1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held at the Launceston Tram Sheds on Wednesday 11 October 2006 commencing at 10.30am.

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Gaffney  
President

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine  
Hobart City Council

Mayor Kevin Hyland  
West - North West Region

Mayor Mike Downie  
West - North West Region

Mayor Barry Easther  
Northern Region

Mayor Deirdre Flint  
Southern Region

Mayor Jock Campbell  
Southern Region

APOLOGIES:

Clr Robert Legge  
Northern Region

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Allan Garcia  
LGAT
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* Denotes Attachment
1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

That the Minutes of the meeting held 16 August 2006, as circulated, be confirmed.

Resolved

Minutes of the meeting held 16 August 2006 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *

That the Committee receive the report on business arising from the previous meeting.

Resolved

Update of Policy items from the last meeting - not covered in this Agenda are at Attachment to Item 1.2.

1.3 SUBJECT: PRESIDENT’S REPORT

That the President’s report be received.

Resolved

The President’s activities since the GMC meeting in August were as follows -

- Legislation Committee Meeting
- Instigation of CEO’s review & meetings with review committee (KPMG)
- ALGA Meeting (Perth WA)
- Media comments / releases
- Tripartite Signing on behalf of LGAT (Hobart – Senator Santoro & Premier Lennon)
- Brighton Meeting – Mayors & General Managers (Mayor Flint)
- State Meeting of Waste Management Regional Groups (Ross)
- Presentation Waratah Wynyard Council, Glenorchy City Council
- Cat Management Meeting/Issue with Minister Llewelyn & LGAT Policy
- Magazine & Newsletter Articles
- Meeting with Minister Cox, his advisor Gary Hill and Allan Garcia
- Shelley & Stephen Coombes (Plastic bags alternatives)
- Planning for Mayoral workshop
- Attending ABAF Awards
- Attending ALGA Roundtable (Sydney)
1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT AUGUST - OCTOBER 2006

That the Committee note the Chief Executive Officer’s report.

Resolved

Notable occurrences over the period since the last GMC Meeting in August are reported in the following comments:

Interface with External Bodies
- Presentation at Infrastructure Summit on Local Roads
- Presentation at Chartered Secretaries Conference on Governance issues
- Rural Health Week Steering Committee
- TFGA – farm planning
- Commonwealth Bank Breakfast – economic overview
- RSL re maintenance of memorials

Local Government Forums
- Waste Management Forum – all regional reps
- PLGC Meeting and Officials Meeting
- CMP Insurance Meeting
- ALGA forum on finance submission
- ALGA Board Meeting
- Legislation Committee
- Local Government Forestry Consultative Committee
- General Managers’ Workshop

State Government Meetings
- Minister Cox - road issues
- Department of Education – council relationships with schools
- Participation in ship sourced pollution simulation
- Crime Prevention Committee
- Tripartite Agreement signing and Steering Committee meeting
- Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources – infrastructure planning and investment projects
- Premier’s Physical Activity Council (Local Government Working Group)
- Heritage Tasmania – Heritage legislation reform
- DPAC – National emissions trading scheme
- Director of Local Government – general discussions
- DED – controlled waste project
- Department of Justice – State Coastal policy
- DIER – rail legislation and impacts on Local Government
- DPIW – Climate Change Steering Committee
- Forestry Tasmania – water quality issues
- DPAC – Pandemic governance meeting

Media
- Mercury - roads
- ABC – composting toilets
- Media release responding to water and waste task force
- Advocate – RPDC and planning issues
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: 2006 CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP MOTIONS *

That the Committee note the report on action taken on 2006 Conference motions.

Resolved

Background

A matrix detailing action taken and progress on 2006 Conference motions is at Attachment to Item 2.8.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

2.2 SUBJECT: PROPOSED RAIL LEGISLATION

That the Committee note the report in relation to the changed arrangements on ownership and management of rail infrastructure in the state and the pending legislation necessary to support the new arrangements.

Resolved

Background

Legislation is to be introduced into the Parliament in the near future to manage and control the rail assets that are to be handed back to the State Government as part of the rail rescue plan.

Under the terms of the Tasmanian rail system rescue plan, the following will apply:

- The Tasmanian Government is committing $40 million (indexed) over 10 years for maintenance with additional funding for management and delivery of the total program;
- The Australian Government will contribute $78 million from Auslink funding over 10 years for capital works;
- Pacific National has committed to expend $38 million on locomotives and rolling stock over 8 years; and
- Pacific National will sell the rail infrastructure to the Tasmanian Government for $1 and relinquish the Crown Land lease it holds on the rail corridor back to the Tasmanian Government. An open access regime will apply to the Tasmanian rail network in Tasmania but Pacific National will retain ownership of the Melba line.
These commitments mean that the State Government will now take responsibility for managing and maintaining the Crown land on which the railway track is erected. It will also have responsibility for ownership, operation, management, development and maintenance for the railway track and associated infrastructure as well as establishing an access regime for any organisation wanting to operate trains on the Tasmanian Rail Network.

While rail safety legislation is in place in Tasmania no rail legislation presently exists to manage and control the rail assets to be handed back to the State Government. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to support and facilitate the ownership, management and control of the Tasmanian rail network.

A number of issues to be dealt with in the legislation may impact on Local Government, including:

- Boundary fences;
- Land access;
- Land acquisition;
- Rail corridor protection;
- Rail crossings; and
- Rail works

A detailed paper has been forwarded to all councils for comments to be included in a response to the government on the legislation.

It should be noted with the change in ownership of the rail infrastructure, the matter of interface agreements (i.e. where track and roads meet) is likely to be much more easily progressed than the previous fruitless discussions with Pacific National.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.
2.3 SUBJECT: ASSET MANAGEMENT

That the Committee notes the results of the recent Asset Renewal Gap project.

Resolved

Background
The results of the recent report commissioned by the Association have now been aggregated and presented in a comprehensive report.

A significant issue arising during the conduct of the project was the availability of quality data upon which to make sound judgements. While some councils have comprehensive and complete data sets, there are significant gaps in some councils in relation to asset registers and real knowledge and understanding of asset condition, life expectancy and renewal costing data.

That said, a range of tools were provided to councils in the form of drop down menus upon which intuitive judgements could be made based on local knowledge and experience. Where information was not available for various asset classes in councils, a modelling tool based on similar asset type/experience was utilised to make conservative predictions of asset gaps.

The results of the analysis show that based on an “80:20 rule of accuracy”, the predicted asset management renewal funding gap for the 7 key assets of roads, drainage, bridges, buildings, parks, water and waste water equates to around $66m per annum for the 29 councils for each of the next 5 years. This equates to an average renewal funding gap for each council of approximately $2.3M per annum.

The table below is a summary of the average renewal gap calculations for the three (3) classes of Councils, being Cities (4), Medium Councils (Large Urban and Rural Councils) (12) and Small Councils (Smaller Rural Councils) (13).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>Council Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>$4,830,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>$124,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Water</td>
<td>$1,375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average/yr/Council</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Renewal Cost per year</td>
<td>State Average of ~$66,000,000/year for 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The program has been effective in generating a statewide asset renewal funding liability value for each class of council and has provided each individual council with their own asset renewal funding liability information. It was generally conceded across councils that notwithstanding the 80:20 rule of accuracy that essential improvements in asset management data were required.

For those councils participating in the TAMI Program, the AM renewal model gap will be included with the new improvements that provide:

- Data Integrity Report on condition, life and renewal costing range
- 20 year funding profiles per asset group and asset component
- Individual asset component reporting statistics and data graphs
- Asset Funding Graphs portraying the Cumulative Funding Gap by asset group if year one funding requirement is not met
- Opportunity to introduce other individual infrastructure assets into the modelling program and
- Modified Renewal Modelling Software program that provides the opportunity to fine tune the data available.

Of course, the analysis undertaken only takes account of the assets already in existence and does not seek to quantify gaps in infrastructure or capital costs associated with new infrastructure.

However, what the report does provide is a sound basis for councils and the Association to commence the improvement of asset management data and practices. For those participating in the TAMI Program, improvement in practices and data is anticipated to grow significantly but there must be a commitment by councils to both the process and understanding of what the data is actually saying. In effect, councils are falling behind in their capacity to meet the cost of renewing the assets they presently have. Future decisions on new assets and new programs should be considered against the backdrop of this information.

The outputs from the study also provide the opportunity for improved argument for future funding to other levels of government in the context of the present backlog but also highlights to councils the need to assess rating arrangements and revenue sources.

Recent discussions with ALGA via the Roads and Transport Advisory Committee have highlighted the opportunity for funding of a dedicated asset management effort across Local Government nationally. A submission has been prepared for discussions with the Federal Minister to roll out a dedicated program over the next 3 years. This bid is at the very early stages but there has been significant interest expressed by the Australian Government to underpin the asset holdings of Local Government through a more strategic approach to their management.

**Budget Implications**
Half of the funding for the recent study was met from Association reserves with the remainder being funded by councils.

**Current Policy**
The Association is committed to improved asset management practices across Tasmanian Local Government.
2.4 **SUBJECT:** WASTE MANAGEMENT

**That the Committee note the following report.**

Noted

**Background**

One of the key waste management policy issues currently being dealt with through the High Level Oversight Group (HLOG) on Waste, which comprises State and Local Government representatives, is the progression of regional waste management strategies.

In late 2005 Councils were invited to comment on a discussion paper, *Regional Waste Management in Tasmania*, prepared by the Environment Division. Local Government provided detailed feedback and this was considered by HLOG at its June 2006 meeting. With some exceptions, Local Government generally supported the principle of regional waste management approaches although it was stressed that flexibility was required to allow strategies to be tailored to suit each regional group of Councils.

The HLOG acknowledged the good work currently being undertaken by many councils and regional groups but agreed there was a need to advance the implementation of a common and effective regional waste management framework across the State. To this end it wrote to each regional authority outlining what it considers to be the basic components of such a framework and requesting them to each provide an assessment of whether their current structures and processes meet these requirements and, if not, advice regarding the changes that the region is willing to put in place to deliver such framework by 1 July 2007. The letter also suggested that these approaches would help inform a statewide strategy, which it was proposed to progress through a statewide strategic planning process. While not directly raised, a background policy issue is the ‘user pay’s’ approach to waste management (waste levy) which was also the subject of a discussion paper released by the Government in late 2005.

Prior to responding to the HLOG letter, representatives of each of the three regions met with the Association to consider Local Government’s position. At that meeting it was agreed that:

- A ‘levy’ (contribution) should be implemented by Local Government at the regional level.
- The proposal to develop a State-wide strategy, which is to be funded on a 50:50 basis between State and Local Government is totally rejected. It was agreed that the State and the regions should each be responsible for funding the development of their own strategies.
- Regions should progress their own strategies - commonality between each region should be shared – and that these should be used to support the State in developing its strategy.
- The Environment Division be requested to provide an outline of what it wants to cover in the State strategy for discussion with the regions, particularly in the context of linking State and regional strategies.

The Association has advised the Environment Division of the agreed outcomes from this meeting and regional responses to the HLOG letter have now been submitted. The matter will be considered further by HLOG at its next meeting in late October.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Implementing regional approaches to waste management was one of the priority waste issues to remain outstanding in the November 2003 report to the Premier’s Local Government Council, which subsequently referred the matter to the High Level Oversight Group on Waste.
2.5 SUBJECT: CAT CONTROL

That the Committee note the action taken in relation to this matter.

Resolved

Background
Representations have been made to the Association by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the World Wildlife Fund’s Threatened Species Network to join with them in making representations to the State Government on a range of matters associated with cat control. These include such matters as compulsory cat registration; significant involvement of the RSPCA in the initial registration process and processes to deal with the management of feral and stray cats.

Whilst sympathetic to some of the arguments of these bodies, the Association has declined making a collaborative approach to the Government and has instead made separate representations to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) along the lines of the motion passed at the June General Meeting:

“That the LGAT initiate discussions with the State Government to address the issue of efficient and humane impoundment and disposal of feral and unwanted cats.”

The correspondence alludes to the fact that the Government has committed to an investigation on the issue of cat control and a willingness on the part of the Association to work with DPIW and any other agency to address the above motion.

The President is scheduled to meet with the Minister prior to the next meeting of GMC to discuss this matter and will provide a verbal update.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
See above Motion.

2.6 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

Decision Sought

That Committee members note the intent of this session and contemplate any matters that they consider worthy of raising.

President Mike Gaffney provided an overview of the Coming Out Proud Program and informed the Committee that a presentation will be provided at the next General Meeting to be held on 1 November.

An article is was circulated in relation to Constitutional Recognition.
Tree Plantations:
The issue was raised as to the notice provided to councils about plantation plantings, the consideration that is given to infrastructure at that time rather than harvesting and considerations of setbacks in relation to existing dwellings.

The CEO is to raise this matter at the Local Government Forestry Consultative Committee in context of the Private Timber Reserves notice process and the Good Neighbour Charter.

Social Impacts of Plantations
In response to discussions about the changing face of communities and the impacts of plantations on the social and economic makeup of communities the CEO undertook to source previous studies and reports undertaken in Tasmania and NSW and circulate to GMC members.

Bank Charges
The matter was raised as to whether there was merit in there being a single contract for banking in the state in an effort to drive aggregated savings on transaction fees and charges as well as improved interest rates.

The CEO will investigate the options available.

Resource Planning & Development Commission (RPDC)
Discussions focussed on the problems associated with the community desires in relation to planning schemes and the issues that arise in terms of the status of the existing and proposed planning scheme in the decision making processes associated with amendments. Certainty and surety are preferred in the process.

The CEO is to investigate this matter further with the RPDC and others.

Background
This is a standing agenda item intended to allow members the opportunity to raise any matters of strategic policy not addressed elsewhere in the agenda.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY *

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
Since achieving the support from the last General Meeting to proceed with the conduct of a study into the financial sustainability of councils in Tasmania, much discussion and research has occurred with other states in relation to the processes they have been through and the outcomes they have achieved to date.

The matter was discussed in some detail at the recent General Managers’ Meeting where it was felt that there needed to be a clear articulation of the purpose of the proposed study, the anticipated outcomes and some detail of what was intended once the report was completed. It was also considered that a comprehensive project plan and communication strategy was necessary for the life of the project, of which the initial study would be an important first step.

Following on from the General Managers’ meeting, an expanded working group of General Managers has been formed to further develop the brief for the study and to assess the needs in respect of the deliverables and the broader project plan. It was also acknowledged that some consideration needed to be given to the processes associated with collecting the necessary data and the impact that would have on council resources.

There was significant discussion at the General Manager’s meeting about the merits of having a report that simply commented on the sector. There was broad agreement that if such a report was to be commissioned it needed to be transparent and provide councils with an understanding of not only their strengths and weaknesses, but the means by which they might be improved. In some cases this may very well involve sector-wide responses but it was considered important that individual council information be available.

It is anticipated that the study would report and provide recommendations to the Association on:
- The current financial position of councils in Tasmania;
- The current financial performance of councils;
- Asset related pressures on the financial position and performance of councils;
- The outlook on the financial capacity of councils;
- The sustainability of the long term finances of councils;
- And financial governance reforms that may be necessary within Local Government

It is acknowledged that there are likely to be some limitations based on consistency of reporting practices and treatment of depreciation across councils and assets. General Managers highlighted this as a potential shortcoming, however, the intent is to make a broad assessment and while it is likely that there will be some anomalies, the sheer cost of verification would be unlikely to be worth the additional effort.
Data sources for the proposed consultancy will include council financial statements, performance indicator data, outputs from the recent asset renewal gap consultancy and some likely limited survey data that will be sought from councils in relation to asset classes and condition.

Important elements of the sustainability project will be the communication strategy relating to the findings from the study and the actions that are taken in relation to those findings. In relation to the latter point South Australia has developed significant guides and information papers which will likely provide a sound framework and checklist of matters to be considered and addressed by councils. The papers provide an outline of the matters that councils need to consider and how to go about particular processes. An example of one of the papers – Infrastructure and Asset Management – has been included for reference and is at Attachment to Item 3.1.

By the completion of the study it would be expected that Western Australia would also have undertaken significant work on implementation matters.

Once the brief has been finalised by the working group it is proposed to circulate it to all councils with a broad outline of the process to be followed, timelines, staff resource implications and the likely outputs, processes and requirements following the study.

**Budget Implications**
The cost of the study has not been factored into the budget and will be met from Association reserves.

**Current Policy**
The proposal to conduct the study has been endorsed by GMC and a General Meeting of the Association.

### 3.2 SUBJECT: SUICIDE PREVENTION

That the committee note the following report.

**Background**
At the GMC meeting of 16 August 2006, the issue of youth suicide prevention was raised. It was agreed at that meeting that the Association would seek advice on an appropriate web link to provide to Councils for their own web sites, and that the topic would be considered as an issue to be discussed at the 4 October Local Government youth forum.

Advice was sought from Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on an appropriate web link to provide to Councils. DHHS provided two web addresses: [www.reachout.com.au](http://www.reachout.com.au) and [www.headroom.net.au](http://www.headroom.net.au). While Reach Out aims largely to promote positive mental health messages, Head Room offers educational tools for professionals, and positive mental health messages. This information will be provided to mayors at the upcoming mayors’ meeting.

Following lengthy discussions with organisers, it was agreed that youth suicide prevention is not an appropriate focal point for the youth forum. The focus of the forum is largely on current initiatives in the youth sector, and there is already a strong focus on promoting positive mental health issues amongst these current initiatives. However, resources relating to youth suicide prevention and positive mental health issues will be provided at the forum.
A 45 minute session on suicide prevention is being organised for the next mayors’ meeting. The presentation will focus on how Local Government can play a role in a Tasmania-wide approach to youth suicide prevention.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.

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**3.3 SUBJECT: NATIONAL SHIP SOURCED POLLUTION EXERCISE**

That the Committee note the following report.

**Noted**

**Background**
On 6 September, 2006, Devonport hosted a national ship-sourced pollution exercise. The exercise was conducted under the auspices of the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and Other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (the National Plan). The National Plan is a national integrated framework enabling effective response to marine pollution incidents.

The ship-sourced pollution exercise was established under the National Plan to ensure that all jurisdictions are able to properly discharge their obligations to minimise pollution in the event of a spill. These exercises are conducted biennially in different Australian States and Territories, and this was the first time that such an exercise has been conducted in Tasmanian waters.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority will write a formal report on the exercise that will be made available on their website ([www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au)) in the coming weeks.

While Local Government involvement on the day of the exercise was limited, in the event of an oil spill, Councils may undertake to perform the following roles:
- Cleanup of shorelines for minor impacts of oil;
- Provision of local advice on areas threatened by pollution;
- Assistance with liaison between the State Marine Pollution Committee, the Incident Controller and local communities; and/or
- Provision of assistance in cleanup operations within areas under control for larger impacts of oil.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
3.4 SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT

That the Committee note the following.

Noted

Background

Councillor Events
A draft program of councillor events for 2007 has been prepared. The program includes:

- the annual weekend residential workshop to be held at Bridport, March 3 & 4.
- internet orientation training for councillors (North, North-West, South) March 17 and 18
- 1 day Mayors workshop – topic to be determined – learning event, Wednesday April 18
- Annual Conference, May 30 to June 1
- regional councillor workshops (over 2 days), July 28 & 29
- 1 day Mayors workshop – topic to be determined – learning event, Wednesday 22 August
- pre-election workshops September 8 & 9
- post-election workshops for newly elected councillors, November 17 & 18.

Census
Harriet Close, graduate policy officer, has taken responsibility for coordinating the 2006 census of Local Government Elected Members. This year, the survey form has been reviewed and updated. The 2006 survey will enable LGAT to refresh its understanding of the profile of councillors and will also enable comparisons between the two census’ conducted so far. Further information is provided at Item 3.5.

LGPerformance Tasmania
Uptake of LGPerformance Tasmania training is consistent. There are a number of councils who have factored the LGPerformance training for managers and councillors into their training plans and some councils are now customising the offerings to suit their particular circumstances. Some feedback comments have been posted to the LGAT website: http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=459

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.5 SUBJECT: 2006 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED MEMBER CENSUS

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
In 2004, the Association conducted the first ever census of Tasmanian Local Government Elected Members. The census returned a 69 per cent response rate, and provided a solid set of base line data.

The aim of holding a regular census is to build up a profile of Local Government elected membership in Tasmania. Such information can help to inform LGAT policy and program development, as well as help to understand how Local Government can best be supported into the future.

During October, LGAT will undertake the second census of Tasmanian Local Government Elected Members. Letters advising of the upcoming census were sent to mayors on 22 September 2006. All elected members were sent a census questionnaire on 29 September, 2006. LGAT has requested that the completed questionnaires be returned by 27 October, 2006. The results will be collated and a report released in late November. The report will be available on the LGAT website.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

3.6 SUBJECT: 2007 LGAT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
After visiting two northern venues, the Country Club and Hotel Grand Chancellor, it is clear that the LGAT Conference, in its current form, could not be staged in the north in 2007. The Launceston Hotel Grand Chancellor is inadequate, however, the Country Club will be expanding its room size during 2007, making a northern conference an option for 2008.

This possibility has been put to the Manager of the Country Club, who is keen to secure an event of this scale, however, there are many considerations in moving the conference north, including whether sponsors would be prepared to participate in a northern event and the logistics of how the event would be coordinated through the southern-based LGAT office.

Discussions have been advanced with Wrest Point regarding 2007 and tentative dates have been booked: May 30 to June 1. The dinner would need to be off-site and a site visit confirms that the new facility at Elwick would be suitable. Delegate feedback suggests that a change of venue would assist in revitilising perceptions of the conference: delegates are getting bored with the Hotel Grand Chancellor.
Wrest Point has recently undergone extensive refurbishment of its accommodation, offering a number of room styles and prices on-site. Further, the gaming areas have been enclosed so conference delegates need not be exposed to gaming. The Tasman Room is large enough to hold a trade exhibition of a maximum of 42 booths and sponsorship packages could be enhanced through use of the foyer area – in effect, sponsors can be accommodated as well as they have been at the Hobart Grand Chancellor.

Wrest Point is experienced in coordinating off-site dinners – bus transfers etc., and will provide assistance to the Conference Manager.

The Elwick facility is modern and spacious. It provides the Conference Manager with an opportunity to enhance the dinner/conference experience with an effective theme eg: possibly building on the racing/betting theme. There is ample room to allow the Awards for Excellence, as well as a floor show. There is also scope to advance new sponsorships or build on existing sponsorships around this venue/theme.

Final negotiations with Wrest Point and Elwick will need to be carried out by the new Communications Manager.

**Budget Implications**
At current sponsorship and attendance levels, the Conference is able to cover the cost of event administration and still deliver a surplus to event partners.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.

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3.7 **SUBJECT: GENERAL MANAGERS MEETING** *

| That the Committee note the content and outcomes of the recent General Managers’ Meeting. |
| Noted |

**Background**

22 of the 29 General Managers attended the recent Workshop held in Hobart on 20-21 September 2006. A copy of the agenda is at **Attachment to Item 3.7** for reference although several other matters of interest were discussed and resolved during the session.

Of particular interest were the discussions in relation to the proposed sustainability study which is covered at Item 3.1 and the relationship with the Resource Planning and Development Commission. In relation to the latter, a number of items have been identified that will be documented for discussions with the Executive Commissioner. It was also agreed that the Association should again write to councils seeking particulars of issues of concern – at the strategic level.

The Association is going to investigate aggregated procurement models for councils that are in place interstate but will include regional bodies in the discussions as there has been some attention given to this matter by those groups in recent times.

The Association has also been requested to organise a Roads Forum involving Local and State Government, other Local Government Associations, ALGA, road users and industry to ascertain whether there are better ways that road infrastructure across the state can be managed, maintained and funded. A program is presently being developed and will be circulated to councils for comment in the near future.
The matter of headworks charges is again to be pursued by the Association with further
analysis of interstate arrangements to be conducted and discussed with councils. There
remains support for a transparent and consistent model but simplicity of application remains
paramount. This matter had previously been taken up with the State Government via the
PLGC but clarity was sought from the government as to the specific requirements and support
from councils as to a preferred model.

Another major matter to be pursued by the Association is the conduct of workshops/training for
mayors and members of codes of conduct panels in terms of the requirements and obligations
placed upon them, the processes they have to follow and the types of procedures they must go
through. Templated correspondence and checklists will be developed for these sessions and it
is hoped that they could be conducted in the near future.

Unfortunately, Don Challen was unable to attend the session due to sickness but has indicated
a willingness to attend the next forum

Budget Implications
The event is run on a cost recovery basis.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

3.8 SUBJECT: RURAL GP WORKFORCE FORUMS

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
GP Workforce Tasmania, a unit of the Tasmanian General Practice Divisions, recently
approached the Association seeking its support in facilitating a series of consultations with
Councillors to explore the impact that health workforce shortages might have on the health
services in rural and regional communities. The Association agreed to assist and Councils
have been invited to send representatives to the sessions, which will be held in the North, North
West and South during November, to learn about the emerging workforce trends and share
information on what they are doing in their own regions to address health workforce shortages.

Insights from these sessions will be considered at a GP Workforce summit scheduled for early
2007.

Budget Implications
The forums have been fully funded through the Tasmanian General Practice Divisions.

Current Policy
Under the Local Government Act 1993 Councils have the responsibility to provide for the
health, safety and welfare of their communities.
That the General Management Committee note the contents of this report and the proposal to refer the policy statements to the next General Meeting.

Noted

Background
The Natural Resource Management (NRM) framework in Tasmania has coordinated many environmental and natural resource projects at local, regional and state levels. These initiatives have included mapping and benchmarking of environmental data, vegetation management and water quality monitoring around the state.

Local Government has been involved in many of these activities, and will receive direct and indirect benefits from numerous NRM initiatives. Councils also contribute substantial investment to NRM as core business, and work closely with local communities to identify and respond to emerging NRM issues.

The Tasmanian Local Government NRM Facilitator position is a partnership between the Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Australian Government. The objective of the position is to better engage Local Government in regional NRM planning and implementation.

The Local Government NRM Facilitator position at the Local Government Association of Tasmania forms part of a network of NRM facilitators around Australia. Over the past few months, the Local Government NRM Facilitator network has advanced four policy statements to establish a policy position for Local Government in the natural resource management sector at a national level.

Policy Statements
Local Government is committed to positive and productive relations between the three spheres of government with an emphasis on respect, partnership and cooperation. The following policy statements attempt to embody this commitment, and provide a policy framework for on-going relations between Local Government and regional NRM bodies -

− Local Government is committed to achieving sustainable NRM outcomes.
− Local Government is committed to regional approaches to natural resource management.
− Local Government is committed to using its planning processes and powers to deliver local priorities and assist the achievement of regional outcomes.
− Local Government is committed to considering natural resource management (NRM) priorities and community expectations in making decisions about resource allocation, recognising a need for long-term resource investment from multiple stakeholders.

The Local Government Association of Queensland is proposing these policy statements as a motion to the ALGA General Assembly 2006. Whilst generally quite motherhood, it may be appropriate to present them to the next General Meeting with some more detailed explanations with a view to obtaining a more comprehensive Association position on each of the statements.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
### 3.10 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

That the Committee note the following Local Government Representative appointments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Elected Member/Office</th>
<th>Coordinating Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Commission</td>
<td>D/Mayor Richard Bowden</td>
<td>Elected Members</td>
<td>Police and Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clr John Lefevre</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Police and Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Management Council</td>
<td>Mr Rod Sweetnam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiers Physical Activity Council</td>
<td>Ald Frank Nott</td>
<td>Elected Member</td>
<td>Dept Economic Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT:  PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

That the profit and loss report to 29 September 2006 be received.

Resolved

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of the Profit And Loss Report to 29 September 2006.

The report does not have a budgetary comparison. Budgetary figures for the forward year cannot be input into the accounting system until the previous year’s accounts have been finalised.

The auditors have advised that the accounts for the 2006 financial year will be finalised by the end of October.

At that time the final accounts will be referred to Committee members for formal approval and signing.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 SUBJECT:  CASH FLOW STATEMENTS *

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of June, July, and August 2006.

Resolved

Background
It is considered appropriate that the Committee should have access to information relating to the cash position of the Association detailing cash on hand, reserves, amounts held for projects and expenditures and revenues pending.

Detailed cash flow statements have been prepared for the information of the Committee and are at Attachment to Item 4.2

Budget Impact
As above.

Current Policy
The Association has a responsibility to manage the assets of the organisation in a responsible and transparent manner.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.1 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REVIEW *</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Kevin Hyland**

That the Committee accept the recommendation from the Review Committee as detailed in the separate report provided by KPMG who assisted in the review process.

Carried

A copy of the report provided by KPMG will be placed as Attachment to Item 5.1. Details of the report will be available to Committee Members only.

Mayor Mike Downie, on behalf of the President, recognised and thanked the Chief Executive Officer for the excellent work that has been recognised and acknowledged throughout the review process.

The President thanked Mayor Robert Legge and Lord Mayor Rob Valentine for their assistance as part of the review committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.2 SUBJECT: GMC ELECTION RESULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Mike Downie**

That the Committee note the election of Clr John McGiveron as the proxy for the Northern Region, population under 20,000.

Carried

**Background**

As advised at the last GMC meeting, voting papers were sent to all Northern Councils for election of the GMC Proxy representative for the Northern Region, population below 20,000.

The relevant councils have now been advised that Clr John McGiveron is the Proxy to Mayor Robert Legge.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

As per the rules of the Association.
5.3 **SUBJECT: QUADRANT REPORT**

That the Committee note the following report.

**Resolved**

**Background**

Quadrant experienced excellent growth in the 2005/06 financial year with an increase in funds under management of around 35% from $277 million to $380 million and an increase in members from approximately 4100 to 5000 including the transfer of the City of Launceston Employees Superannuation Fund with approximately 450 members and $42 million funds under management.

Quadrant has been undertaking a branding campaign to support the retention and growth strategies as the Scheme received both a public offer superannuation fund licence and a financial planning licence in 2005. Anybody can now join the fund and financial planning advice is provided through salaried financial advisors. The Scheme is member-owned which means the interests of the members come first.

Quadrant also introduced an allocated product in 2005 for retirees as the retirement market is a key focus for Quadrant. The Federal Treasurer’s 2005 Budget announcement that there would be no tax on withdrawals from superannuation for people aged over 60 from 1 July 2007 has made superannuation investment even more attractive.

Quadrant’s investment returns for 2005/06 were very competitive with an overall return for the scheme of 14.66% net of investment management fees and taxes with the following investment choice option net returns:

- High growth 20.2%
- Growth 16.2%
- Moderate 10.9%
- Sustainable future 11.9%
- Stable 6.3%
- Conservative 4.4%

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

The Trust Deed for Quadrant Superannuation Scheme requires the appointment of 4 employer directors by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.
5.4 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2007

That the Committee meet in Hobart on Thursday 7 December 2006 and note the proposed schedule of meetings for 2007.

Resolved

Background:
Arrangements for the PLGC meeting to be held 7 December are currently being finalised.

The meeting is to be held in Hobart with a tentative start time of 3.30pm. It is envisioned that the meeting will conclude by 5.00pm with the Premier’s Dinner to commence at 7.00pm.

It is proposed that the GMC Meeting be held in the Boardroom of the Association’s Offices prior to the PLGC meeting.

As soon as arrangements have been confirmed with the Premier’s office, details will be forwarded to Committee members.

2007
The meeting dates for 2007 have been scheduled with the following considerations -
- A GMC Meeting has been set for April, primarily to set budget and subscriptions for the AGM.
- If it is deemed necessary, an extra meeting can be scheduled prior to the commencement of the AGM on 30 May.
- The December PLGC meeting and dinner dates have been set based on past occurrences and will need to be confirmed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 March, Wednesday</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 April, Wednesday</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 May, Wednesday</td>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May – 1 June</td>
<td>LGAT Conference</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 August, Wednesday</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 October, Wednesday</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 December, Thursday</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLGC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Premier’s Dinner</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.5 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE