General Management Committee

Minutes

16 December 2009
1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held on Wednesday 16 December 2009 in the Boardroom of the Local Government Association Offices, 34 Patrick Street, Hobart.

The meeting commenced at 11.30am.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Barry Easther  
President
Lord Mayor Rob Valentine  
Hobart City Council
Mayor Kevin Hyland  
West - North West Region
Mayor Albert van Zetten  
Northern Region
Mayor Robert Legge  
Northern Region
Mayor Deirdre Flint  
Southern Region
Mayor Graham Bury  
Southern Region

Mr Allan Garcia  
LGAT
Dr Katrena Stephenson  
LGAT
Ms Christine Agostinelli  
LGAT

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Lynn Laycock  
West - North West Region
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1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Deirdre Flint
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2009, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meeting held 2 October 2009 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

Since the meeting held on 2 October 2009 the President has represented the Association at-

Media       Radio/TV     Water and Sewerage, general issues

Meetings    ALGA Mackay    Roads Congress Mackay
            General Meeting Burnie
            Mayors Workshop Burnie
            Peter Gutwein, MP
            Minister Jim Cox
            Rene Hidding

Forums      Peoples Debate

Events      ABC Feedback Forum,
            Reception, Mr Graeme Beams
            Criteria for Voluntary Merges Workshop
            Opening of the Onstream Launceston Office
1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

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

Resolved

Interface with external bodies
- Quadrant Board Meetings
- CMP Board Meeting
- Hosted Political Leaders’ Debate
- IT Consultant re Association’s online environment
- Shadow Minister for Local Government

Local Government Forums
- ALGA Board Meeting and Roads Congress
- Attendance at Flinders Council candidate workshops
- Mayors’ Workshop
- STCA – information sharing
- Regional Waste Group Forum
- Standards Panel Hearings
- Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government

State Government Meetings
- Tasmanian Planning Commission re Climate Change and Regional Planning
- PLGC Officials’ Meeting
- State Budget Community Consultation Forum
- Black Spot Consultative Council
- Road Route Code Advisory Group
- Womens’ Alliance Meeting
- Heritage Forum
- Asbestos reference group
- LGD – Compulsory Voting Steering Committee
- Local Government Division – regular monthly meetings and various meetings re dog control, financial sustainability of councils, Local Government Board and Stronger Councils project

Media
Fire hazards and removal of vegetation
Condition of Council Roads
Amendments to forest Practices legislation
Water and sewerage charging backflip
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: PLANNING REFORM

That the Committee note the intention to work with the new Tasmanian Planning Commission to establish engagement protocols for the development of and consultation upon planning policy.

Resolved

Background:
Despite the significant differences of opinions and views on planning reforms over the past five years, there has been a strong working relationship with officials within the respective State Government agencies in developing policy proposals and legislative responses to particular areas of need.

Involvement on Steering Committees, participation in working groups and coordinating focus and reference groups to understand the practical implications of implementation of reforms have been significant tasks over the recent years and while the outcomes have not always been what Local Government wanted or expected, the capacity to lobby and be involved has resulted in far better outcomes than may otherwise have been achieved.

With the establishment of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) and the transfer of staff from the Land Use Planning Section of the Department of Justice to the new organisation, there is now a disconnect in terms of processes for consultation. The TPC considers itself an independent body and has its own set of consultative arrangements that don’t necessarily meet the expectations of the Association or need to adhere to the Communication and Consultation Partnership Agreement with the State Government.

The TPC has the ability to simply develop policy positions and place them in the public arena via a Planning Directive and seek public (and council) input without any preliminary discussions or understanding of what implications there may be for councils in terms of implementation, resourcing or interpretation. Discussions have taken place with Greg Allomes, the Executive Director of the TPC, with a view to establishing some engagement protocols that meet the broad requirements of Local Government in being able to have early warning and understanding of pending policy developments and legislative changes. It is not clear at this time as to whether the timeframes that will be achieved within these protocol negotiations will meet with our expectations but it is anticipated that some rigorous debate will occur.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

Background
Further to the report at the November General Meeting on the Australian Government’s $25million Local Government Reform Fund.

Six projects were jointly submitted by the State Government and LGAT.

The agreed priority project was developed by LGAT to build upon the Association’s proactive work in the areas of financial sustainability. Specifically, it is based on the recommendations of the recently completed consultancy on Long Term Financial and Asset Management Planning undertaken by IPWEA/Jeff Roorda and Associations (and the 2007 Access Economics work).

This project, Implementing Frameworks for Long Term Financial and Asset Management Planning for all Tasmanian Councils, is considered to have significant merit for all councils in the state and will ensure that Tasmanian councils progress rapidly towards meeting fundamental requirements under the National Frameworks.

The project aims are:

− To improve the ability of Tasmania councils to plan and manage assets effectively and deliver value for money to their communities.
− To improve the ability of councils to clearly identify issues which may affect their long-term sustainability.
− To ensure that all Tasmania councils have achieved a minimum best practice standard in relation to strategic asset management and long-term financial planning.

Key outputs would include:
1. Agreed sustainability indicators for reporting by all Tasmanian councils.
2. State Asset Management Policy.
3. Guidelines and resources for developing asset management strategy and plans and defining levels of service.
4. An understanding of core asset management maturity across all councils.
5. An agreed long-term financial plan template.
6. Asset management plans for core asset classes in place in all councils.
7. Long-term financial plans in place in all councils.
8. Regional leadership, information sharing and communication networks.
9. Communications strategy.
10. Training resources for elected members.
Other projects supported, as all being capable of delivering improved outcomes for councils at either the regional, sub-regional or statewide level, were:

- Climate Change Office – Assisting Tasmanian councils to adapt to a future climate.
- STCA - Regional Climate Change Collaboration Initiative.
- Cradle Coast Authority – Cradle Coast Regional Shared Services.

**Budget Implications**
The Association will make some in-kind contributions if the application is successful.

**Current Policy**
This is a priority for the Premier’s Local Government Council as indicated in the 2010 work plan.

### 2.3 SUBJECT: ELECTRICITY CONTESTABILITY – NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS

**Resolved**

**Background**
Electricity competition is progressively being introduced to Tasmania as part of the State’s entry into the National Electricity Market. Councils whose electricity usage is more than 150 Mega Watt Hours (MWh) per year, which roughly equates to an annual electricity bill of around $25,000, are eligible to choose their electricity retailer. Councils that fall into this category will have received a letter from Aurora Energy in September 2008 advising that their business is contestable. A number of larger councils will have been through this process some time ago.

Councils have been advised by Aurora Energy that they are contestable and need to negotiate a price and service package for their electricity supply from a licensed electricity retailer operating in Tasmania. Councils have until 30 June 2010 to choose how to purchase electricity, from one of three options:

- stay with Aurora Energy by entering into a retail contract;
- enter into a retail contract with another licensed retailer; or
- purchase electricity through the wholesale market.

If one of the above options is not selected, then you will move onto a fallback contract.

A fallback contract is not a safety net or default tariff. The significant difference between current prices under a regulated tariff and prices under a fallback contract relates to the ‘energy’ component. Under the regulated tariff, the energy component is priced at around $68 per MWh. Under a fallback contract, the energy price is the spot price in the wholesale energy market which can be quite volatile and at times reach $10 000 per MWh.
Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Local Government contracts over $100,000 are required to be put to tender under section 333A. A number of Councils have engaged Energy Consultants to negotiate with the retailer on their behalf and guide the tender process. This process, and obtaining legal advice on the contract, obviously has cost implications.

LGAT has received feedback from members that the costs of legal advice and engaging an energy consultant may be prohibitive for some Councils. Consequently, LGAT is currently working with Goanna Energy Consulting and Simmons Wolfhagen Solicitors to determine whether a workshop covering questions and answers about the electricity contract negotiation process, the tender process and contract details can be delivered for members.

The State Government announced on 1 December 2009 that it had decided to further extend electricity retail competition to consumers using $10,000 of electricity annually, from January 1, 2011.

It is recommended that affected councils do not leave decisions about purchasing electricity to the last moment. The purchase of electricity is not an insignificant item of expenditure and market contracts should be carefully examined.

**Current Policy**
LGAT is a member of the Consumer Advocacy Panel Steering Committee on electricity contestability and will continue to inform members with relevant updates.

### 2.4 SUBJECT: CREATION OF A METROPOLITAN GROUP WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION

**Mayor Albert van Zetten/ Mayor Robert Legge**

That the Association notes and acknowledges the merits of large (and/or small) councils working together on particular issues and should encourage those relationships and alliances to the fullest extent possible. However, GMC is of the view that these matters are likely to be issues based and councils should pursue these alliances in their own right.

The Committee considered that a structural response to this was unnecessary but that where the Association could assist/facilitate with lobbying or research capability, it would endeavour to support such activities.

**Carried**

**Background**

Earlier this year the General Manager of Hobart City Council wrote proposing the formation of a grouping within the Association that could meet on a formal and regular basis to address and to further issues impacting on cities and large metropolitan councils.

On receiving the initial correspondence several discussions took place with the General Manager to ascertain the types of issues that such a group would pursue and any reservations that existed in relation to pursuit of these matters through the current processes available. It is understood that Hobart City Council considered this matter further and responded indicating that it was of the view that there should be a greater voice for larger councils in the state than is currently provided through the LGAT format and that an alternative grouping within the LGAT framework should be considered and canvassed.
Council has requested that other cities and large metropolitan councils be approached to consider the merits and obtain their views of such an approach. Prior to proceeding down this path, it is considered appropriate that the matter be discussed by the General Management Committee.

**Budget Implications**

No funding is envisaged in relation to investigating the support/necessity of such a structure but there could be resourcing and funding implications associated with supporting additional structures and advocacy roles if the Association’s role was broadened.

**Current Policy**

The Rules are silent on the establishment of any such structure but do not preclude the consideration of any particular structures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.5 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That Committee members note the intent of this session and contemplate any matters they consider worth raising.</td>
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</table>

**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: MAYORS’ WORKSHOP

That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

Background
Twenty mayors attended the Mayors’ Workshop, held on 19 November at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre.

The day’s agenda included discussion on Local Government reform and sustainable communities, compulsory voting, constitutional reform and the role of Local Government in the agriculture industry. Warren Jones, Director of the Environment Protection Authority at DPIPWE, gave a presentation on the Waste Management Strategy and the Waste Advisory Committee.

A presentation on the new planning legislation was given by Greg Alomes, Chairperson of Tasmanian Planning Commission. Greg is also keen to give a presentation on the planning legislation at the next General Meeting.

Resource sharing was the focus of the afternoon’s round table discussion and details of resource sharing activities currently being undertaken by Tasmanian councils have been sought from all mayors, for collation and dissemination to all councils.

Budget Impact
The Mayors’ Workshop is run on a cost recovery basis.

3.2 SUBJECT: THE PEOPLES DEBATE

That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

Background
Further to the report at the November General Meeting, the People’s Debate was held on 1 December 2009 and was attended by a number of LGAT staff and others from the Local Government Sector.

The People’s Debate was organised by TasCOSS and provided a no cost opportunity for the public to hear the state leaders of the three major political parties on a range of issues.

The Association was approached to participate in the forum and agreed to join with TasCoss, the Tourism Council, the Property Council, Unions Tasmania, the Environment Centre and the Australian Medical Association to conduct the forum. LGAT had 75 tickets to distribute to interested councillors and council staff.
The forum was facilitated by Airlie Ward of ABC’s Stateline and comprised 4 sections. In the first the leaders were asked to respond to the statement “It is 2014 and you have been in Government for four years, what have you done to make Tasmania better?”.

In the second section, each leader was asked to provide a 60 second response to a series of ten questions which covered

1.) Tasmanian governance structures
2.) Minority-majority Government
3.) Forestry
4.) The Tasmanian brand
5.) Job creation
6.) Workforce participation
7.) Rising cost of living
8.) Health services in Tasmania.
9.) Education
10.) Climate change

In response to Aboriginal protesters, a further question was asked on reconciling differences related to the Brighton By-Pass project.

As sponsors, LGAT put forward questions, as did members of the public and these were consolidated into the issues themes rather than put directly.

The question of direct relevance to Local Government was the first on governance, which asked “Do you believe there should be rationalisation of the number of Councils in Tasmania and an increase in the number of parliamentarians?”

The Premier indicated that he believed that there needed to be a reduction in the number of councils but through strategic analysis and voluntary mergers, that there would be no forced amalgamations. The Green’s leader stated similar. The Liberal leader ran short of time but indicated that they would use an independent enquiry process for parliamentary and Local Government reform and that they would not force amalgamations.

The third section of the debate focussed on how, if in Government, each leader would ensure a ‘balancing of the books’, ie they were asked to describe their capacity to meet the different needs of the community in terms of tax relief, investment in infrastructure and service delivery.

The fourth and final section allowed each Leader to ask a question of the other two and was disappointing in that they all focussed on how each other would react if there were a hung parliament and did not engage further on each other’s broader policies.

**Budget Implications**
The Association made a minor contribution to the cost of hiring facilities and equipment for the forum.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
3.3 SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

Background
The Australian Government has contributed $8 million in funding for the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) to enhance professionalism and showcase innovation and best practice in the Local Government sector.

A consortium led by the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) was selected to establish the centre following a competitive process. The consortium partners are the University of Canberra, the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, Local Government Managers Australia and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Limited. Program partners include the Australian National University, Charles Darwin University and Edith Cowan University.

The Association recently met with a representative of the Centre to provide a Tasmanian perspective on matters it considered to be important and have priority within the framework of the Centre’s overall activities. A separate discussion has also taken place informally with the Chairperson of the Board, Margaret Reynolds, who is based in Tasmania and heads up Disability Services Tasmania. She is more than willing to engage with Tasmanian Local Government to ensure a “local” voice on the Board.

Board of Management
Chairperson

The Hon Margaret Reynolds

Members

Professor Attila Brungs
Deputy Vice- Chancellor (Research), UTS

Professor John H Howard
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development), University of Canberra

Mr Peter Allen
Deputy Dean, Australia and New Zealand School of Government

Ms Penny Holloway
Local Government Managers Australia

Mr John Truman
National President, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Limited

Cr Geoff Lake
President, Australian Local Government Association

Ms Stephanie Foster
Deputy Secretary, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

The Centre will:
- build on existing Local Government programs and networks;
- encourage innovation and best practice across Local Government;
- foster good governance and strategic leadership;
- support action to improve Local Government workforce capability to address skill shortages and attract and retain skilled staff;
- promote new and improved training and development programs; and
- stimulate and inform debate on key issues for Local Government in coming decades.

Activities will be grouped in six program areas:
- Research and policy foresight
- Innovation and best practice
- Governance and strategic leadership
- Organisation capacity building
- Rural, remote and Indigenous Australia
- Workforce development.

Some activities will commence almost immediately, with the Centre expected to be fully operational by early 2010.

The inaugural Board meeting approved the appointment of Professor Graham Sansom, the current Director of the UTS Centre for Local Government, as the Director of ACELG.

It also authorised an extensive consultation process to finalise the Centre's Project Plan for the next 3-5 years. This began with a roundtable discussion with members of the Australian Council of Local Government in Darwin on 9 October.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
The Association supported the funding by the Australian Government of this Centre and lobbied strongly to ensure that it was not a single location facility and that broad inputs and deliverables were achievable.

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**3.4 SUBJECT : NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS & TRANSPORT CONGRESS 2009**

| That the Committee note the conduct of the recent Roads Congress in Mackay and the outcomes from the forum. |
| Resolved |

**Background**
The National Roads Congress was initially established to bring road funding to the forefront of thinking of Local Government for a consolidated approach to the Australian Government for assistance. Out of this forum came the inaugural Roads to Recovery package which has continued to be funded ever since.

Ten years on and the message remains constant – more funding for roads. In recent times there has been some effort to broaden the agenda to address public transport, congestion and the increasing freight task but there is significant push back from the bulk of attendees who desire a singular focus and increased pressure on the Australian Government to make Roads to Recovery a permanent fixture rather than a rolling (and uncertain) five year program.

The overall format of the Congress was well developed although it has to be said that the political input was light in terms of commitment and focused more on blame and finger pointing. The former Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, was the most entertaining of speakers recounting the events leading up to the announcement of R2R and the challenges that councils continue to face.

Some of the cooperative approaches being pursued in particular jurisdictions were interesting and reinforced much which was covered off at our State Forum earlier this year. The workshop
series was informative, although the mantra of the need for more money and more money echoed throughout proceedings.

The Congress Communiqué was an interesting exercise in itself with conference organisers attempting to capture the broad sentiments and “policy” positions espoused through the proceedings. This resulted in a 50 point document which had as a foundation some well documented positions of councils and built up with inputs developed over the two days. Significant debate and tinkering resulted but a final document was agreed and will form the basis of future deliberations by the Roads and transport Advisory Committee of ALGA in developing national positions and strategies to pursue on behalf of Local Government across the country.

ALGA has a policy of conducting one Board Meeting outside of Canberra each year and it has been determined that given that several Board members attend the Roads Congress that this provides the opportunity to conduct that “away” meeting and to provide a strong show of support for the Congress. The President, Vice President and CEO of the Association were in attendance at Mackay. Only three other participants from Tasmania were in attendance. Next year’s Congress is to be held in Bunbury, Western Australia in October.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.

### 3.5 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/ Officer</th>
<th>Coordinating Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Management Council</td>
<td>Dr Stephen Bresnehan</td>
<td>Officer, Hobart City Council</td>
<td>DPIPWE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Commission</td>
<td>Rod Sweetnam</td>
<td>Officer, Launceston City Council</td>
<td>Police and Emergency Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clr Carmel Torenius</td>
<td>Mayor, Sorell Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Review Committee</td>
<td>Lisa Nelson</td>
<td>Officer, Circular Head Council</td>
<td>DPIPWE</td>
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</table>
4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT : PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Mayor Albert van Zetten/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Profit and Loss report to 9 December 2009, be received.

Carried

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of a Profit and Loss Report to 9 December 2009.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

Mayor Albert van Zetten

4.2 SUBJECT : CASH FLOW STATEMENTS **

Mayor Albert van Zetten/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of September and October 2009.

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: Impact of Land Tax on Association Premises

That the Committee note the significant increase in the cost of land tax payable by the Association this financial year.

Resolved

Background
The lease presently held by the Association for the premises at 34 Patrick Street contains provisions that require the payment of an annual lease charge and to meet the cost of outgoings, including shares of land tax and rates. These are not built into the lease amount.

The recent revaluation in the Hobart Municipality has seen these amounts rise significantly although it is the land tax component that causes the largest impact. The amount payable for land tax in 2007/08 was $2819.70. This compares to the amount for this financial year of $5945.79. While increases for these outgoings are budgeted for each year, this level of increase was unexpected and will have a negative budget impact.

It is intended to seek advice from our accountants to assess whether there may be more tax effective means by which this charge can be accommodated within the leasing arrangements such that the building owner is not penalised but that the outcome could potentially be more financially beneficial for the Association.

Budget Implications
There is a significant cost implication for the Association in meeting the additional land tax cost in this and future financial years.

Current Policy
The payment of land tax is included within the present lease arrangements for the building.
Subject: Disability Discrimination Act – Appeal by Kentish Council

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee approve the meeting of costs of up to $15,000 from Association reserves that may be incurred in supporting the defence of Kentish Council in this case.  

Carried

Background

Kentish Council recently lost a case before the Disability Discrimination Tribunal in relation to a complaint by a former resident regarding certain inaction of council in not undertaking particular works and not enforcing other provisions on local business premises.

In handing down its ruling, the Tribunal acknowledged that council had commenced certain works but found against it awarding $10,000 to the complainant, payable by the council. Counsel for the Kentish Council advised that there were significant matters of law which, in his opinion, warranted an appeal to the Supreme Court. Further, he believed that if left unchallenged the decision could establish a precedent that could have far reaching implications for councils across the state.

Kentish Council was given the opportunity at the General Meeting held on 18 November 2009, to address member councils on the subject and it was agreed that relevant documentation should be circulated to all councils for consideration as the perceived seriousness of the matter and the merits of financial assistance being provided to support Kentish Council in the appeal. At the General Meeting it was highlighted that while the Association was in a position to make a contribution, there was no funding in the budget set aside for this purpose and any funds would need to come from reserves. It was also pointed out that of itself, this offer did not constitute a precedent for the Association to fund all or other future legal proceedings.

The responses from councils were overwhelmingly in support for providing funding assistance to Kentish to enable the case to be defended. While some councils were willing to make a financial contribution themselves, this was not the position of all councils. It is therefore proposed that funding of up to $15,000 be provided from reserves to assist Kentish Council with this matter.

Budget Implications

Up to $15,000 from reserves.

Current Policy

All councils should have in place strategies and action plans to address any deficiencies in complying with the provisions of the DDA.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 SUBJECT: STAFFING

That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

Background
Georgia Palmer commenced as a Senior Policy Officer at LGAT on 25 November 2009. Georgia replaces Sue Bronstein and will, in the immediate term, be responsible for the waste, emergency management and telecommunications portfolios as well as acting as Registrar for the Standards Panel. Georgia has previously worked in policy positions in Tasmania and Victoria in the areas of workforce development, industry and regional development, and justice.

Budget Implications
Within current budget.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

5.2 SUBJECT: QUADRANT SUPERANNUATION – APPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYER DIRECTORS *

Mayor Albert van Zetten/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the three persons to be appointed as employer directors for a two year term commencing on 1 March 2010 be Mr Brent Armstrong, Mrs Norma Lynn Mason and Mr Allan Garcia.

Carried

Background
The Board of Quadrant Superannuation recently determined that it would reduce its number of directors from the existing ten down to seven.

The present Board comprises four employer directors, four employee directors and two independent directors. The new structure will see a reduction by one in each of these categories resulting in three employer directors, three employee directors and one independent director.

The Employee Director election is presently taking place with results expected to be known on 9 December 2009. The independent director will be appointed by the employer and employee directors once these appointments have been finalised. The Chair of the Board is selected by the directors of the Board and can be from either category of directors.

The employee directors are being appointed for a four year term, while the employer directors will be appointed for an initial two year term. The intent here is to stagger appointments to allow for continuity and knowledge retention. This decision was taken following recommendations from a review recently conducted by APRA. Employer director appointments will revert to four year terms beyond the initial two year appointment.
The General Management Committee of the Association remains the proxy for employers in the appointment of employer directors. While Quadrant Superannuation has extended its employer base well beyond the Local Government sector, it remains the predominant employer base for the fund at this time. In the event that the profile changed considerably in the future, other appointment regimes may need to be considered.

At Attachment to Item 5.2 the Chief Executive Officer has included a covering letter providing further context and curriculum vitae and, covering letters have also been provided by the existing Employer Directors for consideration.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

The Rules of the Association provide for the GMC selecting Employer Directors of Quadrant Superannuation.

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### 5.3 SUBJECT: CHANGE TO AGM/CONFERENCE DATES

**Resolved**

**That the Committee endorse a motion being presented to the next Annual General Meeting of the Association that would seek to move the Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting to early in the financial year rather than conducting them at the end of the financial year.**

**Background**

According to the Rules of the Association, the Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held, if possible, in the last week in May or the first week of June each year. While this has varied in past years due to availability of venues and clashes with other events, the timing has mostly been able to be achieved within reasonable parameters.

An issue arising in recent times is the encroachment of two major national Local Government Conferences, the timing of which are likely to have ongoing consequences and implications for our State conference. In 2007, the ALGA determined that it would shift its General Assembly from November to June due to the clashes with elections in a number of jurisdictions. While each state put forward their preferred timing of the year, the General Assembly seeks to coincide with Federal Parliamentary Sitting times and June is an absolute in that regard. The second Conference that impacts is the National LGMA Conference. This is usually held in mid May and while it does not directly clash, the attendance of many General Managers and Divisional Managers, as well as Elected Members, has the capacity to significantly impact on LGAT Conference attendance as well as sponsorship.

The Annual General meeting has traditionally been held in conjunction with the Annual Conference and is preceded by a General Meeting. The General Meeting has been the traditional meeting at which member councils bring large numbers of motions and set the scene for policy debate and the development of positions on particular matters that are either adopted on the floor or progressed at a later stage through the establishment of an appropriate process. The General Meeting adds colour to the Conference proceedings, although they are separate, and provides the impetus for the media to get involved and better understand Local Government issues and positions.
In light of the “blockage” in the May/June period and the implications of end of financial year, it is felt that consideration should be given to moving the LGAT Conference to late July. While the AGM does not necessarily need to be held in conjunction with the Conference, for the reasons outlined above, there is significant merit in retaining them on block. The shift in timing would ensure that there were not clashes with other major conferences, that the end of financial year rush was avoided and sponsorship opportunities may be enhanced by being early in the financial year rather than at the end of the cycle.

The implications of shifting the AGM are minimal save for the fact that in a transitional financial year there would not be an AGM per se. Any significant shift in the date would require an amendment to the Rules but in light of the reasons outlined, this measure is considered worthy of further review. If GMC was of a view that this motion should be tested at the next AGM with a view to amending the rules to allow for a July 2011 Conference and AGM, the Association would undertake detailed consultation over the next few months to ensure that councils were cognizant of the issues and the reasons for consideration of the change.

**Budget Implications**

It is considered that shifting the Annual Conference to July would likely increase attendance and possibly improve opportunities for sponsorship.

**Current Policy**

An amendment to LGAT Rules would be required to move the date of the AGM.
5.4 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

That the Committee meet on Wednesday 10 March 2010 in Hobart.

Resolved

A list of the meeting dates for 2009 is detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 December</td>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>Association Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLGC</td>
<td>Executive Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Premier’s Cocktail Function</td>
<td>Reception Room, 15 Murray St</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 – 14 May</td>
<td>LGAT Annual Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mayors Workshop</td>
<td>Northwest Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 December</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.5 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 1.15pm.