1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held at the Launceston Country Club on Wednesday 15 August 2007 commencing at 2.05pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Mike Gaffney
Lord Mayor Rob Valentine
Mayor Kevin Hyland
Mayor Mike Downie
Mayor Barry Easther
Mayor Deirdre Flint
Mayor Jock Campbell

President
Hobart City Council
West - North West Region
West - North West Region
Northern Region
Southern Region

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Robert Legge
Northern Region

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Allan Garcia
Mrs Liz Gillam
Ms Christine Agostinelli

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1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Barry Easther

That the Minutes of the meeting held 18 April 2007, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meeting held 18 April 2007 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Barry Easther

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

Carried

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

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the President’s report be received.

Carried

The President’s activities since the GMC meeting on 18 April were as follows -

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Meetings

20 April/19 July Legislation Committee Meetings
19 July Demographic Advisory Council
24 April PLGC

Senator Colbeck, Water & Sewerage
Michael Aird MLC, Water & Sewerage
Dr Elaine Stratford, Careers/University

Robert Rockefeller & Stewart Wardlaw, Water & Sewerage
Tasmanian Arts Council
Tas Together Progress Board
General Manager’s – St Helens, Water & Sewerage
23 & 24 May ALGA, Canberra
Strategic Planning, General Meeting, Board Meeting, Rountable with Minister Lloyd
30 May LGAT Annual General Meeting & General Meeting

Presentations
Cr. Rodney Cooper
An Island Inspired
RYLA (Leadership)
Southern Tas Transport Network, Premier & Mayors
Launceston City Council
Southern Midlands Council

Conferences
1 & 2 May LGMA (Hobart)
30 May & 1 June LGAT Annual Conference

Writings
LGAT Newsletters
Magazines
Local Government Focus
LGAT News
Government News

Workshops
9 August Demographic Advisory Council
Review of the PAL Policy

Careers
13 July Hobart Expo
8 August Burnie Expo
University – Engineering students

Forums
6 July CEDA, Water and Waste Water Management
7,8 &9 July Pre-election workshops Burnie, Launceston & Hobart

1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT APRIL 2007 – AUGUST 2007

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Mike Downie
That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

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

Interface with External Bodies
- Quadrant Board Meeting
- Environment Awards Dinner
- Careers Expo participation – DEC, Elizabeth College, Rosny College, Burnie
- Australia Post - Postal Services Consultative Council – Melbourne
- Marsh Insurance – Climate change breakfast
- Environment Industry Council
- Property Council – water and sewerage
- CEDA – Participation in water and sewerage forum
- SA Centre for Economic Studies – Gambling Review
Local Government Forums
- Waste Management Forum – all regional reps and Director of Environmental Management
- Local Government Forestry Consultative Committee
- PLGC Meeting and Officials Meeting
- CMP Insurance Meeting
- Productivity Commission re Council revenue sources
- Waste Reference Group
- Legislation Committee
- Sustainability Workshop – Campbell Town
- Local Government Standards Panel hearings
- Motor Home Working Group
- Pre-election workshops

State Government Meetings
- Local Government Office monthly meetings
- PLGC Officials Meeting
- Crime Prevention Committee
- PPAC Local Government Committee
- Rural Health Week steering Committee
- DTAE – Resource Recovery Steering Committee
- Tripartite Agreement on Positive Ageing Steering Committee meeting
- Demographic Change Advisory Council and Steering Committee
- Tasmania Together – links to council strategic plans
- Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board re interface with councils
- DPIW – Climate Change Steering Committee
- State Budget Briefing
- DPAC - Natural Disaster Relief Policy
- DIER – line marking standards / DDA and bus stops

Media
- Brighton rating arrangements – ABC, Mercury, Examiner
- Elected member allowances and HCC petrol allowance - Mercury
- Valuation process and the 4% minimum – ABC
- PAL Policy – Examiner
- Water and Sewerage – Southern Cross, ABC
- Elector Polls – Mercury
- Local Government Sustainability – release of “league table” - Advocate
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: LAUDERDALE QUAY – PROJECT OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Jock Campbell

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
The Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) has written to the Association advising that it has been directed by the Premier to undertake an integrated assessment of the Lauderdale Quay project proposed by the Walker Corporation Pty Ltd, which was declared to be a project of State Significance under the State Policies and Projects Act 1993 on 11 July 2006.

The assessment commenced with the appointment of the panel on 16 April 2007. The Act requires that the Commission notifies the council of a municipality in which the project is located and other organisations that, in the Commission’s opinion, have an interest in the project.

The Association did not respond to the initial draft scope guidelines and will reserve its position in relation to input on the draft integrated impact statement. Clearly it will be beneficial to liaise with Clarence Council to discuss any issues it would like to see pursued in relation to this matter via the Association and there may be views from other councils that make it worthwhile responding from a sector perspective.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

2.2 SUBJECT: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Mike Downie

That the Committee note progress with the activities of the Council.

Carried

Background
The President of the Local Government Association represents Local Government on the Council while the CEO participates on the Steering Committee. At the most recent meeting of the Council presentations were provided by Dr Sheila Given who detailed an “older person’s” response to the impacts of population change and Dr John Smyth, Secretary of the Department of Education provided an overview of the recently announced education and training reforms in the state. Dr Smyth has been invited to present this information to the General Meeting to be held on 15 August.
An Issues Paper entitled *Demographic Change in Tasmania: Challenges and Opportunities* has now been finalised and will be released publicly in the near future. The Issues Paper will be followed up with a Strategy Paper in response to the issues raised in the initial document and will be released for public comment during its drafting.

The Council also reviewed information papers on population projections for the state and a document entitled *Who is not participating in Tasmania’s labour force?* The latter document will be released publicly shortly and provides interesting insights into this sector of the community and some of the issues facing non-participation.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics also participates on the Council and advised during informal discussions that it was presently liaising with councils across the state to provide the opportunity for seminars and presentations on the recently released census data and its impacts on Local Government Areas.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.

### 2.3 SUBJECT: LEGISLATION COMMITTEE *

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

**Background**

The last meeting of the Legislation Committee was held on Friday 9 July 2007.

There continues to be a large number of items relating to the development/amendment of legislation by the State Government, of varying complexity and interest/importance to Local Government.

The draft Minutes of the last meeting of the Legislation Committee are **At Attachment to Item 2.3.**

Some items of significance included:

**Amendments to Land Use Planning and Approvals Act (LUPAA)**

Following the last meeting of the Legislation Committee, the Minister was asked to take the opportunity of a delay in the introduction of the Bill to reconsider a number of matters:

- **Enforcement processes**
  
  Local Government has for a number of years been requesting that the enforcement provisions of LUPAA be strengthened, for example by the ability to issue abatement notices and infringement notices. When this matter was raised with the State Government in 2003, the response was that this matter be dealt with through the Better Planning Outcomes process.

- **Section 63A**
  
  The provisions of section 63A continue to be of concern to Local Government. At the time these provisions were introduced in 2001, Local Government, whilst not objecting to the principle that there should be an ability to take action against a planning authority that was not applying the provisions of its planning scheme, did express concern about the methodology proposed.
Tied vote
Clarification has sought on the situation of a tied vote when a Council is acting as a Planning Authority. By virtue of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, when a vote is tied the motion is lost. If there is a tied vote on a planning application, this is regarded by the Tribunal as a failure to make a decision and section 59 LUPAA applies.

The Minister responded that there was insufficient time to reconsider the contents of the Bill. However there is a commitment to address the enforcement issue and the Minister indicated a willingness to discuss section 63A. In relation to tied votes, it was suggested that this be addressed through the review of Meeting Regulations.

The amendments to LUPAA have now passed both Houses of Parliament.

**Local Government Act**

- **Bribery provisions**
  Following the last Local Government elections, LGAT asked the State Government to review the bribery provisions.

  A Bill has been developed, which as well as the bribery provisions, addresses a number of matters raised by the Electoral Commissioner. Unfortunately the Bill has not yet been introduced. It is understood that it may still be introduced in mid-August which is a concern because of the proximity to Local Government elections.

- **Code of Conduct regulations**
  These have now been operating for over a year. A number of shortcomings have already been raised with the State Government and others have become apparent through the operations of the Standards Panel. The Legislation Committee agreed that Councils should be consulted and the outcomes of the review taken to the State Government.

- **Derelict buildings**
  The Director of Local Government has indicated that this matter will be looked at again, following the motion passed at the June General Meeting.

**Dog Control Act**
A submission was made by LGAT in response to the Issues Paper. Only a dozen or so Councils provided input to this response, most of these being copies of responses that had been directly provided to the Local Government Office.

A number of Councils have supported the introduction of restricted breed provisions.

LGAT has asked to be represented on any process to develop the amendments. It is expected that there will be further public consultation.

**Review of PAL**
Public consultation has now closed and the draft revised PAL Policy is currently with the Minister awaiting referral to the EPP Assessment Panel.

The draft PAL policy appears to be causing concern in some areas of the State.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
2.4 SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee note the following report detailing progress in relation to current waste management policy issues being pursued through LGAT.

Carried

Background
The Local Government Waste Management Reference Group (LGWMRG), which has replaced the High Level Oversight Group and comprises representation from LGAT, the 3 regions and, by invitation, the State Government, met on 26 July 2007 to consider a range of waste management policy matters. A summary of the most important matters is provided for GMC’s information.

1. Regional Approaches to Waste Management
Substantial progress has been made in relation to the development of regional waste strategies in the North and North West, in accordance with the expectation that the regions would have a clear idea of the changes that would need to be effected to deliver regional frameworks by 1 July 2007.

Cradle Coast Authority: The Cradle Coast Authority has developed a Proposal for a Regional Waste Management Strategy, a final draft of which has been circulated to member councils for their consideration.

The proposal outlines the scope, proposed management structure and required resources to implement a regional waste management strategy in the Cradle Coast region. Key aspects of the proposal are:

- Renaming of the Cradle Coast Waste Management Advisory Group to Cradle Coast Waste Management Group.
- Administration of the strategy will be delivered through Cradle Coast Authority, with project coordination occurring through Dulverton Regional Waste Management Authority.
- Member councils will commit to the introduction of a regional waste levy ($2 per tonne) as from 1 September 2007, with the first instalment due in January 2008. The manner in which levies are collected is discretionary for individual councils/landfills.
- A waste levy of $2 per tonne (GST inclusive) is likely to generate $170,000 per year.
- A detailed waste management strategy will be developed within the first year of operation but the preliminary project emphasis will be on education, recycling and resource recovery.

Northern Group:

- A Waste Management Agreement for Northern Tasmania has been circulated to member councils. All councils have signed with the exception of Flinders Island.
- Collection of a regional waste levy ($2 per tonne inclusive of GST) was due to commence on 1 August 2007, with the funds to be held in a separate trust account by Launceston City Council.
- The Northern Group has an indicative program of activities for the next 12 months, which the General Managers will refine and take to the Local Government Waste Committee of Northern Tasmania Development. This Committee will steer the strategy and enable actions to go forward.
- The regional strategy and operational plan will be developed shortly.
- The aim is to employ a person to drive and deliver the program.
Southern Waste Strategy Authority:
- The Authority is planning to review how its levy is collected. Currently individual councils are levied and it is considered preferable to charge landfills directly as this more properly reflects the ‘disposer pays’ approach.

2. Tasmanian Waste Management Strategy
The Director of Environmental Management reported that the state strategy development process was progressing fairly well, although the timeline for delivery of the final report will need to be extended. The consultant, Blue Environment, conducted stakeholder workshops in the North and South, which had been well attended and productive. A further round of consultation workshops are scheduled to occur in September with the final report to be delivered by the end of October.

There is some apparent confusion among councils about the status and role of the state strategy, with suggestions that the state and regional strategies should be separate. The LGWMRG considered that these perceptions needed to be addressed as the clear intent of the state strategy is Tasmania-focused and it is important that it be integrated into regional strategies so that both are complementary. To this end it was agreed that the state strategy be referred to in future as the Tasmanian Waste Management Strategy.

3. Household Hazardous Waste Collection System
The WMRG considered a range of recommendations from the previously convened Technical Reference Group (TRG) in relation to the proposal for a jointly funded State and Local Government pilot project to implement a household hazardous waste collection system in Tasmania. These recommendations were based on a supplementary modelling report provided by the original project consultant, which was requested by the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment given the TRG’s view that the recommended option in the consultant’s earlier report did not represent good value for money and did not adequately reflect the potential to build on existing resource recovery schemes.

The recommendations were as follows:
- That Local Government support the proposal to jointly fund, with the State Government, on a 50/50 basis, a Household Hazardous Waste collection system in Tasmania, as a pilot program operating for up to 5 years, based on Option 1 in the Asterisk One Supplementary Modelling Report, namely: a Temporary Collection Program involving an agreed number of sites in each region per year, on an alternating/rotational basis.
- That a project officer be appointed, out of the State Government’s project funds, to further scope and implement the project.
- That this officer be located with an appropriate body, as determined through consultation between the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (DTAE) and LGAT.
- That a steering committee, comprising State and Local Government representation, be established to oversee the project.
- That the precise location of the temporary collection sites be determined during the project scoping phase in consultation with regional bodies.
- That the collection system be reviewed after 2 years of operation to assess achievements and future expectations.
- That State and Local Government enter into a memorandum of understanding to formalise the joint funding partnership in relation to the HHW pilot project.

The Director of Environmental Management indicated he was able to support these recommendations and would investigate the timeline for expenditure of the State Government’s contribution to the project.
The LGWMRG formally endorsed the recommendations and LGAT agreed to present these for consideration and endorsement by all councils at the August General Meeting.

It was further emphasised that:
- In line with the spirit of the November 2006 motion on the matter, Local Government funding for this pilot project would be provided on the grounds that Local Government would not continue to fund a household hazardous waste collection system unilaterally beyond the duration of the pilot project.
- Any proportion of funding for this program agreed to by Local Government should be met by the Regional Waste Authorities/Bodies from the contributions by individual Councils

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
- The development of regional waste strategies is one of the priority issues that remain outstanding from the November 2006 report to the Premier’s Local Government Council.
- Local and State Government have agreed to consider suitable waste management projects for joint funding under the arrangements previously established under the auspices of the PLGC

2.5 SUBJECT: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Barry Easther

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
The Legislative Council has established a Select Committee, chaired by Hon Terry Martin to inquire into and report on housing affordability in Tasmania, with particular reference to:
- The experiences of Tasmanians in housing stress and in homelessness;
- The impact of a lack of affordable housing on the broader economic and social well being of the Tasmanian community;
- The impact of a lack of affordable housing on the implementation and outcomes of other State Government programs;
- The effectiveness and limitations of current State and Federal Government strategies and services to alleviate the impact of poor housing affordability in the Tasmanian community;
- The appropriateness of current levels of funding for such strategies and services;
- Successful strategies in other Australian States that could be effective in improving affordability in Tasmania; and
- Other matters incidental thereto.

It is interesting to note that Local Government is not specifically mentioned in the Terms of Reference, despite the fact that Local Government policies and processes are often criticised as being a major impediment to the provision of affordable housing.
The Association intends to make a submission to the Select Committee, although it is not expected that all Terms of Reference will be addressed as a number are outside our area of knowledge, expertise and interest. The thrust of the submission will be to 'Tasmanianise' the areas in which LG has/could have an impact on housing affordability:

- Planning - strategic planning, planning schemes
- Planning approval processes
- Building approval processes
- Infrastructure provision
- Land supply

Councils have been asked to provide a range of information to assist with the development of the submission.

The material prepared for ALGA President Paul Bell for his presentation to the recent Labor Party Summit on Affordable Housing will also be of great assistance.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.

### 2.6 SUBJECT: FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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<td>That the Committee note the intention to amend the membership of the Forest Practices Advisory Council and to subsume the current activities of the Local Government Forestry Consultative Council into that forum.</td>
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**Background**

The Local Government Forestry Consultative Committee (LGFCC) has been in existence for approximately five years and has provided a useful forum to conduct discussions on a range of Local Government and forestry-related issues. However, those that participate from the forestry sector have expressed concern that there are now so many forums that seem to cover the same fundamental ground and duplicate effort that alternative arrangements may be appropriate.

The LGFCC was initially established as a result of concerns expressed by councils in relation to plantation activity and the impact that the proliferation of establishment was likely to have on local communities, infrastructure and economies. Significant gains have been made through the Consultative Committee with a key “product” being a comprehensive document that differentiates the planning systems of the two sectors and provides councils, forestry industry and the public with clarity and understanding in relation to the two systems.

To address the current duplication of effort Graham Wilkinson, Chief Forest Practices Officer, Forest Practices Authority has proposed a reorganisation of the Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC).
An objective of the Forest Practices Act is that the Forest Practices Authority must foster a ‘cooperative approach towards policy development and management in forest practices matters’. The removal of stakeholder representation from the Board has led to a concern by some that this objective may be undermined through a diminution of stakeholder engagement in policy and management issues. The role of FPAC was designed to ensure that this did not happen. It is considered that this concern can be best addressed by ensuring that FPAC provides an effective forum for stakeholder participation in decision-making processes. At present the membership of FPAC is variable in terms of the seniority and capacity of its members to represent and make decisions on behalf of their respective organisations. As a result, FPAC has not been able to fully function as an effective advisory body and many important policy issues have been diverted to other forums. FPAC has also apparently tended to become absorbed with highly technical matters which would be dealt with through working groups allowing FPAC to operate at a more strategic level.

The intention is that stakeholder organisations nominate the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent to sit on FPAC in order to bring the appropriate strategic and decision-making capacity to the table. It is intended that this take place by October 2007.

From a Local Government perspective, the representatives on the LGFCC are supportive of the changes believing that the work of the Council is largely done. There will remain the opportunity to pursue matters through FPAC and communications to occur to and from councils in relation to relevant matters. The current Local Government representative on FPAC also supports the proposal and considers that the changes are opportune and that information flows and inputs could be improved by having an Association officer on FPAC.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.

### 2.7 SUBJECT: DISABILITY BUS STOPS

**Mayor Jock Campbell/Mayor Deirdre Flint**

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

**Background**

In 2002 the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport were made under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* to enable public transport operators to remove discrimination from public transport services. Of particular relevance to Local Government, all existing bus stops are required to comply with the Standards at target dates specified in Schedule 1 of the Standards (Part 32.2) as follows:

- 31 December 2007 - 25% of bus stops
- 31 December 2012 - 55% of bus stops
- 31 December 2017 - 90% of bus stops
- 31 December 2022 - 100% of bus stops

Implementation of the Standards is an ongoing concern to Local Government across Australia. In some States, Local Government has been working very closely with state governments to achieve compliance. This has included funding to Local Government to assist with works.
LGAT has for some time been trying to establish what, if anything, is being done in Tasmania to achieve compliance. When Councils were contacted in late 2005, there seemed to be a lack of knowledge about the Standards. The point was made to LGAT that there was a lack of clarity about who (DIER, Metro/other bus operators or Councils) is responsible for bus stop infrastructure.

A meeting was sought with DIER to seek some resolution on the issue of bus stop infrastructure and to establish what was being done at State Government level about compliance with the Standards. Although there was an exchange of emails and phone calls, no meeting was held. This was primarily because DIER had commissioned Pitt and Sherry to establish the extent of what needed to be done in Tasmania and to develop technical materials to assist with the task. This work took much longer than expected.

On 24 July 2007, a meeting was held with representatives of DIER, Metro, LGAT and a number of southern Councils. It was apparent that no action has been taken in Tasmania to meet the Standards. Of greater concern is that no specific budgetary provisions have been made by the State Government, Metro or Councils. For the immediate future, therefore, any works must be undertaken within existing budget provisions.

Clearly in the time available and monetary constraints, it will not be possible to meet the 31 December 2007 target. However, one possible positive from this delay is that there is now a better understanding of what is required (technically) to meet the Standards, although because of the way DDA works this can only be tested by court proceedings. Discussions with interstate colleagues indicate that they are expecting some disability groups to be quite proactive about challenging non-compliance with the standards. Some of the work that has been undertaken in other states has already been challenged and found wanting. Interestingly, it appears that disability group representatives on Council disability access groups do not appear to have raised this issue in Tasmania.

At the 24 July meeting, it was agreed that we must be in a position to demonstrate that the matter is under active consideration and that an implementation strategy has been developed. It should also be possible to undertake some actual works. It was further agreed that efforts should be concentrated on urban areas and that DIER and metro should work with relevant Councils to develop priority routes and bus stops. It was also agreed that DIER should make the Pitt and Sherry report available to Councils.

In the meantime, it has been strongly recommended to Councils that until discussions have taken place between relevant parties that no further work is undertaken on bus stop infrastructure or roads and footpaths that might impact on bus stop infrastructure.

It is suggested that this issue is raised as a Matter of Topical Interest at PLGC to see if any further funding can be accessed.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.
2.8   SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

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

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: 2007 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
Sponsor, trade and delegate feedback would indicate that the change of venue this year has largely revitalised perceptions of the Local Government Conference, with many confirming their intention to participate in the 2008 event.

Attendance numbers were again solid with excellent representation from around the State, although slightly down from 2006. A total of 183 paying delegates attended the 2007 conference, compared to 196 delegates in 2006. The slight decrease is most likely a result of competition from the LGMA Congress held just a month earlier.

Financial and in kind sponsorship in 2007 amounted to $102,227, slightly up from 2006 ($99,600), with 40 companies involved with the conference trade exhibition as compared to 42 in 2006.

This year, the Association again claimed a modest fee in return for providing administration support to the ALGWA for the breakfast.

Whilst a record $216,048 was raised in total from all revenue sources ($189,676 in 2006), LGAT ran at a $3,000 loss after claiming its standard fee for event administration. A surplus was therefore not available to divide among our conference partners IPWEA and LGMA, as has been the case in previous years. Several factors contributed to this outcome:

− Due to competition from the LGMA Congress, two major sponsors withdrew their support (including a platinum sponsor), resulting in a loss of $15,000 in income.
− The cost of hosting the conference dinner offsite markedly increased our level of expenditure. Holding the dinner at Wrest Point was not an option due to a lack of available space.
− The conference program was also expanded this year to include a special film screening and two extra workshops.
− A greater number of high profile speakers from interstate were featured this year, resulting in a notable increase in speaker fees and travel reimbursements.
− The revenue raising Speakers Corner program was deleted from the conference program due to negative feedback received from 2006.
− The cost of goods and services has increased since 2006 (eg AV and equipment hire, food and beverages, production of Awards for Excellence footage etc). Total expenditure in 2007 was $178,629 as compared to $140,757 in 2006.
− This year, due to time constraints, LGAT did not take reservations on behalf of our accommodation provider, therefore forfeiting any entitlement to the 10% commission normally earned in previous years on room bookings (usually around $3,000).

The coordinator is currently looking into the possibility of moving the event to Launceston in 2008. While the majority of sponsors who provided feedback have indicated a willingness to participate if the event is moved to the North, the size of available venues in Launceston may limit the number of trade exhibitors able to participate and therefore the opportunity to raise essential income. There will also be additional travelling expenses involved in coordinating a conference in the north from a southern office.
Budget Implications
At current attendance levels, and with more time to seek additional sponsorship support, the conference is well positioned to deliver a surplus in 2008 if held in Hobart. At this stage, it is not known what the financial implications will be if the event is transferred to Launceston however, the budgeting process for the 2008 event should result in a clearer outcome.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

3.2 SUBJECT: PRE ELECTION WORKSHOPS

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
At the time of writing, five pre-election workshops have been coordinated around the State for residents wishing to find out more about the process of becoming a councillor.

LGAT, in partnership with the Tasmanian Electoral Office and the Local Government Office will host workshops in Burnie (7 August), Launceston (8 August) and Hobart (9 August).

Due to the remoteness of King Island and Flinders Island and the difficulty and expense associated with travel from these locations to mainland Tasmania to attend the above mentioned workshops, LGAT, with support from Flinders Council and King Island Council, will conduct additional workshops in these locations. The King Island workshop will take place on 28 August and the Flinders Island workshop will be held on 12 September.

To date, the number of people who have registered their intention to attend the first three workshops has been encouraging.

The workshops have been widely promoted by way of advertisements placed in The Mercury, The Examiner and The Advocate, King Island Courier and Island News, promotion in the LGAT Newsletter and July edition of LGAT News, and through the distribution of press releases to all councils, key networks, major media outlets and over fifty community newspapers throughout Tasmania.

Budget Implications
Attendance to the workshops is free of charge. Costs associated with the five workshops include newspaper advertising, travel, accommodation, venue hire and the provision of refreshments for participants. The King Island and Flinders Councils will provide a meeting venue and will cover the cost of advertising in their local newspaper.
3.3 SUBJECT: CAREERS TRAINING & SKILLS SHORTAGES

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Jock Campbell

That the Committee note the following report on matters related to careers, training and skill shortages.

Carried

Background
The Association continues to pursue a range of initiatives, in collaboration with key stakeholders, to address skill shortages, training needs and career development in Local Government.

1. Promoting Local Government Jobs and Careers
Building on its efforts in 2006, LGAT has coordinated Local Government representation at various career events around the State.

On 13-14 July it coordinated the Local Government stand at the 2007 National Careers and Employment Expo, held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre. This annual event attracts an attendance of about 4,000 school students and general public.

The Local Government stand attracted strong interest. This year, however, there was less support for the event from our industry body partners and councils. Indeed it proved difficult to attract volunteers and any assistance with the event organization. Nevertheless, those officers and industry body members who did help on the day were enthusiastic and supportive and this again underlines the importance of having people available who can provide first hand advice on the work that they do. Given the apparent decline in interest from industry bodies; the fact that coordinating the event is extremely time consuming and resource intensive; and the difficulty of measuring the effectiveness of such activities in attracting new workers into Local Government, the Association will review its future involvement in this event. To this end it will convene a meeting of the Skills and Training Working Group in September to canvass the issue.

The Association also participated in career events at Elizabeth and Rosny Colleges (the latter with support from Clarence Council) and the President is coordinating involvement in an event in Burnie. It is encouraging to note that individual councils are becoming more engaged in promoting Local Government careers in schools within their own communities and the Association has received a number of requests to provide promotional material for this purpose. This has certainly been a positive outcome of the Association’s careers project and one it is keen to foster, given engagement at the local community level often provides a more effective and meaningful avenue of communicating career opportunities to students.

GMC may be interested to know that the Local Government Association of South Australia has recently sought permission to use material from the LGAT Council Careers information kit for its own purposes. This is the second association to make use of our resource.

2. Local Government Training Package
As previously advised, TAFE Tasmania is now offering a new range of qualifications from the Local Government Training Package in the areas of health and environment, planning and regulatory services. There was some resistance from the Australian Institute of Environmental Health and the Department of Health and Human Services to delivery of the health and environment qualifications but following negotiations between TAFE and LGAT, there is now agreement to deliver these. The major impediment to take up of these qualifications, however, is likely to stem from the fact that TAFE has not been allocated sufficient resources (subsidised teaching hours) to deliver these and as matters stand they would need to deliver them either on a commercial basis or through contracted training arrangements that apply to apprentices and
trainees. The former option is expensive and the latter option is fairly restrictive applying only to new employees or those who have no pre-existing qualification (or a qualification gained more than 7 years ago). This option would exclude existing workers with some qualifications gained recently who wish to upgrade their skills and the Association is having discussions with the Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training to see how this can be addressed.

3. Environmental Health Training
The Association has been advised that the University of Tasmania has given approval for the delivery of a Bachelor of Environmental Health, commencing in 2008 at the Launceston Campus. While not officially confirmed, it is expected that the Advanced Diploma in Environmental Health, currently delivered through TAFE, will take no further enrolments and will be taught out over the next 3 years.

As from 2010, in line with a decision made by the Director of Public Health, the minimum qualification for an environmental health officer in Tasmania will be a degree, although current practitioners holding lesser qualifications and those who will graduate from TAFE over the next 3 years, will continue to be recognised.

While these developments are strongly supported by sections of the profession, particularly the Australian Institute of Environmental Health, not all stakeholders are satisfied that the proposed new arrangements will deliver the best outcomes in environmental health training for the state and particularly for Local Government. There is quite broad concern, reflected in recent press coverage, that reliance on the degree qualification alone will not necessarily address the skill shortages within the profession, which are likely to be magnified as the current cohort of ‘baby boomers’ retire from the workforce over the next 5-10 years. There is a view that it would be preferable for the longer-term sustainability of the environmental workforce for a high level vocational course (Diploma or Advanced Diploma) to continue to operate in tandem with the degree to cater for the very distinct differences in demographics between these two student bodies (TAFE tends to attract mature age students and often with pre-existing qualifications, while the University is increasingly attracting mainly school-leavers) and employer needs. The University has actively campaigned against this option on the basis that the market will not sustain both forms of training. The major concern here is that should the degree not prove sustainable and the University discontinues it, the State will be left without any adequate environmental health training. This should be of concern to Local Government. Research conducted by the Association in 2006 indicated that a number of mainland degree programs were having difficulty in attracting sufficient student numbers and some have now folded. Some states are beginning to implement Diploma programs in order to address skill shortages eg Queensland and Victoria, and indeed, some interstate students are currently studying the Advanced Diploma offered through TAFE Tasmania. It seems ironic therefore that as other jurisdictions are seeking to build appropriate vocational training structures Tasmania is dismantling the ones it has in place.

It is also unclear how the cadetship program, which has historically been the major means of recruiting into the profession, will continue to operate in conjunction with the degree.

4. Cadetship Pathways
On the matter of cadetships, OPCET has recently written to the Association advising it intends to focus on cadetship pathways as there is an identified increasing need for workers with higher level vocational education and training skills (Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas). These pathways would involve a combination of work and training using TAFE based programs. The Association has been invited to participate in targeted stakeholder discussion to explore options and arrangements that might best suit industry needs. In light of the issues outlined above in relation to environmental health training this approach is certainly timely from Local Government’s perspective.
Budget Implications
Costs associated with career promotion events have been met from the Association’s budget allocation, with contributions from industry bodies where appropriate.

Current Policy
One of the Association’s governance policy objectives is to maximise awareness within the community of Local Government’s role. It was also specifically requested, through a 2004 General Meeting motion, to address skills shortages in certain Local Government professions.

3.4 SUBJECT: ALGA ELECTION STRATEGY

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Mike Downie

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
ALGA is currently developing an election strategy for the forthcoming 2007 Federal Election. This was being treated as a matter of urgency, however, as it appears unlikely that an election will be called in the very short term, more time is being taken to develop the strategy.

A preliminary draft has been circulated to state associations. The draft is now being reworked for consideration by the ALGA Executive, prior to the final draft being considered by the full Board on 22 August.

The following is an outline of the draft strategy:
- An overview of Local Government
- The Challenge of Financial Sustainability
- ALGA’s Top 10 Election Priorities
  - A Fair Share for Local Communities
  - Permanent Roads to Recovery
  - Community Infrastructure
  - Asset Management
  - Cost Shifting and Partnerships
  - Formal Recognition
  - Climate Change
  - Water
  - Sustainable Communities
  - Broadband
- The Broader needs of Local Communities – briefly dealing with other priorities for Local Government

The Board will also consider how the document will be launched and used. It is anticipated that meetings will be set up with all leaders to present the document. It will be forwarded to state associations for distribution and lobbying with local candidates.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.5 SUBJECT: GROUP PURCHASING *

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Barry Easther

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
As part of the continuing expansion of the CouncilConnect web portal, linkages have been developed with the Department of Justice through the development of an online service for locating Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Declaration. This service will be wholly managed by the Department of Justice with CouncilConnect acting as a consumer of this information. It is anticipated that the service will be fully operational in September of 2007.

In March of 2006, the LGAT undertook a pilot study of online tendering technology. This pilot study revealed that significant organisational savings could be realised by councils implementing or utilising this technology. Throughout 2006, further investigation was undertaken through the National Purchasing Network into the issues of state associations that have already implemented this technology. In July 2007 the LGAT let a Request for Tender (RFT LGAT200701) to test the market for products that are ready for use. This tender used an evaluation committee made up of council representatives from four Tasmanian Councils. TenderLink P/L has been invited to negotiate a final contract that can be accessed by all Tasmanian Councils on an opt-in basis. The Head of Agreement should be available for Tasmanian Councils by the end of August 2007.

LGAT has undertaken a study into the viability and feasibility of offering group purchasing services to Tasmanian Councils. This study has involved an investigation into the group purchasing activities already in place in other state associations through the National Purchasing Network and through statistical data gathered through the Australian Bureau of Statistics and a survey conducted by the LGAT to assess the purchasing habits of Tasmanian Councils, to date 20 councils have responded to this survey. The outcome of this research will be the production of two documents: a Feasibility Report and a Business Case report. These documents will provide an analysis on the best way forward towards achieving higher savings and efficiency through group purchasing.

The results of the survey indicate that, as a sector Tasmania conducts an average of 278 tenders per annum amounting to a spend of approximately $44M compared with a total average spend of approximately $117M, the Purchasing Survey Results Excel Spreadsheet is at Attachment to Item 3.5

It is within the area of tendered goods and services that LGAT believes that significant savings and efficiencies can be derived through group purchasing activities.

3.6 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

That the Committee note the following Local Government Representative appointments.

Noted

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Elected Member/Officer</th>
<th>Coordinating Agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Committee For Dam Construction</td>
<td>Mr Bruce Cole</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>DPIW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Welfare Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Mrs Kym Curran</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>DPIW</td>
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4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Mike Downie

That the profit and loss report to 6 August 2007 be received.

Carried

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of the Profit And Loss Report to 6 August 2007.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 SUBJECT: CASH FLOW STATEMENTS *

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of April and May 2007.

Carried

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.
### 4.3 SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT OPTIONS

**Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Barry Easther**

That the Committee note the intention to meet with the Commonwealth Bank to consider initial proposals on investment options for the current building “reserve” funds.

Carried

**Background**

The Committee will recall that following the sale of the building at 34 Patrick Street to Quill Consulting, it was determined that the proceeds and interest earned be set aside in a reserve to meet the cost of any future building purchase should that be deemed appropriate.

These funds are presently invested with the Commonwealth Bank on a recurring short-term medium yield product. Discussions have been held with the Association’s client manager and a meeting is scheduled next week to discuss the range of options available within that institution as a starting point for an alternative investment strategy. The Investment Manager is based in Melbourne but will be travelling to Hobart.

It has been indicated that the Association would be prepared to look at differing risk profiles and higher return products but would require some detail and analysis prior to making any commitment with the current provider. While not limited to the Commonwealth Bank for investment advice it was considered prudent and ethical to invite it to provide some initial proposals.

It is hoped to be able to provide a verbal update at the meeting.

**Budget Implications**

It is considered that other options with relatively low risk and higher returns may be available to the association in the context of investment strategies.

**Current Policy**

The current policy of the Association is to preserve the building sale proceeds for the purposes of the future purchase of accommodation should it become desirable.
4.4 SUBJECT: LGAT ASSIST INTEREST RATES 2007/08

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the Committee endorse the resolution of the LGAT Assist Board that the annual percentage interest rates for General Purpose Loans and Special Assistance Loans be set at 7.6%.

Carried

Background
Under the Loans Policy the LGAT Assist Board set the interest rate for loans annually. The policy reads –

“Section 1.8 Interest Rate
The reference interest rate is the Statutory Fringe Benefits Tax Interest Rate. This will be set annually at the first GMC meeting after the LGAT Annual Conference. The loan rates will be set by the Board from time to time to reflect market conditions provided the rate is not less than the “reference interest rate”. The loan rates will be offered on the basis of them being per annum, compounding daily on the reducing balance with interest being applied at the end of the month on a retrospective basis. The loan rates, as set, will be published in the first LGAT newsletter after any amendment”.

The reference interest rate for the fund is the Statutory Fringe Benefits Tax interest rate. The Australian Tax Office have set the benchmark interest rate for the fringe benefits tax for 2007/2008 to 7.55 per cent.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
As above.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 SUBJECT: LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Jock Campbell

That the Committee note that the Association has exercised its option for continuation of the current lease for a three year term with an option of an extension for a further two years.

Carried

Background

It was previously reported to the Committee that despite significant effort it has not been possible to identify alternative premises for purchase by the Association to accommodate its operations.

On this basis the present lease with Quill Consulting has been extended for an additional three years with a further two year option on terms consistent with the current lease.

Present rental is $49,700 ex GST per annum with a provision for review each financial year.

Budget Implications

The cost of rental is factored into the annual budget of the Association

Current Policy

The Committee has a position of continuing to assess suitable accommodation for purchase by the Association

5.2 SUBJECT: STAFFING CHANGES

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Barry Easther

That the Committee note the changes to personnel at the Association.

Carried

Background

Karin Baddiley has resigned and accepted a full-time position with the Tasmanian Hop Growers Association. A process to replace Karin is presently underway

Brian Oliver, Technical Policy Manager, has also resigned following an offer of employment by ICS Multimedia. He will finish his tenure at the Association on 17 August 2007. While Brian has largely managed the technology development and interface with councils he has recently undertaken significant analysis of the procurement opportunities available to councils through aggregated purchasing. He has prepared a business case for the future activities of the Association in this area. It is proposed that with Brian’s departure the activities Brian previously fulfilled will be resourced using minimal external support with the major focus of the vacant position taking on a contract management role that will assist councils in procurement savings and efficiencies as well as providing the Association with a modest income stream.
The Committee has previously been advised of the desire of the current Policy Manager to assume a lesser role in the organisation and to reduce her contact hours. An arrangement has now been agreed with Liz that will now see the appointment of a Policy Director who will also assume a deputy role to the Chief Executive Officer. This accords with the Committee’s desire to address the matter of succession planning and continuity of knowledge in the organisation should either of the current senior staff depart the organisation.

Victoria Sales commenced as the Graduate Policy Officer on 30 July 2007. Victoria replaces Harriet Close who was recently appointed to a policy position within the Local Government Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Budget Implications  
There is adequate funding within the Association budget to meet the cost of salaries but the challenges of recruiting suitable personnel with appropriate experience and skills may require further assessment at a later date.

Current Policy  
The Association seeks to achieve an appropriate level of staffing with personnel that have appropriate experience and relevant skills to fulfil the functions of the organisation

| 5.3 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING |
|  |
| Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Barry Easther |
| That the Committee meet on Wednesday 10 October 2007 in Hobart, commencing at 1.00pm. |
| That the Committee note that the President will not be in attendance for the 12 December 2007 GMC Meeting or the PLGC meeting. |

Background:

2007

15 August, Wednesday  General Meeting  Launceston  
3 September  PLGC  Hobart  
10 October,  GMC Meeting  Hobart  
7 November  General Meeting  Launceston  
12 December, Tuesday  GMC Meeting  Launceston  

| 5.4 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE |
|  |
| There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 2.45pm. |