDAP* meeting on development assessment on private and reserved land. Guest speakers included a community advocate from WA and law academics. This meeting helped generate awareness and 100's of submissions against Development Assessment Panels (DAPs).
- Surveyed all State election candidates and Legislative Council candidate on key planning issues, including DAPs.

2. Developing a values-based planning vision for Tasmania

- This is an important focus for PMAT and the Board and State Director continued our work on developing an alternative values-based *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*.

3. Transparency and Democracy

Unregulated Political Donations – including from property developers

- PMAT encouraged the Parliament to support amendments to the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Bill 2022* that seek to prohibit political donations from property developers (including their associates or any or industry representative groups), as has been done in NSW, QLD and ACT.

Right to Information

- AS per EDO's recent report the Tasmanian Government is the most secretive in Australia
- PMAT signed onto an open letter calling on the Government to improve Tasmania's right to information (RTI) system.

4. Planning Reform

PMAT has been responding to the most significant planning 'reform' since the 1990's.

Tasmania's planning system was once considered to be the gold standard.

Disappointingly due to policy positions of successive Labor and Liberal Governments and the undue influence of the Property Council – our once nation-leading planning system has now been significantly diminished:

- Development Assessment on Private Land - #ScraptheDAP
- Development Assessment in National Parks and Reserves - #ScraptheDAP
- Management Planning on Reserved Land

Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies

- Recommendation Report on the Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) released by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, 6 June 2024.
- Made a submission on draft TPPs.
- Appeared at the Tasmanian Planning Commission hearings.
- Engaged Roland Browne lawyers to help us advocate at the hearings.

Review of the State Planning Provisions

- Participated in the State Planning Provisions Review presentation to the State Planning Office.
- Focused on improving outcomes for biodiversity, cultural heritage, human health and residential standards.

Improving Residential Standards

- Working with South Hobart community to help ensure the SAP (specific area plan) is applied – about improving residential standards in Tasmania.

5. Local Government 'Reform'/Local Government Review

- We have fully engaged in the future of Local Government, and held nine community meetings around Tasmania, as noted above.
- Submission re Stage 2 Interim report, August 2023.
- Presented at Local Government Board hearings.

6. Short Stay Accommodation and the Planning System

- Work with the Tenants Union and The Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS) on the link between unregulated short stay accommodation and the planning system.

7. **State of the Environment Reporting**

- Helped build momentum on the lack of State of the Environment Reporting by working with key environment groups in jointly responding to the fact it has been 15 years since the last report. Tasmanians have been without such a report since 2009, with the Tasmanian Government disregarding statutory deadlines in 2014 and 2019.
- We will jointly be calling for the report to be released as soon as the Tasmanian Planning Commission hands it to the Minister for the Environment on 30 August 2024.
- The report must be tabled in Parliament by 28 November 2024.

8. **High level political and stakeholder engagement**

Political Engagement

- Over 20 meetings with State Parliamentarians and met with a Federal Senator.

1. Ruth Forrest, 5 August 2024
2. Legislative Councillor Bec Thomas, 17 July 2024.
3. Legislative Councillor Dean Harris, 17 July 2024.
4. Legislative Councillor Mike Gaffney, 25 July 2024.
5. JLN Miriam Baxter, June 2024.
6. Meg Webb, 24 June 2024.
7. Independent for Braddon Craig Garland, 11 June 2024.
8. Shadow Planning Minister Shane Broad, 4 June 2024
9. Greens Vica Bayley, 4 June 2024.
10. Andrew Jenner, 27 May 2024
11. David O'Bryne, 24 May, 2024
12. John Tucker, 26 July 2023.
13. Ella Haddad, 5 October, 2023.
14. David Shoobridge. Greens Senator for NSW.
15. Luke Edmunds, re Labor's planning policy, 15 November 2023
16. + more

Key Stakeholder Engagement

- PMAT met with:
  - Tourism Tasmania
  - Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
  - Liaising with LGAT, including LGAT President.

9. Raising awareness – communications and media

Raising awareness in the community about planning and related issues is critical to PMAT's work and a key outcome, including achieving frequent media coverage.

PMAT Communications

- Launched PMAT's new website.
- Overseeing PMAT's Communications and Marketing Consultant Monique Kreis who has been doing a fantastic job.
- Active on Facebook and Instagram. Please visit our pages, follow us and engage with our posts.
- Mailchimp database continues to grow.

Media Engagement

- First national TV interview on ABC's 7.30 regarding development assessment of wind farms – no planning appeal rights and marginalisation of local communities.
- Three published Opinion pieces in The Mercury (some jointly, such as with TCT).
- 12 media releases.
- Print media, online and radio.

PMAT Media Releases

1. Joint Media Release: Proposed changes to Tasmania's Coastal Policy touches community nerve, 23 August 2024.
2. Joint Media Release: State Government must scrap its proposed legislation to weaken the Tasmanian Coastal Policy, 18 July 2024.
3. PMAT Joint Media Release: Publish the State of the Environment Report 2024, 6 July 2024.
4. Joint Media Release: Proposed changes to Tasmania's Coastal Policy touches community nerve, 1 August 2024.
5. Joint Media Release: State Government must scrap its proposed legislation to weaken the Tasmanian Coastal Policy, 18 July 2024.
6. PMAT Joint Media Release: Publish the State of the Environment Report 2024, July 6 2024.
7. Joint Media Release: State Government must not legislate to kill ongoing court case over Robbins Island wind farm, 11 June 2-24. See here: https://planningmatterstas.org.au/joint-media-release-state-government-must-not-legislate-to-kill-ongoing-court-case-over-robbins-island-wind-farm/
8. PMAT Media Release Plan to come to #ScrapTheDAP public meeting, 4 March 2024.
9. Joint media conference and release: *Tasmanian Conservation organisations urge candidates to oppose Government's proposed developer-friendly assessment process for national parks and reserves*, 19 February 2024.
10. PMAT Media Release 23 October 2023 Political overreach: The Minister for Planning wants to remove planning appeal rights & assume the power to make land use planning decisions
11. PMAT Media Release 18 July 2023: Removing democracy & communities from planning decisions.
12. PMAT Media Release 16 July 2023: Government commitment on Council mergers a welcome relief.

PMAT Opinion Pieces

1. The Mercury joint opinion piece *Department of Justice Conforms Mistake in draft Bill but won't budge on timeline*, 22 August 2024.
2. Mercury Joint Opinion Piece: "Cease bids to interfere with coastal policies", July 11, 2024.
3. The Mercury Opinion Piece: Planning Shift Takes Away Voice of Communities, 28 March 2024.

10. Submissions to Government and free Community Submission Guides

- PMAT made 9 submissions on key components of the planning system and the future of Local Government:

    1. *Draft Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Bill 2024* August 2024.
    2. *Validation (State Coastal Policy) Bill 2024*, August 2024
    3. Stage 2 Interim report of the Review of Local Government, August 2023.
    4. Reserve Activity Assessment Process Reform Statutory Environmental Impact Assessment Process.
    5. Discussion Paper to inform the Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania project, Feb 2024.
    6. The Future of Local Government Review – PMAT Final Report, October 2023, lodged 29 February 2024.
    7. South Hobart Specific Area Plan (SAP) - The submission included PMAT's logo, 28 June 2024.
    8. Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies, 28 July 2023.
    9. Position Paper on a proposed Development Assessment Panel Framework, 30 November 2023.

- PMAT created three community submission guides – helping to generate hundreds of submissions and community engagement on planning issues.

    1. Submission guide on the *Validation (State Coastal Policy) Bill 2024.* Helped generate over 400 submissions.
    2. Reserve Activity Assessment submission guide.
    3. Submission guide on Position Paper on a proposed Development Assessment Panel Framework, 30 November 2023. 250 submissions were generated to State Parliamentarians through PMAT's submission guide on the Draft framework which closed in November 2023. 543 submissions were received in total.

11. Growing and Supporting PMAT's Alliance Membership

- We have 70 community groups in our alliance.
- We welcomed three new member groups:
    - South Hobart Sustainable Community

- Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania
- Westbury Region Against the Prison

- You can see a list of alliance members on our website: https://planningmatterstas.org.au/about/alliance-members/
- Continued to work with and support Alliance member groups.

12. **While outside the last financial year, I would like to briefly note PMAT's current work focus:**

Tasmania's State Coastal Policy

We are jointly leading the push back on the State Government trying to fast track changes to the Tasmanian Coastal Policy to facilitate Pilitika/Robbins Island wind farm.

- In less than a two-week public consultation period, generated a submission guide and hundreds of submissions re the *Validation (State Coastal Policy) Bill 2024*.
- Drafted a key Background Report on this issue – used by Parliamentarians, the community and media.

Changes to TASCAT – Planning Appeals Tribunal

- With the help of the EDO, we identified an apparent drafting error in draft legislation which would have had disturbing implications for our democracy and our ability to conduct planning appeals.
- Community members or organisations would not have been able to lodge a planning appeal that was contrary to Government policy.
- Mercury Joint Opinion Piece: *Department of Justice confirms mistake in draft Bill but govt won't budge on timeline*, 22 August 2024.

Sophie Underwood
State Director
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.

Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.
Association Information

ABN 14 901 724 768

Board of Management	Mr Kerry Burns	President
	Ms Jill Hickie	Vice president
	Ms Anna Pafitis	Secretary
	Mr Alvaro Ascui	Treasurer
	Mr Eric Pinkard	Public Officer
	Ms Jennie Churchill	Member
	Mr John Maynard	Member
	Mr Louis Barnett	Member
Primary Contractor	Ms Sophie Underwood	
Principal place of business	7 Ogilvie Street Mount Stuart 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 2024.

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania's Principal Objectives

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) is a public interest organisation that serves the community by delivering public education sessions and communicating information about best planning practice. We aim to improve outcomes in public engagement, public health, environmental protection and sustainable development, equitable access and economic prosperity. PMAT considers that the planning system must be underpinned by the following six objectives (refer to the website www.planningmatterstas.org.au for explanatory notes):

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 2024 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
Hobart

Dated

Profit/(Loss) Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Income			
Donations		144	120
Donations—Bank of Us		117,836	86,652
Donations—Stripe		15,604	9,204
Other		2,000	232
Total income		135,584	96,208
General and Administrative Expenses			
Audit		694	428
Administration		71	-
Insurance		874	271
Professional development		-	150
Travel and accommodation		1,576	1,462
Contractors and Expert Consultants			
Consultant experts		-	17,581
Communications Contractor		19,975	5,717
Principal Contractor		69,708	86,224
Legal		2,231	-
Communications, Marketing and Events			
Advertising and marketing		1,614	5,133
Audio visual		5,731	769
Conferences and symposia		-	-
Photography		900	120
Room hire		702	558
Website		4,356	5,005
Fundraising Expenses			
CRM database		730	727
Stripe commission		439	239
Total expenses		109,601	124,383
Net income		25,983	-28,175

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

Balance Sheet
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Assets			
Cash at Bank		79,190	56,298
Total assets		79,190	56,298
Liabilities			
Accounts payable		-	3,090
Total liabilities		-	3,090
Net assets		79,190	53,207
Equity			
Retained earnings		53,207	81,382
Result for period		25,983	-28,175
Equity		79,190	53,207

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 2024

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 an accrual basis, and is based on the value of transactions recorded in the associations bank accounts. The association is not registered for GST.

The association does not pay any income tax as it is exempt under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Unless otherwise stated all financial figures have been rounded off to the nearest dollar. Where necessary, and unless otherwise stated, comparative information has been reclassified for consistency with the current year financial amounts and other disclosures.

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

Laurasia Consulting Pty Ltd
Registered SMSF Auditor ABN 46139602289

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PLANNING MATTERS ALLIANCE TASMANIA INC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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 2024. 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.

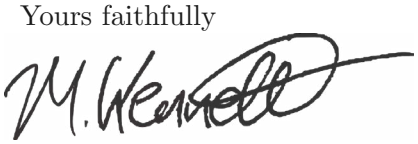
Responsibility of the Board for the financial report

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
15 August 2024

PMAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
24 AUGUST 2024

Treasurer's Report

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the audited Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Income

PMAT is an apolitical, independent not-for-profit association, limiting our potential funding sources. As a result, PMAT relies solely on donations from the community, private foundations and Alliance members. We are very grateful for the generosity of many individuals and organisations.

As PMAT has grown, this support has seen PMAT's income from donations increase annually from a total income of $36,592 in the 2018 - 2019 financial year to $135,584 this financial year.

The increased income from the 2022-2023 financial year includes a one-year grant that enabled PMAT to engage a part-time Communications contractor. The contractor generated measurable outcomes for PMAT across diverse communication and marketing platforms, including undertaking a total rebuild of the PMAT website. Most importantly, the additional support gave our State Director more flexibility to focus on key issues.

Fundraising

We are working hard in a challenging cost-of-living environment to maintain the level of income required to retain our part-time Communications contractor, as well as securing the critical funding required to support our State Director Sophie Underwood.

Expenditure

The 2023 - 2024 financial year saw a drop in expenditure. The increase last financial year largely related to the staging of 9 public meetings across Tasmania on the Future of Local Government Review. While these meetings delivered excellent outcomes and generated high public awareness of critical planning issues, they led to a significant increase in associated costs.

Specific expenses include:

1. Part-time Communications contractor costs of $19,975 (as above).
2. Audio visual costs of $5,731 primarily relate to the successful #ScrapTheDap public meeting that packed Hobart Town Hall on 6 March.

Alvaro Ascui
Treasurer

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Public Officer: 7 Ogilvie Street, Mount Stuart TAS 7000

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