**Australian Local Government Women’s Association Tasmania**

**Media Release**

The 2017-18 Board of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association Tasmania (ALGWA Tas)will strive to deliver a powerful voice for the State’s elected women members, newly elected President, Debra Thurley of Clarence City Council, announced following the recent Annual General Meeting.

“With Local Government elections coming up at the end of 2018, we are preparing to strengthen the position and numbers of women around our Council Chambers through our successful WomenCan mentoring and support program,” Alderman Thurley said.

Alderman Thurley is supported by re-elected Secretary, Cr Annie Willock (Kentish Council), and Treasurer, Deputy Mayor Annette Rockliff (Devonport City Council) as well as a team of committed members and the dedicated Life Members whose contribution post their terms as elected members is especially valued and appreciated.

Alderman Thurley said, “As part of our National Board’s lead towards gender equality our 2017-18 programming will work to support this in areas such as safety, leadership and skill development”. Alderman Thurley brings several business principle skills to the group and is committed to engaging all current and former Councillors in the active promotion of women to the decision-making tables in our State. Engendering inclusive Councils where a full range of opinions is sought, respected and considered in decision-making is Alderman Thurley’s aim.

“We will we work towards increasing the representation of women in Local Government as elected members, Deputy Mayors and Mayors but also as Senior Management and Professionals employed within the Local Government sector”. Alderman Thurley said.

For further information about the work of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association Tasmania branch:

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*Photo of Debra Thurley*