

## Media Release

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### Tasmanian Councils win National Awards

Seven Northern Tasmanian Councils took out the National Partnerships and Collaboration Award at the LG Professionals Federation Awards on Tuesday.

Congratulations to Northern Midlands Council, Break O’Day Council, George Town Council, City of Launceston, Meander Valley Council, West Tamar Council and more recently Dorset Council.

Their project, Shared Legal Services was recognised nationally for effective community or cross council collaboration which has achieved positive outcomes. The collaboration included partnerships that either provide or improve upon existing services that enhance physical or social infrastructure or strengthen links to other levels of government.

The Northern Councils were represented by Mr Des Jennings, General Manager, Northern Midlands Council who said that the collaboration between Councils used the power of a joint procurement approach to secure legal services.

“We engaged one legal firm as the primary provider of legal advice to the participating councils and the result has led to significant cost savings and reduced duplication of legal advice,” Mr Jennings said.

Regional Development Australia Tasmania supports the Partnerships and Collaboration Award in Tasmania.

Devonport City Council received a High Commendation in the Innovative Management Initiative Award.

The Award recognises projects or initiatives that demonstrate new approaches to leadership, facilitation or administration which result in positive changes to local government processes and practices.

Devonport City Council, represented by Deputy General Manager, Mr Jeff Griffith, said the Council embarked on a whole of organisation Digital Transformation program from 2018 which continues today. More than 40 change initiatives of varying complexity have been initiated to date. He also noted that digital transformation and organisational improvement initiatives have no end. Innovation is now embedded in the culture of the Council.

“The level of transformation is substantial. Organisational change on this scale can be challenging, but Devonport City Council employees have embraced the benefits of the changes. The benefits have resulted in an improved employee culture, reduced operational costs and increased service delivery quality to the community,” Mr Griffith said.

In Tasmania, the Innovative Management Initiative Award is proudly sponsored by JLT Public Sector.

Local Government Professionals Australia (Tas) President, Mr Paul Jackson said, “through the Tasmanian and National awards programs, local government can acknowledge the outstanding achievements, initiatives and innovation and encourage adoption of best practice in councils across Australia. The Awards showcase resourceful solutions by local government officers who deliver quality services and better outcomes for communities,” Mr Jackson said.

“Congratulations to all of the nominated councils and the winners; in particular the Northern Tasmanian Councils and Devonport City Council.”

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