

# Gender Equality Advisory Committee

## Co-Chairs Communique

**The Gender Equality Advisory Committee (GEAC) had its second meeting for the year and sixth overall on Thursday 19 May 2022, at the newly opened Ballarat GovHub building.**

Earlier in the day GEAC members were invited on a tour of the Ballarat Town Hall hosted by Deputy Mayor Cr. Amy Johnson. The tour provided GEAC members with an opportunity to meet with Ballarat City Councillors and discuss council initiatives on diversity and women's participation. The theme of the May meeting was *GEAC in the Regions* with a focus on culture and diversity issues.

**Lucy Dalton, Director of Policy and Strategy, Local Government Victoria**

The GEAC heard an update on the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy, the Local Government Culture Project and the 2022-2023 State Budget outcomes.

**A/Prof. Tanya Jakimow, Australian National University**

The GEAC heard a presentation focusing on the issue of diversity and women in leadership. A/Prof. Jakimow's presentation covered low councillor remuneration, councillor retention levels, incumbency logjams and racism in politics as issues that require more attention from policy makers.

**Eveline Kane, Program Manager, Local Government Victoria**

Ms Kane facilitated a discussion on the proposed Women's Leadership Summit 2022. The Summit will be designed to advance Gender Equality in Local Government and also provide a platform to hear from diverse women's groups.

**Renee Imbesi, Manager, Office for Women Victoria**

The GEAC was provided with an update on the Victorian Government's *Safe and Strong* Refresh and Family Violence Prevention strategy.

**Janet Dore, Municipal Monitor to Strathbogie Shire Council and Wodonga City Council**

Ms Dore provided her insights on culture issues in local council from a regional and rural perspective and what support still needs to be delivered to local government areas.

**Emma Vagg, Senior Policy Officer for Local Government Victoria**

Ms Vagg provided an update on the *Women Leading Locally* program, which opened applications on 12 May 2022.

The GEAC will next meet on 21 July 2022, with discussion and presentations focusing on international gender equality trends and election strategies.

For further information on the GEAC, please go to <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/gender-equity>

**GEAC Co-Chairs**

**Kat Theophanous MP and Juliana Addison MP**