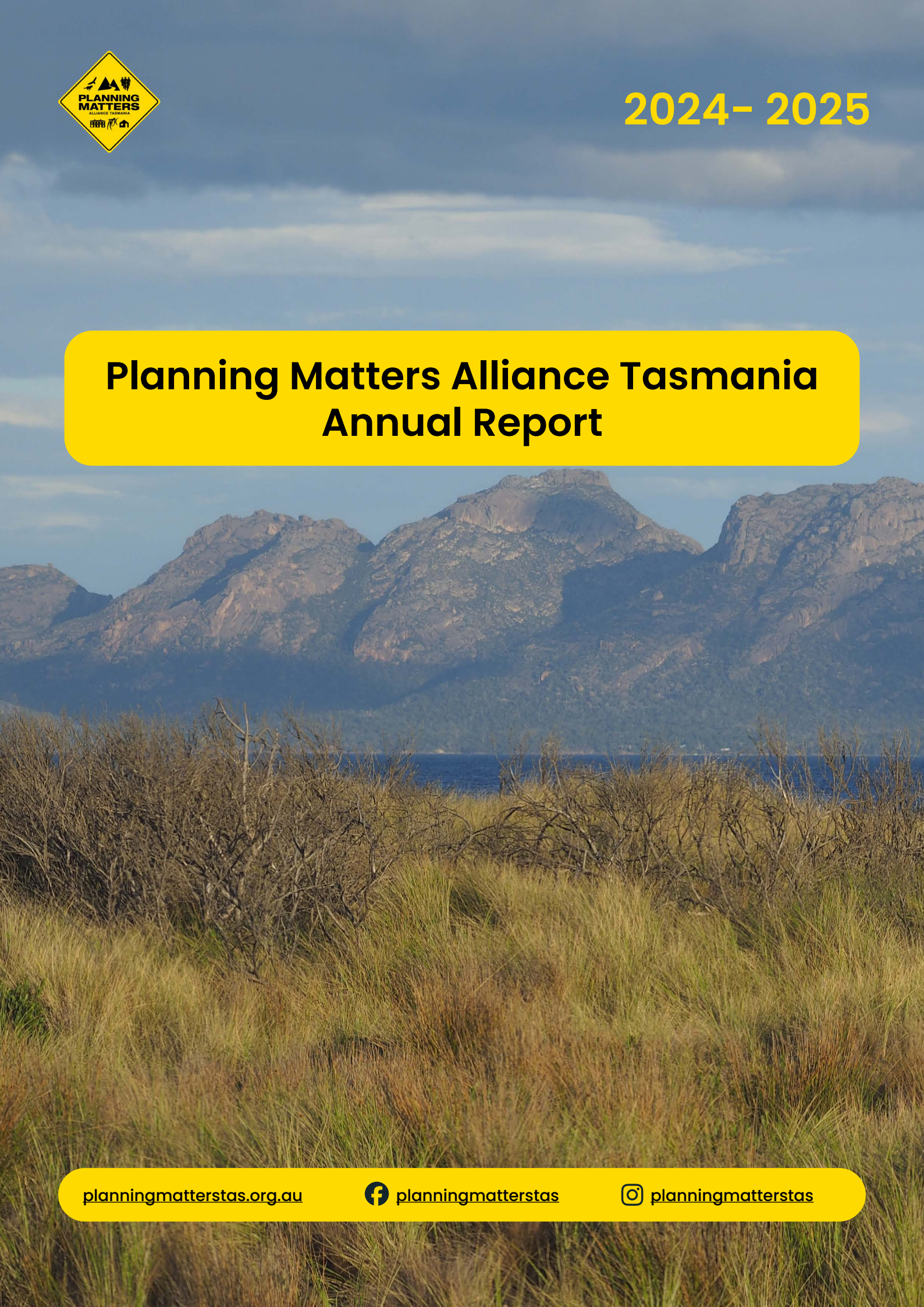
2024- 2025

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Annual Report



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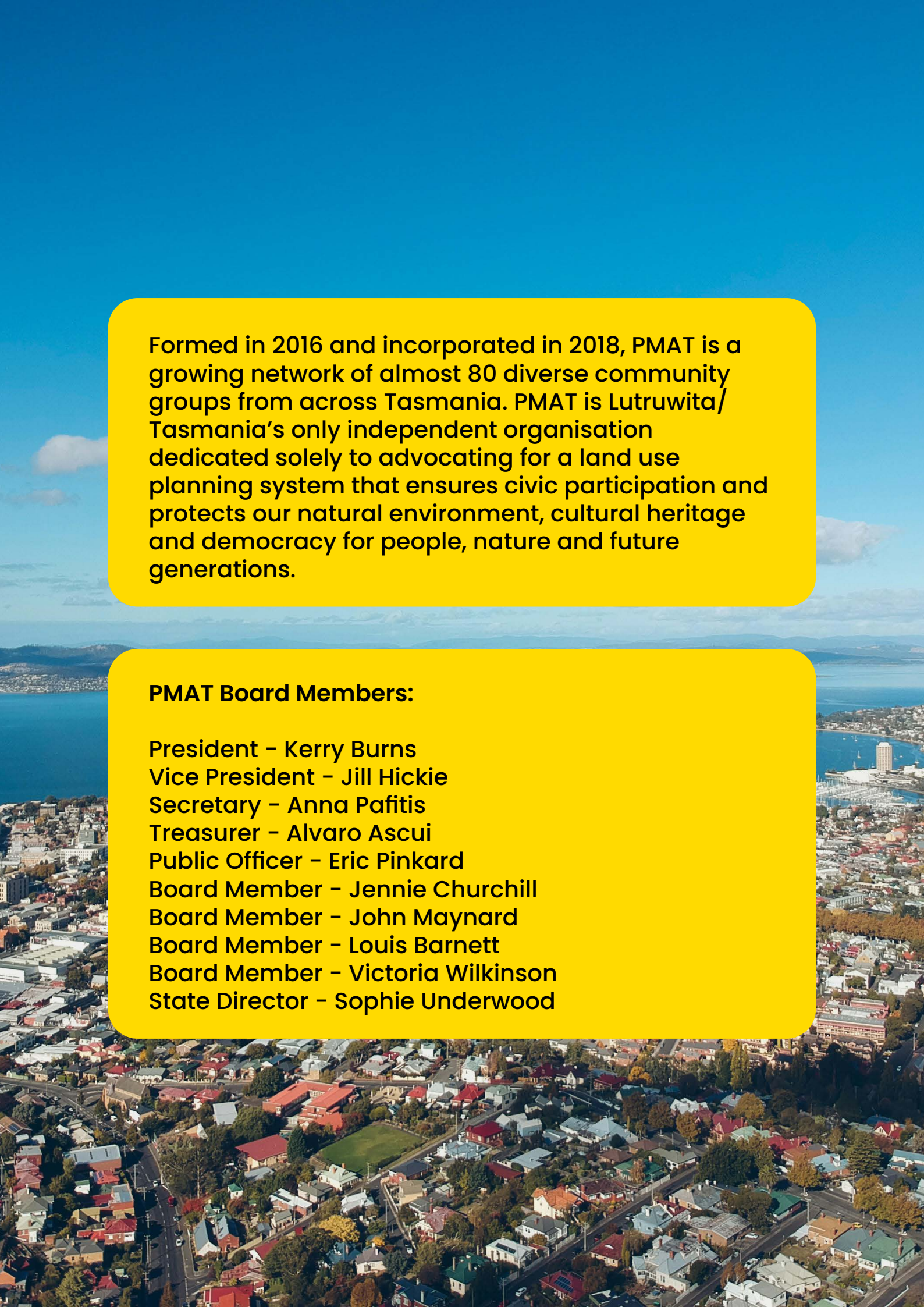

Formed in 2016 and incorporated in 2018, PMAT is a growing network of almost 80 diverse community groups from across Tasmania. PMAT is Lutruwita/ Tasmania's only independent organisation dedicated solely to advocating for a land use planning system that ensures civic participation and protects our natural 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
Board Member - Victoria Wilkinson
State Director - Sophie Underwood

Annual General Meeting

20 September 2025

President's Report

Over the past year PMAT has continued to push for a planning system that is more strategic and achieves better planning outcomes for the community, while promoting a healthy democracy based on openness and participation. Making progress on these broader reforms has been difficult in the face of continued ad hoc changes to the system being put forward by the Government.

The State Government has continued to try to weaken planning controls and limit opportunity for public participation in the process – if anything this has worsened over the past year. PMAT has had to respond to a range of such challenges during 2024 - 2025 and some of these are outlined below.

Educating and informing the community and decision-makers about planning – and why it is central to protecting the environment and so much of what is important in the lives of individuals and communities – remains at the core of PMAT's work. Sophie and the PMAT Board continually strive to communicate the importance of good planning.

Sophie works tirelessly to raise awareness of PMAT's key messages – meeting with key decision-makers and organisations on planning issues, through the press and speaking on radio, working with local communities and PMAT Alliance member groups, convening public meetings and preparing submissions on planning issues. The support of our communications consultant, Monique Kreis, has been critical in the effectiveness of PMAT's web and social media presence.

A feature of our work over the past year has again been to stage public meetings around the State to engage and inform on issues such as the proposed Development Assessment Panel (DAP) legislation. Increasingly these meetings are co-hosted with local community organisations, an effective way for people to hear directly how changes to the complex planning system can affect them and how they can have a say. The strong community response to consultation processes on issues such as the DAPs can at least in part be attributed to PMAT's meetings. For the future, PMAT has also produced Community Guides to assist local groups to organise public meetings on issues of concern in their communities and to host election candidate forums in their area.

The PMAT Board has continued its work to build the financial and organisational resilience of the organisation to ensure we are prepared for our future work.

With another House of Assembly election being called in June 2025 and a new Government in 2025 – 2026, we anticipate PMAT will continue to be faced with many existing issues and new challenges.

Highlights of PMAT's work over the past year

Our focus during the year has been on responding to the Tasmanian Government's various policy and legislation proposals while also contributing to the debate on ongoing planning system reviews and reforms. We have continued to promote a more strategic approach to planning and what a properly functioning system might look like.

Development Assessment Panels (DAPs). In the second half of 2024 PMAT campaigned strongly, alongside other groups, against the DAP legislation that was subsequently defeated in the Legislative Council. Although it was heartening to see the Parliament reject the DAP legislation the then-Government committed immediately to introducing a new DAP Bill in 2025.

We pro-actively began work in early 2025 to raise public awareness about the revised DAP proposals the Government had announced. This included organising a series of seven public meetings around the State, in conjunction with local groups.

PMAT surveyed candidates for the May 2025 Legislative Council elections regarding their position on DAPs.

The revised DAP legislation was not introduced before the June House of Assembly election, but its status under an incoming Government remains uncertain. We anticipate DAPs could become an issue again in 2025 - 2026.

- The **State Coastal Policy** has long been critical in protecting Tasmania's coastlines. PMAT played a key role working with other groups in arguing against the *Validation (State Coastal Policy) Bill 2024* that was eventually passed by Parliament in late 2024. At the same time, the Government proposed major changes to the State Coastal Policy that would weaken these longstanding coastal protections. In response, PMAT has pushed for a full review of the Policy, as recommended in the 2024 *State of the Environment Report.*

- We have been seeking a more **strategic approach** to planning, including through an expanded set of State Policies. The **Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs**) are another strategic element of the planning system. Ministerial approval of the final draft TPPs, endorsed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC), has been held up since 2024. This has resulted in other review processes, such as those on the State Planning Provisions and Regional Land Use Strategies, are taking place without a proper strategic framework.

- There has been a concerning trend for the Government to use **special legislation** that by-passes the planning system, as in the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium enabling bill that would have pre-empted the Project of State Significance assessment and the *Youth Justice Facility Development Bill 2025* which aimed to fast-track the southern youth detention centre project. PMAT has been arguing strongly against such legislation that undermines proper planning process.

- Earlier this year PMAT promoted participation in the **2025 Australian Liveability Census.** This was aimed at bolstering the collection of local data on the things people value about their neighbourhoods – and those aspects of liveability they consider could be made better. The resulting data should enhance PMAT's ability to advocate for planning policies aligned with real community priorities. Our Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029 includes a renewed commitment to developing a **Values-Based Planning vision** for Tasmania and the Census results will also feed into that work.

Making PMAT more resilient

The Board continues to work to ensure PMAT can operate effectively into the future:

- Last year we reported on a substantial upgrade to our website to make it more informative and easier to navigate. That work has continued in 2024 - 2025 with the progressive addition of information on PMAT's work and the planning system.

- We have strengthened our budgeting and compliance systems, including transitioning to new, upgraded accounting software.

- As noted at the last AGM, Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission has accredited PMAT as a Registered Charity. The Board has been working hard over the past year to position PMAT to seek Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status through the ATO. This would provide PMAT with a more robust capacity to fundraise but will require changes to the PMAT constitution to meet ATO requirements.

- The Alliance continues to grow with four **new members** – *Our Place/No New Stadium*, *Mine Watch Meander Valley*, *Taroona Environment Network (TEN)* and *Friends of the Heads (FROTH)* joining over the past year. Just recently *Climate Action Hobart* has also joined. A warm welcome to all new groups – PMAT now has almost 80 Alliance groups!

- PMAT has recruited two new members to our skills-based Board. It was wonderful to welcome both Victoria Wilkinson (March 2025) and more recently Jo Castillo.

Thank you to the many people who contribute to PMAT's success - we couldn't do it without you.

- **PMAT Alliance member groups**. Thank you for being part of PMAT, for your active support, and the huge amount you do on planning issues and PMAT campaigns.

- Thank you so much to Sophie Underwood for her tireless work and commitment to PMAT. Sophie's work as **State Director** is at the core of our efforts. And to our **Communications consultant** Monique Kreis, for her huge efforts building our online presence and contributing to marketing and communications.

- **Our donors**. PMAT is totally reliant on donations for its work. Thank you to all those individuals and organisations that support PMAT so generously.

- The role of **PMAT's voluntary Board** – often unseen – is essential to PMAT's operation**.** We have a substantial bank of skills, experience and planning knowledge on the Board. Thank you all for your hard work and for so expertly guiding PMAT.

- Many thanks to Eric Pinkard for being our **Public Officer** in 2024 - 2025.

- Thanks again to Anne Harrison for her continued support on fundraising and other aspects of PMAT's work during the year.

Let's keep working in 2025 - 2026 towards a better planning system.

Kerry Burns
State President
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

Annual General Meeting
20 September 2025

State Director Report

Introduction

Thank you to everyone for being here today. We hugely appreciate your attendance.

First, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to PMAT's volunteer skills-based Board. Thank you for keeping our organisation well governed and helping provide our strategic direction. Thank you for your time in your very busy lives and everything you do to serve community, nature, culture and democracy.

Thank you to Kerry Burns, our State President, for his gentle and wise guidance. Thank you to Jill Hickie, our Deputy President, for her deep understanding of planning and nature.

Thank you to Anna Pafitis, our Secretary, for organising our AGM and Board meetings and writing our minutes and everything Anna brings to the Board in terms of strategic/visionary planning. Thank you to Alvaro Ascui, our Treasurer, for helping us keep financially on track and audited.

Thank you to John Maynard for his eye for detail and thoroughness. Thank you to Victoria Wilkinson for her knowledge, enthusiasm, kindness and commitment to good planning, especially in the Launceston/ West Tamar area. Thank you to Jennie Churchill for her work in many critical aspects of PMAT and for her extensive board governance experience.

A huge thank you also to Jennie Churchill, Kerry Burns and Anne Harrison for their fundraising work. We are entirely community-funded so this is a huge role. Thank you also for maintaining our donor and supporter databases – especially Jennie Churchill.

A huge thank you to Louis Barnett, with his highly valued planning knowledge and experience, who is leaving us after four years on the Board.

I am so pleased almost the entire Board is re-nominating, including our newest member, Jo Castillo.

I thank our talented Communications expert Monique Kreis, who works with us in a part-time capacity. We cannot do our work without her.

I thank our dedicated Public Officer, Eric Pinkard of the Mount Stuart Residents Association – another critical role filled by a critical volunteer. Eric has been in this role since 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank our community – both our Alliance Member Groups and general supporters. All the hard work and achievements from this year wouldn't have been possible without your continuous support and engagement.

WE ARE HUGELY GRATEFUL.

Thank you for all your generous donations, for writing submissions, sharing and commenting on our posts on social media, writing letters and opinion pieces to the paper, and writing to politicians and decision

makers. Thank you for turning up to public meetings and reading our emails. Thank you for talking to me endlessly on the phone about the best way we can collaborate to defend and improve our planning system.

I would like to give a special shout out to Peter McGlone, CEO of Tasmanian Conservation Trust, for the extensive planning and political knowledge he brings to our critical collaborative work.

This is what we achieved together in 2024 - 2025

PMAT continues to challenge the lack of strategic planning with the absence of the Tasmanian Planning Policies, up to date Regional Land Use Strategies and most of all, an absence of State Policies.

July 2024

- PMAT's submission guide regarding the government's flawed Draft State Coastal Policy Validation Bill helped generate over **400 submissions in 2 weeks**, 97% opposed to the legislation, which helped place pressure on the Government and shined a light on the flawed draft legislation.
- PMAT commenced the process towards Deductible Gift Recipient status with the first step achieved: **accreditation as a Registered Charity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)**.

August 2024

- PMAT, Environment Tasmania and 27 other organisations maintained pressure on the State government to release the 15 year-overdue *State of the Environment Report* (joint media release). We are failing almost every metric.

September/October 2024

- PMAT and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) briefed the Legislative Council on the *Draft State Coastal Policy Validation Bill* based on our comprehensive Background Report, developed with the Australian Coastal Society (Tasmania Branch). PMAT helped generate 135 submissions on the State Coastal Policy Position Paper.

November 2024

- Following PMAT's highly successful #ScrapTheDAP public meeting in March 2024 when over 400 Tasmanians packed Hobart Town Hall, PMAT helped generate **456 community submissions on Development Assessment Panels (DAPs)** on private land and a huge **807 submissions on DAPs proposed for public and reserved land** (ie our precious natural protected areas).

  The campaign against DAPs continued with me speaking on Statewide ABC Radio with the Mayor of Clarence, helping to shift awareness of the potential negative impacts of the DAP legislation.

  The government fast tracked the DAP Bill through the Lower House despite every local council in Tasmania voting – on the same day – against the DAP Bill. Upper House representatives heard the community's voice loud and clear with 92% of submissions against DAPs. PMAT and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust briefed the Legislative Council on the day it was debated in the Upper House. **The DAP Bill was ultimately voted down by members of the Legislative Council 8 to 6 – a huge win for the community and Local Government.**

- Also in November, the final report for the Local Government Review was released. The report included no actions to force council amalgamations. In 2023, PMAT worked very hard to help shift the government's position on forced council amalgamations through organising and hosting nine public meetings statewide on Flinders Island, Bruny Island, Bicheno, Bothwell, Ouse, Deloraine, Latrobe and Wynyard.

December 2024

- PMAT closed the year with almost 80 diverse community Alliance member groups from across Tasmania. Our Alliance is still growing and we would LOVE to keep it growing.

January to April 2025

- PMAT worked closely with local community and Alliance groups to host seven public meetings in key locations around the state focused on Development Assessment Panels. We implemented a new model for liaising with local community groups.
- The meetings, held in Launceston, Clarence, Glenorchy, Blackmans Bay, Deloraine, Taroona and Flinders Island, attracted almost 500 community members with local council and Lower and Upper House representatives in attendance.
- PMAT also met extensively with State Parliamentarians across party lines to discuss our strong concerns regarding the DAP Bill.

May 2025

- PMAT continued to meet with all Parliamentarians one on one re DAPs and broadened our advocacy to include ensuring that the Tasmanian Planning Commission could finish its assessment of the Macquarie Point Stadium. We briefed the entire Legislative Council.
- PMAT co-hosted, with SaveUTAS, two Legislative Council 'Meet the Candidates Evening' for Nelson (12 May) and Pembroke (15 May).
- PMAT also surveyed Legislative Council candidates in Montgomery, Nelson and Pembroke seeking their position on DAPs. The results were shared widely.
- PMAT made a submission regarding *The Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium Project of State Significance Draft Integrated Assessment Report*.

May and June 2025

- PMAT partnered with Place Score to promote participation by Tasmanians in the 2025 Australian Liveability Census. The Census allows local community members to have a say on liveability in their neighbourhood and the changes they would like to see to improve their local area.

Communications, Advocacy and Engagement

A critical part of our work is communication – informing, educating, connecting and providing avenues for our supporters, Alliance groups, the broader community, media (print, radio, digital) and politicians to be informed about planning issues and policies.

PMAT actively shares information and news with our growing database and on Instagram, Facebook, via regular direct email communications and on our information-rich website.
During the financial year, PMAT generated:

- 11 Media Releases
- 10 detailed Submissions to government
- 5 Submission Guides to assist the community
- 3 Election Surveys
- 1 comprehensive Background Report and participated in Environment Tasmania's public meetings on the State Coastal Policy
- a Community Guide to help local communities host their own public meetings and,
- held 7 statewide public meetings on Development Assessment Panels.

Sophie Underwood
State Director
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

2025 Annual General Meeting Reports from Alliance Members

The following annual activity reports were presented by attendees at the PMAT Annual General Meeting, held on 20 September 2025.

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Freycinet Action Network (FAN) - Sophie Underwood

FAN has mobilised against the Freycinet Visitor Gateway - a large carpark intended for 350 vehicles and more, at the entrance to Coles Bay to help facilitate the doubling of visitors to Freycinet. The proposed car park would not only be an eyesore for the area but is also intended to be built on a biodiversity hotspot.

FAN has organised a public open day in the coming weeks to raise awareness of the issue and advocate for the use the area adjacent to the existing visitor centre as an alternative site. A large number of botanists and scientists will be attending to support FAN.

The government is potentially changing the planning scheme to remove appeal rights on reserve land which might have direct implications for the proposed Gateway issue.

East Coast Alliance Inc. (ECA) – Jennie Churchill

The East Coast Alliance Inc. (ECA) was formed after the then-Glamorgan Spring Bay Council approved the Cambria Green proposed rezoning of 3,100 hectares near Swansea in April 2018. The ECA facilitated over 600 submissions to Council, all but 12 were opposed to the development. Five and a half years later, the Tasmanian Planning Commission comprehensively rejected the proposed rezoning. This meant the proponent, Cambria Agriculture and Tourism Pty Ltd, had to wait 2 years before submitting a revised planning amendment - that time is up in October 2025, and the ECA is waiting to see if Cambria Green returns with a new proposal. The past year has been quiet due to the lack of active campaigning, but ECA wrote to the Heritage Council Tasmania regarding its concerns about the state of disrepair of the historic Cambria Homestead. ECA acknowledged two PMAT Alliance groups – the Australian Garden History Society (Tasmania branch) and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania - for providing excellent letters in support. The Heritage Council confirmed there had been several visits to the homestead with the owners directed to undertake some repair works.

Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) – Peter McGlone

TCT have recently appointed two new climate campaigners who will be focused on campaigning to reduce carbon emissions. We will continue our work on planning and may have more capacity in this regard.

It has been a challenging and rewarding year with much work done in collaboration with PMAT on the Coastal Validations Policy, DAPS and the Coastal Policy. There has been a lot of support and attention on this work.

The Government has currently dropped its legislation for DAPS on reserve land but we fear they may seek to do what they wanted through other means. Our new planning minister is Kerry Vincent who will be more conscientious about working for the outcome the Government want without being so contentious.

Blackmans Bay Community Association Inc (BBCA) – Peter & Kate Tenni

October 2024: Meeting open to all members of BBCA to outline purpose and aims of PMAT and inform members of the reasons for BBCA Alliance membership.
October-November 2024: Preparation of submission to Kingborough Draft Local Provisions Schedule.
December 2024: Submission 273 to Kingborough Draft Local Provisions Schedule.
March 2025: "Scrap the DAP" public meeting for all people in the Blackmans Bay Community.
September 2025: Representation at Tasmanian Planning Commission hearing to speak to BBCA submission 273.

Hobart Not Highrise (HNH) – Austra Maddox

Hobart not Highrise has a mailing list of 4,000 people currently and between 200 and 300 respond to submission requests.

The Committee has met on the required 4 occasions this year. Members of the HnH Committee have worked with the Tasmanian Planning Information Network [TasPIN] and Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) to make submissions on planning issues that affect southern Tasmania. We represent community views to local and state governments and before the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Hobart not Highrise made submissions or responses with regard to:
- Development Assessment Panels
- The Draft Integrated Assessment Report on Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium
- Improving Residential Standards
- The STRLUS Urban Growth Boundary Update: Consultation Paper
- The Central Hobart Plan
- The draft Hobart Design Guidelines

Hobart not Highrise formed in response to proposed developments that would destroy the essential liveability of our city.

The Local Provisions Schedule for Hobart is with the Tasmanian Planning Commission and includes the Woolley recommended viewlines as a guide to future development. The Central Hobart Precinct Plan endorses height restrictions in the 5 identified zones.

Recent applications like the Spotlight proposal have obviously used these documents, unfortunately, the Stadium proposal has not and as the Tasmanian Planning Commission acknowledged fails to satisfy planning criteria.

The initial goals of Hobart not Highrise have essentially been met but planning issues remain including:
- Medium Density developments in the city and suburbs
- Development Assessment Panels
- Macquarie Point
- Suburban Precinct Plans – Tolmans Hill and North Hobart have been completed
- Mobility Plans.

To address these issues we have altered our Constitution to become involved in suburban planning. This will involve:

- Strong active, transport corridors
- Promotion of appropriate medium density
- Opposing DAPs
- Promotion of moving the Suburban Neighbourhood Plans into the legislative framework of the State Planning Scheme.

Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) – Janet Whelan

The Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) Tasmania branch has enjoyed a busy year undertaking activities consistent with the ethos of the association.

These include garden visits, walks, lectures and excursions. The support and enthusiasm of members is reflected in steady, often 'full house' bookings and wait lists. While interest in colonial gardens remains high, we are steadily encouraging attention to pre-colonial landscapes and the role of convict labour in establishing some of our finest and oldest gardens.

In a very different excursion, we engaged Allan Townsend, Clarence Heritage officer, to take members on a walk in Warrane. This provided a timely demonstration of planning and investment by the state government to ease a post-World War 2 housing crisis and to build a community consistent with social conditions at that time.

In relation to AGHS role in advocacy, the Committee continues to consider how the voice of a diverse membership can be applied fairly and practically within the branch. This is of particular concern when issues such as the proposed AFL stadium are contentious and divisive. Members are encouraged to be informed and to express concerns through community groups such as Our Place, letter writing and submissions to Members of Parliament.

The AGHS committee has been considering the effectiveness of networking and forming partnerships in order to find a voice on matters of mutual concern. We look for opportunities to talk to groups such as Garden Clubs to share and develop our mutual interests. To this end, we value our association with PMAT and have been pleased to support East Coast Alliance in its concerns about the future of Cambria estate at Swansea and National Trust Tasmania regarding protection of trees at Runnymede, Newtown.

A grant to Inala Jurassic garden on Bruny Island is a recent partnership that promotes interest in understanding and protecting Tasmanian paleo endemic plants facing survival threats and an example also of advocacy for plants and the environment.

South Hobart Sustainability Community (SHSC) – Tim Williams

Tasmanian Planning Scheme

The new Tasmanian Planning Scheme came into effect in the Hobart City Council area on Monday 25 August 2025.

Since late 2021, South Hobart Sustainable Community (SHSC) have partnered with South Hobart Progress Association (SHPA), with mentorship from Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT), to represent community interests in the new State-wide, Tasmanian Planning Scheme. After an 18 month delay from the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC), in July 2024 Mike Cole (SHPA), Ben Clark (SHSC) and Tim Williams

(SHSC) presented our community's interests and concerns to the TPC commissioners. Despite our requested amendments via **two Specific Area Plans**, in August 2025 the TPC acknowledged the considerable work we had done, but advised our requests were not supported. Council has indicated a 'neighbourhood plan' would be prepared for South Hobart in future, at which point our ideas can be resubmitted, but no timeframe for that process has been set.

Whilst this result was very disappointing, we have applied our key advocacy points to the following five submissions:

National Urban Policy (Draft)

We advocated for a more urgent response to the impending climate crisis by encouraging self- sufficiency within communities, and higher urban design standards.

Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (Discussion Paper)

We supported the 'placemaking' approach and the 70% infill housing target for Greater Hobart. We also suggested numerous amendments to the draft to improve biodiversity outcomes, social and affordable housing provision and active transport connections.

Greater Hobart Urban Growth Boundary Extension

We opposed the extension of the Urban Growth Boundary at the suburban fringes and satellite towns for up to 10,000 new allotments. Our response aligned with the aforementioned Discussion Paper, which had recommended increased infill development to manage growth and change in Southern Tasmania. This would be more efficient for infrastructure and transport planning, while protecting our natural environment.

City of Hobart Urban Tree Strategy (Draft)

We supported the Council's ambitious target to increase canopy cover within the urban area from 16% currently to 40% by 2046, and our group's future plans align well through the 'Green Mile' and the Verge Garden (aka 'On the Verge') working groups (described below).

City of Hobart Urban Design Guidelines (Draft)

We supported the Guidelines, which aims to create a positive language for developers, community and government to understand what quality design should incorporate. We attended two workshops; one specifically for local Community Groups (SHSC Facilitator, Ben Clark and I attended) and the other for relevant professionals (architects, planners, etc., which I attended).

Tasmania's Climate Change Act review

Led by Ben Clark. Given the climate emergency, we recommended that the Act be amended to require the Government to set ambitious individual targets for emissions for all sectors (as our current net zero emissions profile is not assured, as it is largely due to Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry gains in the past 15 years). We also advocated for a deliberative democracy process that engages the Tasmanian community (i.e. citizens jury), like the nationally-awarded Hobart Climate Assembly.

The 'Green Mile'

Led by local architect, Aaron Leeman-Smith. The 'Green Mile' is a collaboration between South Hobart Sustainable Community and the City of Hobart. It is a community-driven addition of greenery, by way of landscaping elements and shade trees, along Cascade Road and Macquarie Street. The 'Green Mile' concept was borne from a community workshop conducted by SHSC which has now begun implementing 'greening' projects as of June this year, when we planted trees on an area of forgotten grass on the corner of Cascade and Mcrobies Roads.

This is a long-term project seeking to 'greenify' this length of arterial road as well as make it cooler (by increasing the tree canopy, in support of the Hobart Urban Tree Strategy), safer for pedestrians and cyclists as well as improve stormwater management by using runoff water in the street gutters to water our newly planted areas.

The Verge Garden group - 'On the Verge'
In a similar vein, a group of our volunteers, led by local horticulturist, Helen Cushing, are encouraging local residents to plant out their grass verges, with our help and guidance. Both this and the Green Mile projects have had positive publicity with interviews on local ABC radio and personal support from Hobart Lord Mayor, Councillor Anna Reynolds.

TasPIN – Anne Harrison

The value of TasPIN is that our members from across Hobart meet face-to-face every 8 weeks or so to discuss issues affecting Greater Hobart, and we have a wide network with expert input. Submissions include DAPs, UGB, and Residential Standards. In April we wrote to the Premier in support of the Tasmania Planning Commission (TPC) about which he had made very dismissive remarks following the Interim Report re the Stadium. The Premier wrote back as did the Minister Abetz.

"Natural Values" it is important that we all define this term. This arose at recent TPC hearings re Kingborough LPS, and it's vitally important that all of us in PMAT can define what the term "natural values" means to us.

Howden Progress Association – Barbara Murphy

The Howden Progress Association represents the interest of the around 400 households in Howden. Our efforts over the last year have included submissions to State Planning to object to the introduction of DAPs and submissions to both the LPS for Kingborough, and the 2025-2035 Kingborough Council Strategic Plan. We noted planning and adaption strategies are needed to mitigate the impacts to climate change on Kingborough residents.

We have been concerned about the potential effects of the Huntingfield development on the water quality of Coffee Creek and have been successful in getting a "Waterbug" survey established via Kingborough Council to annually monitor the ecology of the creek. In support of the Kingborough Council's introduction of soft plastic recycling, we also introduced a local soft plastics bin for Howden residents which avoided individual households travelling to Baretta to recycle this waste.

Launceston Heritage Not High-Rise (LHNH) – Victoria Wilkinson

In the last year LHNH have submitted representations about a proposed Quest Hotel near the City Park. Councillor Susie Cai, a Launceston City Councillor, had to stand down from voting on this matter as LHNH has in the past donated to Susie's appeal against the Gorge Hotel. LHNH is uncertain about the legality of this action.

In February LHNH collaborated with the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, Hands Off Our Gorge (HOOG) and PMAT to host a DROP THE DAP information public event in Launceston.
LHNH put in a submission opposing Development Assessment Panels. There is a need for more organised resident groups in the Launceston area.

Residents Opposed to Cable Car (ROCC) – Phil Stigant

ROCC has been relatively inactive over the past year as there is no current cable car proposal on the table. Nonetheless (cable car company) MWCC is still in existence and pressing the State Government to make legislative changes that would allow their proposal or similar to get planning approval. The Government has expressed a desire to help them achieve this outcome. The Labor 'opposition' appear to be in lock-step. We are paying close attention to the various ways in which the Government may seek to change the rules.

Some of the threats we see are the same as those to many of our other natural and cultural assets:

- Removal of Local Government from the Planning Authority role and replacing with DAPs and no right of merits appeal.
- The dodgy Reserve Activity Assessment process.
- Special project legislation (as was used for the Stoney Rise development) to override the Planning Scheme.

Other threats may come from;

- The State Government 'strategic' review "Our Mountains Future".

This process, which started last year, has now reported and produced a 'vision' document which summarises the opinion surveys. There is nothing surprising in this and as to be expected, Kunanyi is loved more by people who live closer and spend more time there.

Greater distance and less frequent visitation correlate with a shallower appreciation. Road congestion is a major issue. The real test will come later in the year when the Government releases its "Action Plan".

In the meantime, the scheduled review of the Wellington Park Management Plan, started in 2023, is on hold whilst the State Government review takes place.

Also, the Wellington Park Management Trust is conducting a business case study to explore a funding model for the Park. This may intersect with any change to access infrastructure.

Taroona Community Association (TCA) – Jill Hickie

- TCA submitted a representation to the Tasmanian Planning Commission on the Draft Kingborough Local Provision Schedule. Hearings coming up in October.
- TCA also lodged a representation on the development application for 5 Grange Avenue (the redevelopment of Marys Grange) by Eroll Stewart.
- TCA ran a Scrap the DAPs public meeting and lodged a submission.
- We ran a meet-the-candidates meeting prior to the Legislative Council election in Nelson.
- We received a $3,000 grant from Kingborough Council to update the Taroona website – this has been completed.
- We met with the new Kingborough Council CEO and took him on a tour of sites and issues of Taroona.
- TCA ran a Taroona Community Expo as a community event where all local Taroona groups and schools were invited along for a big day in Taroona Park and Taroona Hall. About 800 people attended. Great success.
- The usual TCA business is publishing and distributing its quarterly colour 20-page newsletter.

Save Rosny Hill
Rosny Hill Friends Network (RHFN) - Jo Castilio

While nothing has happened on this site so far, the development permit for a tourist complex on top of the hill was renewed in January for a further 2 years, now expiring on 11 January 2027. There is scope for a further 2 year extension after this date. The developer holds the permits, which he can sell to anyone who wants to undertake the development. Clarence Council and the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service each advised during the year that work on the terms and conditions for a sub-lease of the land was still 'in progress'.

Other activities undertaken by RHFN during the year:

- Support for the 'Save the Parks' group which opposed development of the AFL High Performance and Training Centre on Charles Hand Memorial Park and the Rosny Parklands (former Golf course). The success of this campaign was well-received in the community.
- Submission/response to Clarence Council City Heart Plan. Clarence Council has withdrawn plans for housing on Charles Hand Park and is currently working on concepts for the partial development of recreation opportunities in the Parklands.
- Submission/response to Clarence Natural Areas Strategy Consultation.
- Submission to Department of State Growth opposing the creation of 'Development Assessment Panels'.

Seymour Community Action Group Inc. (SCAGI) – Daniel Steiner & Melissa Manton

SCAGI is a community group, bringing together people of all ages, dealing with different environmental matters in the Seymour area such as invasive species management, trapping of feral cats, native tree planting and wetland management. SCAGI collaborate with a range of other stakeholders to effectively address conservation and land management practices as well as strengthen community connections.

Climate Action Hobart Report (CAH) – Margaret Taylor

CAH joined PMAT this year because appropriate and effective planning is a key factor in limiting the effects of climate change.
Submissions included

1. Consultation on the Southern Tasmanian Regional Land-Use Strategy emphasising:

- Not increasing urban boundaries
- Maintaining rural areas for food security
- Increasing permeable surfaces within urban areas to reduce urban flood risks and costs
- Retaining minimum 25% green space
- Increasing blue and green spaces in urban areas to reduce urban heat and make our communities more liveable
- Protecting clean, fresh water supplies as essential to sustaining life
- Encouraging community/neighbourhood gardens to not only produce basic foods but also to create communities which will work together in the face of natural disaster
- Providing for future housing needs through medium density development within existing urban boundaries.

2. Revised Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (DAP) Bill 2025:

- Does not guarantee that decisions would be based on expert advice or that there

will be a natural hazard management plan
Draft Bill does not provide sufficient constraints on discretion.

. Independent Review of the Climate Change Act:

Legislate for the development and implementation of an adaptation plan to mitigate the risks identified in the Tasmanian Climate Change Risk Assessment. This should include state-wide coordination, community education and adaptation measures through town planning, land-use and managed retreat
The Act should require every sector (including Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry - LULUCF) to have annual absolute emissions reduction targets
The key factors influencing Government decisions in setting State, sectoral and/or interim targets should be the scientific evidence on climate change and the effects it is already having on the state. Encouraging tourism developments like that involving helicopter flights into the Central Highlands does not meet any of the requirements of a low carbon economy.

AH supports the Tasmanian Planning Policies which have been through the proposal, onsultation and rewrite process and await only government approval. We want ound planning for the future that includes understanding and modelling of climate sks.

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.

Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2025

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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
	Ms Victoria Wilkinson	Member (From March 2025)
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 2025.

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

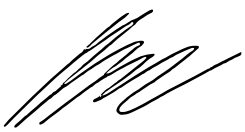
The Management Board of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc. have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial report.

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 2025 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 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
Income			
Donations		-	144.00
Donations—Bank of Us		123,538.36	117,835.90
Donations—Stripe		22,083.87	15,603.92
Other		-	2,000.00
Total income		145,622.23	135,583.82
General and Administrative Expenses			
Accounting and audit		730.00	694.00
Association registration fee		74.80	71.20
Insurance		654.00	874.00
Travel and accommodation		404.80	1,576.32
Contractors			
Communications Contractor		27,375.00	19,975.00
Principal Contractor		74,150.10	69,708.18
Legal		-	2,231.00
Communications, Marketing and Events			
Advertising and marketing		844.12	1,614.07
Audio visual		760.00	5,731.47
Printing		52.97	-
Meetings		113.25	-
Photography		232.43	900.39
Room hire		644.10	701.53
Website		574.78	4,355.77
Fundraising Expenses			
CRM database		793.10	729.51
Stripe commission		464.06	438.68
Total expenses		107,867.51	109,601.12
Net income		37,754.72	25,982.70

Balance Sheet
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
Assets			
Cash at Bank		116,869.87	79,189.95
Accounts receivable		74.80	-
Total assets		116,944.67	79,189.95
Liabilities			
Accounts payable		-	-
Total liabilities		-	-
Net assets		116,944.67	79,189.95
Equity			
Retained earnings		79,189.95	53,207.25
Result for period		37,754.72	25,982.70
Equity		116,944.67	79,189.95

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc.
Notes To and Forming Part of the Accounts
For the year ended 30 June 2025

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 *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission 2012* (ACNC Act) and the needs of the members. 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.

Independent Auditor's Review Report

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025 and the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Responsible Entities' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The responsible persons' of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission 2012* (ACNC Act) and the needs of members. The responsible persons' responsibility also includes such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statement does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Actand gives a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year then ended; and complying with the ASRE 2415 also requires me to comply with ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of financial statements in accordance with ASRE 2415 is a limited assurance engagement. The auditor performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained. The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in scope than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

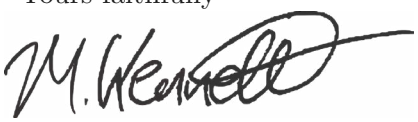
Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial reports of Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania Inc does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*and gives a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of the financial performance for the year then ended.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my conclusion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling management's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act and the needs of members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Yours faithfully



Michael Kennett CA

17 September 2025

PMAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 September 2025

Treasurer's Report

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the audited Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Income and fundraising

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 member groups. We are very grateful for the generosity of so many individuals and organisations.

As PMAT has grown, we have worked hard to develop more effective fundraising campaigns and access philanthropic grants, resulting in PMAT's income from donations increasing annually from a total income of $36,592 in the 2018 - 2019 financial year to $145,622 this financial year, an increase of just over $10,000 from last year. PMAT must achieve the level of income required to support our State Director Sophie Underwood, retain our part-time Communications contractor and build a more sustainable financial base.

Expenditure

The 2024 - 2025 financial year saw our total expenditure remain similar to the previous year, despite the need for the association to be flexible and ready to respond to planning issues. This year a number of campaigns resulted in an increase in contractor fees while other costs decreased.

Specific expenses include:

1. State Director $74,150 and Communications contractor $27,375, noting both are part time and need to manage agreed hours around a constantly changing state government planning environment.

2. PMAT held 7 public meetings across the state to raise community awareness of the proposed Development Assessment Panel legislation. These costs, including venue hire, travel and accommodation, were managed through the generous assistance of Alliance member and other local community groups providing organisational and expense support.

3. No major Hobart Town Hall public meeting was held this last financial year, resulting in the significant drop in audio visual costs.

4. Website and photography costs also dropped significantly given the bulk of the work on the total rebuild and design of the PMAT website was undertaken in 2023 - 2024 (for which PMAT secured a grant).

Alvaro Ascui
Treasurer

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planningmatterstas.org.au planningmatterstas planningmatterstas