1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held at Zeps Meeting Rooms, 92-94 High Street, Campbell Town on Wednesday 18 April 2007 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Allan Garcia
Mrs Liz Gillam
Ms Christine Agostinelli

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Index

1. NOTICE OF MEETING.................................................................2
1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *........................................4
1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *.......................................................4
1.3 SUBJECT: PRESIDENT’S REPORT.......................................................4
1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT MARCH 2007 – APRIL 2007........5
2. POLICY .................................................................................6
   Policy Items for Discussion & Decision...........................................6
   2.1 SUBJECT: STATE GOVERNMENT POSITIVE AGING PLAN.................................6
   2.2 SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD ........................................7
   2.3 SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT .........................................................9
   2.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY ...............................................10
   2.5 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION.............................................11
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES.........................................................12
   Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision..........................12
   3.1 SUBJECT: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE COUNCIL ........................................12
   3.2 SUBJECT: SKILLS SHORTAGES ..........................................................12
   3.3 SUBJECT: PROMOTING COUNCIL CAREERS **.............................................15
   3.4 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE ..........................16
   3.5 SUBJECT: ELECTED MEMBERS WORKSHOP UPDATES ............................17
   3.6 SUBJECT: KOREAN DELEGATION ..........................................................18
   3.7 SUBJECT: TIMBER TOWNS * .......................................................................19
   3.8 SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE ...............................................................20
   3.9 SUBJECT: NRM UPDATE ......................................................................21
   3.10 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS * .........22
   3.11 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ...............................22
4. FINANCES ..............................................................................23
   Financial Items for Discussion & Decision........................................23
   4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT * .................................................23
   4.2 SUBJECT: CASH FLOW STATEMENTS * ...............................................23
   4.3 SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BUDGET 2007/08 * .............24
   4.4 SUBJECT: OFFICE SPACE LEASE RENEWAL ..........................................25
5. ADMINISTRATION ....................................................................26
   Administration Items for Discussion & Decision..................................26
   5.1 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING ......................................................26
   5.2 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE................................................26

* Denotes Attachment
1.1 SUBJECT:  CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Minutes of the meeting held 7 March 2007, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meeting held 7 March 2007 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 SUBJECT:  BUSINESS ARISING *

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

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 7 March were as follows -

Sustainability

Workshops
Launceston - March 8
Campbell Town – March 15
Press release - Hobart 21 March

Funeral
Alderman Jan Blizzard, Burnie City Council

Meetings
Demographic Advisory Task Force
Quintin Davenport (Inline water saver)
Local Government Review Board

Presentations
West Tamar Council
Latrobe Council
Circular Head
University Careers Session

Conferences
Commonwealth Local Government – New Zealand

Writings
Newsletter March 16, March 30, April 13
Magazine Local Government Focus
LGAT News
Government News
1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT MARCH 2007 – APRIL 2007

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Robert Legge

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

Carried

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

Interface with External Bodies
- Attendance at Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Auckland
- Participation in Island Insight – 10 days on the island
- University of Tasmania Careers Information Session
- Australia Post - Postal Services Consultative Council - Melbourne

Local Government Forums
- Waste Management Forum – all regional reps
- PLGC Meeting and Officials Meeting
- CMP Insurance Meeting
- IT workshops for elected members
- Waste Reference Group
- Sustainability Workshop – Campbell Town

State Government Meetings
- Local Government Office – Review of Local Government Board
- PLGC Officials Meeting
- Crime Prevention Committee
- PAL Steering Committee
- DTAE – Resource Recovery Steering Committee
- Tripartite Agreement signing and Steering Committee meeting
- Demographic Change Advisory Council
- Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources – Presentation of Freight Task data set across state and local road networks
- Director of Local Government – general discussions
- DPIW – Climate Change Steering Committee
- Forestry Tasmania – water quality issues

Media
- Financial Sustainability launch
- Examiner – Climate Change
- ABC – Climate Change
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: STATE GOVERNMENT POSITIVE AGING PLAN

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background

LGAT is represented on the Steering Committee by Liz Gillam and a number of Working Groups established also had Local Government representation.

A Discussion Paper was developed which formed the basis for an extensive round of public consultations held between June and August 2005. Many Councils participated in these consultations and a number of Councils assisted in providing venues etc.

Following a hiatus of over twelve months the Steering Committee met on 19 March 2007. A draft ‘Second Five-year Plan’ was approved at the meeting and this will now go to Cabinet for approval prior to being released for public consultation.

The document outlines Tasmanian Government Initiatives to support positive ageing.

In relation to Local Government, the document is not in any way binding on Councils.

Rather it provides examples of present practices of Councils and also draws together suggestions made at the public consultations. It should therefore be another useful tool for Councils as they address the implications of the ageing demographic in developing their Strategic Plans and, where Councils have chosen to do so, their Positive Ageing Plans.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

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

Background
During the review of the Local Government Act 1993 a number of issues relating to the roles, functions and membership of the Local Government Board were raised. It was agreed with the State Government that consideration of these issues should be postponed and considered in more depth at a later date.

In the knowledge that this review was going to take place, the former President established a Working Group to develop a LGAT position in relation to the future of the Local Government Board. A discussion paper on the review process was circulated to all Councils and comments sought.

The LGAT paper questioned the desirability of an ongoing role for the Local Government Board in undertaking general reviews of councils and proposed some potential alternatives for consideration. It formed the basis of LGAT’s submission to the development of the Issues Paper.

On 7 December 2005, the Premier’s Local Government Council endorsed the commencement of a project to review the operations and functions of the Board. On 15 February 2006, the Hon Jim Cox MHA, the then Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government, approved the project’s Terms of Reference and the membership of the Steering Committee to guide the project.

The Terms of Reference for the review are:

(1) **to evaluate the operations and functions of the Local Government Board**;

(2) **to evaluate the effectiveness of the Board in delivering outcomes for Local Government and the community; and**

(3) **to consider and to provide to the Premier, as Minister for Local Government and Community Development:**

- **options for improvement of the Board’s operations and functions; and**
- **details of a range of alternative means by which the Board might deliver outcomes for Local Government and the community.**

*In undertaking this analysis it was determined that the review will have regard to the functions detailed in section 214A of the Local Government Act 1993.*

LGAT was not consulted on the Terms of Reference. Throughout the Review, through its representatives on the Steering Committee and in its submissions, it has sought to ensure that the broader issue of the review and continuous improvement of Councils is considered.
The following persons made up the Steering Committee for the review:

- the Director of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet – Mr Chris Batt (Chair) – now Mr Alistair Scott;
- the Director Partnership Agreements, Department of Premier and Cabinet – Ms Margaret Sing;
- the President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) (or his/her nominee) and another member nominated by the LGAT – Ms Liz Gillam and Mr Andrew Paul;
- a nominee of the Local Government Managers Australia (Tasmania) (LGMA) – Mr Paul West (now Mr Brent Armstrong); and
- Mr David Baulch, former Deputy Auditor-General with the Tasmanian Audit Office.

The Steering Committee met for the first time on 19 May 2006.

In June 2006, key stakeholders were invited to identify issues that should be included in an Issues Paper for broad public consultation. On the basis of these responses, an Issues Paper was prepared, a process that took far longer than was anticipated and needed considerable input from the LGAT and LGMA representatives before it was considered appropriate for its release for public consultation. The Issues Paper was released in mid-November for broad public consultation, with submissions to be received by 9 February.

On the 4 April 2007, the Steering Committee met to consider a proposal prepared by the Local Government Office. President Mike Gaffney and CEO Allan Garcia also attended the workshop.

The proposal suggested ‘an integrated approach to improve the Board’s operations and functions’, with four components – specific reviews; self-audit and performance improvement; regular reporting; performance overviews. There was extensive discussion at the workshop about some of the underlying assumptions, the conclusions drawn from submissions and aspects of the proposal. There was also concern that references to the Financial Sustainability project might blur the distinction between these two projects.

It is not entirely clear how the project will proceed from here and what the timeframe will be. The project plan provides for the development of a draft report which will be released for public consultation, followed by the development of a Final Report to the Government.

However, given the nature of the discussions at the workshop on 4 April, further discussions, and perhaps a further meeting of the Steering Committee, will be required before the draft report can be finalised.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
LGAT representatives on the Local Government Board are not to be serving elected members or currently employed officers.
2.3 SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

Noted

Background
The recently established Local Government Waste Management Reference Group (WMRG), which replaces the now disbanded High Level Oversight Group on Waste, held its second meeting on 14 March 2007 where it discussed a number of issues with the Director of Environmental Management. Details of the most important matters are provided below:

1. Regional Approaches to Waste Management
In accordance with its previous commitment, the Association has provided the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (DTAE) with a report detailing progress in relation to the development of regional waste approaches. The Director accepted the report and it has been agreed that LGAT will provide a final report shortly after 1 July, which is the deadline for the regions to have their frameworks in place.

It was agreed that once the basic frameworks are in place there was a need to gain some agreement between State and Local Government in terms of objectives and outcomes. It was also agreed that the North and North West frameworks would need to incorporate an appropriate mechanism for publicly reporting against agreed objectives and indicators. The regional representatives are referring this to their respective groups.

2. State Waste Management Strategy
The tender process for the consultancy to develop the strategy has been completed and the consultant selected. The recommendations for the final strategy are to be provided to the Minister by 15 June 2007. These will be informed by a series of consultation workshops and the WMRG offered to assist in encouraging broad participation in these forums and in functioning as a reference group through which to ‘reality check’ the consultant’s recommendations.

3. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection System
The WMRG raised with the Director a number of logistical, technical and financial concerns associated with the proposal for a joint State and Local Government pilot HHW project. It was agreed that LGAT would convene a ‘technical reference group,’ to address some of these issues.

The reference group, which comprises representatives from SWSA, 2 councils, LGAT and DTAE, met on 26 March and it was agreed that neither of the options proposed in the original consultant’s report represented good value for money. It was agreed to assess the feasibility of developing a revised proposal based on a more cost effective set of options that build on already existing hazardous waste collection schemes. Any revised proposal would need the approval of the Director of Environmental Management and ultimately the agreement of Local Government.

Other Matters:

Recycling and Composing of Putrescible Waste
At the March meeting of GMC, the Lord Mayor sought some clarification on what measures the State Government had in place to ensure that waste recyclers and composters had access to sufficient amounts of putrescible waste products.
LGAT has had discussions with the Environment Division and advises the following:

The State Government operates a free and confidential waste materials exchange system, which is known as the Tasmanian Waste Exchange (TWEX). The main feature of TWEX is a Waste Exchange Catalogue of ‘available’ and ‘wanted’ waste materials – unwanted waste material of one business may be a raw material for another business. TWEX facilitates the matching of materials to interested parties. Details of TWEX, the way it operates and potential reuses of materials listed in TWEX are currently available on the DPIW website at http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/EGIL-53M7AH?open. It is understood that the TWEX system and website is currently being upgraded and the Environment Division intends to more actively promote its existence in conjunction with a resource recovery project that is being rolled out under the Living Environment Program.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
A number of priority waste issues remain outstanding from the November 2006 report to the Premier’s Local Government Council.

### 2.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY

**Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Robert Legge**

That a Steering Committee, Chaired by President Mike Gaffney, be formed to progress the recommendations and outcomes of the Financial Sustainability Report.

The Committee to comprise a representative for each of the three Tasmania regions, from both the General Management Committee and Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA).

Carried

The three representatives from the General Management Committee will be-

- Mayor Jock Campbell  
  Southern Councils
- Mayor Barry Easther  
  Northern Councils
- Mayor Mike Downie  
  West - North West

The Association to write to the President of LGMA requesting the nomination of three regional representatives.

It is anticipated that feedback will be provided at the General Meeting to be held on 30 May 2007.
2.5 **SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION**

**Review of Cultural Heritage Act**

The CEO advised that the Association has made a request to the State Government for timeframes and processes on the review which will be provided to Councils. The matter has also been listed for discussion at PLGC and a request to accelerate processes will be made.

**Water and Sewerage Review**

A draft Water and Sewerage policy paper was provided to Committee Members for general comment.

A copy of the paper will be forward to all councils, the regional bodies and authorities, requesting their response.

Requests for appointments have been made for the President and CEO to meet with Senator Colebeck and Minister Turnbull to discuss the Local Government position.

The CEO reported that the Council Cost Index for this year had been issued, a copy of the media release is available on the Association’s website.

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine advised the Committee he will be attending the Australasian Mayors for Climate Change Conference to be held in Melbourne.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE COUNCIL

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee note the progress of the work being undertaken by the Council.

Carried

Background
As reported at the last General Meeting the President is now a member of the above council. The Council is chaired by the Treasurer with other representatives including the Ministers for Education and Health, the Presidents of TasCOSS, the TCCI, Unions Tasmania and the LGAT as well as the Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

The second meeting of the Council was conducted on 19 March 2007. The main issue for discussion was the finalisation and release of the Council’s Discussion Paper “Demographic Change in Tasmania: challenges and opportunities”. The paper has been released for public comment with copies forwarded to all councils for consideration.

The Demographic Council has also launched a website detailing its activities. A range of issues are likely to impact on the work of the council including the work being undertaken by the Steering Committee overseeing the Tripartite Agreement on Positive Ageing along with the Clinical Service Plan and the Primary Health Care Plan being prepared by DHHS.

The Council is scheduled to meet again in July 2007.

3.2 SUBJECT: SKILLS SHORTAGES

That the Committee note the following report on LGAT’s progress in addressing skills shortages and other workforce issues in Local Government.

Noted

Background
The Association continues to work with key stakeholders, including State and Federal Government agencies, industry bodies and education/training providers, to identify and implement strategies designed to help Local Government be more competitive in its efforts to attract and retain suitably qualified staff.

The focus of efforts in 2007 will be in the following areas:

- Continuing to promote Local Government careers and jobs through university, school and community career events;
- Promoting appropriate training opportunities to Councils;
- Further examining the role paraprofessionals might play in supporting professional officers in Councils;
- Assisting councils to address mature age workforce issues, including phased-retirement programs;
- Continued participation in national Local Government forums and projects addressing skills shortages and training.
1. Promoting Local Government Jobs and Careers

Building on its efforts in 2006, LGAT, in conjunction with industry bodies and Councils, will again coordinate Local Government representation at various careers events around the State.

In March 2007 the Association coordinated a stand at the University Careers Fair on the Hobart Campus specifically targeting disciplines that have relevance to Local Government, such as planning, engineering, business, management, government, law and environmental studies. It was assisted by representatives of some of the industry bodies and councils, who were available to answer specific questions from students. The event was well attended and the Local Government stand attracted a good deal of interest. In conjunction with this, the LGAT President and Policy Officer conducted an information session in Hobart as part of careers week and the General Manager of Meander Valley Council conducted one in Launceston. More needs to be done to raise the profile of Local Government at the University and to this end the President has written to University Schools whose disciplines are relevant to Local Government offering to provide appropriately focused talks to students.

LGAT will also coordinate a Local Government stand at the 2007 National Careers and Employment Expo to be held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre on 13-14 July. This event attracts an attendance of about 4,000 made up of schools students and general public. Again it will be important to have industry body and council representatives available to provide specific advice.

The Association continues to encourage Councils to utilise the resources developed by LGAT through the Council Careers project (website and information kit) to actively promote themselves within their local communities. The kit is available at www.councilcareers.tas.gov.au. LGAT will also pursue opportunities to further promote the kit in schools and colleges.

The Association recently conducted a survey of strategies and initiatives Councils are undertaking, or have undertaken, within their local communities to promote employment in the Local Government sector. The intention is to compile examples of such activities into a ‘good practice guide’ or checklist that can be distributed to all Councils. To date only a few councils have responded and the President will talk to this item at the meeting.

2. Promoting Training Opportunities to Local Government

During 2006, the Association worked with the Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training (OPCET) and TAFE to identify appropriate training opportunities and approaches for Local Government, including promoting council take-up of the Local Government Training Package. In this context, TAFE conducted a pilot program with particular councils, delivering specific components of the Local Government Training Package, and commencing in 2007 is offering qualifications in health and environment, planning and regulatory services drawn from this package.

These qualifications will be particularly suited to upgrading the skills of existing workers within Councils and providing training opportunities for new entrants into the workforce.

As previously reported, OPCET agreed to develop an information kit for Local Government, as one of the outputs of the 2005 Local Government Industry Forum, hosted through the Tasmanian Learning and Skills Authority Industry Advisory Group. The purpose of the kit is to provide better information on the education and training system, opportunities for upgrading the skills of existing workers and pathways to qualifications and jobs in Local Government. The kit is being finalised and OPCET has advised it will soon be publicly released.

This kit is likely to serve as a model for other industries and Government Skills Australia has previously indicated its interest in adapting and promoting it as a national resource. LGAT will follow this up once the kit has been released.
3. Local Government Para-professionals
During 2006 there were extensive discussions between the Department of Health and Human Services, LGAT, the Australian Institute of Environmental Health and other stakeholders about the potential role environmental health paraprofessionals or technicians might play in supplementing the work of environmental health officers and thus helping to address the current skills shortages within the environmental health profession.

This issue was subsequently taken up by the National Environmental Health Committee (enHealth), which commissioned a national project to examine this initiative. The project was planned to occur in 2 stages, with phase 1 focused on the development of an agreed policy framework regarding the role of technicians and phase 2, which is dependent of the outcomes of phase 1, concentrating on the development of more detailed competencies for the specified areas in which environmental health technicians may be permitted to work in Local Government and other settings.

Phase 1 of the project has been completed and in late 2006 the consultant presented his final report to enHealth, which has accepted the report, with the caveat that the recommendations are not yet accepted or endorsed. Phase 2 will not proceed until these recommendations are accepted.

The report has been circulated for stakeholder comment and while there is broad in-principle support for the concept, there is a general view that a number of issues need to be addressed before progressing any further.

4. Mature Age Workforce Issues
Based on survey data, obtained in 2006 from Council employees approaching retirement age, which indicated a high level of interest in transitional employment, or phased-retirement, arrangements, the Association has conducted further research into the area and will continue, in 2007, to seek to raise Councils’ awareness of some of the potential benefits of phased-retirement.

Specifically, the Association hosted a postgraduate student placement, through the University of Tasmania School of Government Public Sector Internship Program, to conduct research into approaches to phased-retirement in Australia and overseas. The project was completed in late 2006 and it is intended to use the research findings to inform the development of appropriate material to alert Councils to the potential benefits of phased-retirement particularly in providing mentoring for new staff in conjunction with cadetship programs, assisting with knowledge transfer and addressing some aspects of skills shortages.

In February 2007 the LGAT Skills and Training Working Group met with the Australian Services Union to discuss the incorporation of a model phased-retirement clause within EBAs. It should be noted that a number of councils already have incorporated such clauses within their agreements. It was agreed at that meeting that, in the first instance, LGAT would raise issues relating to phased-retirement through its Local Government Human Resource Practitioners’ Group.

5. National Approaches to Skills Shortages in Local Government
In April 2006 Local Government Managers Australia convened a national forum to explore and define skill shortage issues in Local Government. An outcome of the Forum was the formation of a National Skills Shortage Steering Committee, comprising representation from a number of professional bodies aligned with Local Government.

The Steering Committee has now developed a draft National Skills Shortage Strategy for Local Government, which has been circulated to key stakeholders for comment. The strategy proposes several key initiatives to address skill shortages, which it suggests need to be activated in collaboration with the Australian and State Governments. These include the establishment of a virtual centre for excellence that would “showcase promote and develop best practice in local government workplace developments as well as all aspects of good
governance and local government management;” encourage councils to adopt modern employment practices; the establishment of clear career pathways; improved research on council staff training and professional development needs; the development of skilled migration programs; and the marketing of local government as an ‘employer of choice.’

The strategy is expected to be formally launched at the LGMA Annual Congress to be held in Hobart in April 2007.

LGAT has indicated its willingness to collaborate with LGMA on key components of the strategy.

Following a meeting of representatives of State Local Government Association training units and Government Skills Australia (GSA), held in Hobart in October 2006, GSA has now established a National Local Government Industry Forum. This is to comprise representation from State and Territory Local Government employer or employee organisations and its objective is to provide a link between the Local Government industry sector and GSA in relation to matters such as developing and reviewing National Training Packages.

LGAT has accepted an invitation to be represented on the Forum, which will hold its inaugural meeting in Hobart in May 2007 and meet bi-annually thereafter.

Budget Implications
Costs associated with career promotion events are being met from the Association’s budget allocation, with contributions from industry bodies where appropriate. It is anticipated that a small increase in this budget item may be necessary next financial year to accommodate escalating costs associated with promotional material and events.

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 specific Local Government professions.

3.3 SUBJECT: PROMOTING COUNCIL CAREERS **

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
In March 2006 Local Government launched its Council Careers kit – a series of materials and tools to assist councils in promoting careers in Local Government.

In 2007 the Association is investigating ways in which individual councils are promoting council careers with a view to producing a best practice guide for councils. The Association has written to councils requesting information regarding council initiatives that aim to attract and retain Local Government employees, refer Attachment to Item 3.3A.

The results of the survey indicated that the most common initiatives are involvement in local careers fairs, work placements for local high school and college students, cadetships and traineeships. One council indicated that it carries out mock job interviews at the local high school to give students experience and confidence for future interviews.
Most of the initiatives aim to employ young people with a view to retaining young employees into the future. One council, however, indicated that it was discussing superannuation incentives to encourage older employees to participate in transitional employment, and remain in the workplace for longer than they otherwise might.

In August 2006 the Association requested information from councils on behalf of the School Community Engagement Taskforce regarding councils’ engagement with schools for general purposes. Responses varied significantly among councils, refer Attachment to Item 3.3B. In every case, however, council engagement with schools is a means of raising awareness of Local Government among young people. Awareness raising and building positive relationships between councils and schools is one way to promote Local Government careers.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

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### 3.4 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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**Background**

Arrangements are well underway for the staging of the 2007 Local Government Conference to be held at Wrest Point from (30 May – 1 June).

An impressive line-up of plenary speakers and workshop presenters have now been confirmed including:

**Plenary Speakers**

- Prof. Ian Lowe (QLD) – Climate Change
- Pamille Berg (ACT) – Public Art and Council Policy
- Wendy Campana (SA) – Financial Sustainability
- Graeme Orr (Vic) – Leadership & Community Engagement
- Peter Bland (Vic) – Antarctic explorer and survivor

**Workshop Presenters**

- Peter Boyer (Tas) – Addressing Climate Change at a Local Level
- Pamille Berg (ACT) – Developing Effective Public Art Policy
- Andrew Lea (Tas) – Emergency Management
- David Adams (Tas) – Emerging Leaders in Local Government
- Renata Sheehan (Vic) – Solutions for Skills Shortages
- Grant Andrews (WA) – Fleet Management
- John Salisbury & Brian Keech (Vic) – The Challenge of Good Governance

**Note:** GMC members will soon be called upon to act as workshop chairpersons.

The 2007 sponsors are now locked in and the conference will receive approximately $55,000 towards the event from their combined financial contributions. There has been a degree of difficulty in securing sponsorship dollars from some of our regular supporters this year as a result of competition from the LGMA Congress being held in early May. However, a number of new supporters have come onboard which has helped to alleviate the loss of sponsorship dollars.
The Program and Registration form is now available online and copies have been mailed to each council. Delegates are encouraged to register as early as possible and no later than 14 May.

Delegates are required to book their accommodation direct with Wrest Point, and no later than 16 May.

Due to the dinner being held offsite, a shuttle bus service - sponsored by KPMG will provide return transport to the City Hall from Wrest Point.

This year’s conference will also feature a free screening of Al Gore’s film ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ from 5-7pm on Wednesday, 30 May. The film will set the scene for delegates attending the climate change plenary presentation and workshop the following day. Delegates, partners and interested council staff are encouraged to attend.

Participants in this year’s Partners Program will be treated to a day out at Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs, with a quick stop at the Geeveston Forest and Heritage Centre on the way. Numbers for the tour are strictly limited.

**2007 Awards for Excellence**
Nominations are due on 16 April and judging will take place soon after. Southern Cross Television will again be providing coverage of the award finalists and winners. The winners will be announced at the Conference Dinner to be held at the City Hall on 31 May.

**Budget Implications**
The conference is run on a cost recovery basis.

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### 3.5 SUBJECT: ELECTED MEMBERS WORKSHOP UPDATES

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**Securing Your Council’s Future**
The weekend workshop for elected members was held on 3 & 4 March at Bridport Resort.

The weekend featured a range of speakers including:

- Claire Ellis, Tourism Tasmania on the Value of Tourism at a Local Level
- John Howard, Jeff Roorda & Associates on Sustainable Service Delivery
- Cathering Murdoch, NRM on NRM activities
- Becher Townshend, Beyond PR on Effectively Communicating Rates Rises
- Paul West, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Accounting for the Non-accountant
- Allan Garcia, LGAT on Who’s Who in the State Government Zoo?

The level of attendance to the workshop was very pleasing (18 in total) and excellent feedback was received from delegates.
IT Workshops
In March 2007, a series of IT Workshops for elected members with limited computer experience was coordinated through the Quill Consultancy, in response to the demand for such training through an elected member survey conducted in 2006.

Workshops were set up in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart. The Burnie City and Launceston City Councils offered the use of their council chambers and computer facilities, to assist in keeping the cost of the workshop to a minimum. In return for their support, each council was offered one free registration for an elected member. The Hobart workshop was based at the Quill Consultancy.

Due to insufficient registrations for the Burnie workshop (1), the event had to be cancelled. However, both the Launceston and Hobart workshops were well attended, with 10 delegates registered for the Launceston workshop and 5 registered in Hobart.

Positive feedback was received from all the delegates in terms of the course outcomes and the level of confidence delegates gained through their attendance. Some indicated that they would like to see further opportunities for elected members to gain valuable IT training.

Budget Implications
Workshops are held on a cost recovery basis.

3.6 SUBJECT: KOREAN DELEGATION

That the Committee note the hosting of a forum by the Association for a delegation of Korean Local Government officials

Background
The Association was requested by the Korea Local Government Centre, Sydney to host a forum for a delegation of Vice Mayors (Council CEO’s) on 12 March 2007 in Hobart.

The delegation was interested in a number of issues relating to Local Government activity in Tasmania ranging from the regulatory environment covering waste management and the environment, tourism strategies and balancing heritage and development with the support of the community. Many of the matters that the delegation would have liked to discuss were too detailed for the short time available so an agreement was reached to focus on two specific areas and have presentations from appropriate speakers.

The session was conducted in the Lord Mayor’s Court Room at the Hobart City Council as the Association’s Board Room could not comfortably accommodate the number of participants.

Jeff Gilmore from the Sullivan Cove Waterfront Authority provided an overview of the work of his organisation, the recent design competition and the future processes associated with the development of the cove. Graeme Chambers from Totally South focussed his presentation on how the Southern Councils and local tourism operators work together to attract tourists to the region and manage the Visitor Centre.

The delegation were particularly insightful in terms of their questioning and possessed a strong understanding of managing expectations and the challenges associated with balancing private development and public infrastructure requirements and the complexity of financial arrangements and who should pay.
Participants were most grateful for the session and presented the Association with a range of small gifts in appreciation.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

### 3.7 Subject: Timber Towns *

This motion was submitted by Northern Midlands Council.

**Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint**

That a proposal put forward at the 2006 ALGA Conference by Timber Towns Victoria to form a national network of local governments with an interest in sustainable forestry management on both private and public land be noted and a member of Timber Towns Victoria be invited to attend the next meeting of the LGAT General Management Committee.

Lost

**Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint**

That a letter be forwarded to Timber Towns Victoria noting that they have approached each council individually to determine their interest and that the Association considers that participation should be left to councils.

LGAT to provide information detailing similar organisations in Tasmania and extend the Committee’s thanks for being given the opportunity to participate.

Carried

The Committee deemed it unnecessary to invite Timber Towns Victoria to address a meeting.

**Background**

At the January 2007 Council Meeting, Deputy Mayor Don McShane provided information about a presentation made at the ALGA Conference by Timber Towns Victoria, a copy of the report is at Attachment to Item 3.7.

Extract from Council Minute:

“It was mentioned that the main focus was a lobby group to show the affect that the timber industry had on infrastructure and if Timber Towns worked with ALGA, it could be very effective.”

It was suggested that in order to progress this issue, LGAT invite a member of the organisation (Timber Towns) to attend the next meeting of the LGAT General Committee.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.
3.8 SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
At the last GMC meeting, the Committee endorsed five guiding principles on climate change to provide the foundation for the development of a Framework on Climate Change for Local Government. The next step in developing the Framework is to identify Priorities for Action that can guide Councils when taking action on climate change.

The Priorities for Action table draws on extensive work undertaken by other organisations, including Local Government Associations, COAG, State Governments and the Australian Greenhouse Office. The Local Government Climate Change Reference Group, representing around 20 Councils, will further elaborate on the Priorities for Action table at their next meeting in May. This process will ensure that the final Framework highlights local needs and opportunities in relation to climate change.

This month the Local Government Association of Tasmania has distributed a ‘Climate Change Needs Analysis’ survey to all Councils, the results of which will inform the development of this Framework, and direct other activities of the Association.

This process of Framework development reinforces that undertaken at the national level within the Australian Local Government Association.

Priorities for Action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Resources</th>
<th>Coastal Regions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>quality</td>
<td>development pressures</td>
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<tr>
<td>quantity</td>
<td>natural values</td>
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<td>supply</td>
<td>cultural heritage values</td>
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<td>stormwater</td>
<td>recreation</td>
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<td>sewage</td>
<td>industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>groundwater</td>
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<tr>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Industry</th>
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<tr>
<td>weeds &amp; pests</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>threatened species &amp; ecosystems</td>
<td>tourism</td>
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<td>parks &amp; reserves</td>
<td>fisheries</td>
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<td>forestry</td>
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<td>new industry</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructure/Assets</th>
<th>Planning Tools</th>
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<tr>
<td>risk management</td>
<td>coastal setbacks</td>
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<td>asset life</td>
<td>building standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>road construction &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>building codes</td>
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<td>stormwater &amp; drainage</td>
<td>flood levies</td>
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<tr>
<td>buildings</td>
<td>development zones</td>
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<tr>
<td>fleet management</td>
<td>liability issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>procurement processes</td>
<td>landfill sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>green house gas emissions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Planning
- urban settlement planning
- demographic trends
- economic impacts
- liability issues
- human health

Community Awareness & Leadership
- community awareness
- risk perception
- emergency planning
- global initiatives (ICLEI, Kyoto etc)

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
LGAT is seeking to provide leadership for councils – the development of responses/actions to the climate change issue.

3.9 SUBJECT: NRM UPDATE

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
In late 2006 the Australian Government recognised the success of the regional NRM model, announcing continued funding beyond June 2008. In preparing for the future of NRM, and any changes that may come with it, the current NRM framework and many related processes are now being reviewed.

The Bilateral Agreements governing NRM are currently being negotiated between the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments. This offers some opportunities to strengthen and formalise Local Government's role in NRM.

The role and responsibilities of key committees such as the Joint Steering Committee and the NRM Council are also being assessed as part of the future of NRM reviews. The Local Government NRM Facilitator network is working with the Australian Government, and individual State and Territory governments to explore ways of strengthening Local Government's involvement in NRM through these formal processes.

The Australian Government is also consulting with State and Territory Governments, Regional NRM Bodies, and other key stakeholders about the key themes of future NRM programmes. In these discussions there has been a focus on coastal and peri-urban issues, and the implications of climate change for all NRM themes.
3.10 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS *

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the nominations for Local Government Awards for Clr Rodney Cooper and former Councillor Jan Edwards, be approved.

Carried

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Robert Legge

That, on the provision of further clarifying information, the third nomination be appraised and if found to meet the required guidelines, be endorsed.

Carried

Background

Budget Implications
The nominations including relevant service details will be circulated to the General Management Committee and are at Attachment to Item 3.6.

Current Policy
Awards are considered as per the Local Government Service Awards Guidelines and Criteria, copies of which are included with the attachment.

3.11 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

That the Committee note there have been no Local Government Representative appointments.

Noted
4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT:  PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Robert Legge

That the profit and loss report to April 2007 be received.

Carried

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

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 SUBJECT:  CASH FLOW STATEMENTS *

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of February and March 2007.

Noted

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: ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BUDGET 2007/08 *

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the Committee endorse the draft subscriptions and budget for 2007/08 for referral and consideration at the Annual General Meeting.

Carried

Subscriptions 2007/08
While continuing to be mindful of the financial pressures on councils and the importance of being fiscally responsible at the Association, the increasing workloads and interaction with governments on behalf of councils has necessitated an increase in staffing by one member. Coupled with other minor increases outlined in the budget item detailed earlier in the meeting, the subscription level required for a small surplus this year is $881,372, representing an increase of some 5.5%.

A breakdown of the impact on each council, factoring in the changes to the subscription structure endorsed at last meeting, is at Attachment to Item 4.4 for reference. It should be noted that while there would appear to be some significant increases for some councils, this is not so much a result of the 5.5% increase, but the shift in categories and the impacts of revaluations on some councils.

Budget Implications
The 5.5% increase in subscriptions will allow for a small surplus in Association operations

Current Policy
The proposed restructuring of subscription categories was endorsed at the last General Meeting of the Association but is subject to formal endorsement at the AGM.

Association Budget 2007/08
The only significant alterations to the budget this year is an increased allocation for salaries and superannuation. This reflects an increase in the establishment number at the Association by one officer. This Senior Policy Officer position was advertised recently but there were no suitable applicants. Arrangements are in hand to again take the position to the market. An indicative 4% salary increase has been factored into the budget

An increased allocation has also been made for Presidential expenses. The differing arrangements of Presidents will impact differently on the Association budget. At the present time the Association pays a monthly figure to the President’s council for telephone, administration and vehicle useage, although the latter is on a per kilometre basis. The increased allocation in this area reflects the real cost of the Presidential function.

A pending overseas delegation to China with Presidential colleagues from around the country has also been factored into the budget. While ALGA will meet half of the cost, an increased allocation of some $4500 has been made in the Association budget.

A slight increase has been made in the Skills Shortage allocation to reflect the costs of participation at employment expo’s and University forums.

The allocation for the Standards Panel has been reduced although a small amount ($3000) remains allocated. Most of the costs associated with this activity are billed back to the initiating councils but there is the opportunity for unforeseen expenses associated with this activity.

Minor adjustments have been made to other allocations to reflect expected expenditures up or down.
An increase in revenue by some $7000 has been factored in as a result of the Association taking on the secretariat role for the national office of ALGWA.

The net result of these changes requires an increase in subscriptions by 5.5% for 2007/08.

The draft budget, circulated to the General Management Committee, is at Attachment to Item 4.3.

**Budget Implications**
The budget has been prepared on the basis of a small operational surplus for 2007/08.

**Policy Implications**
The budget will require formal endorsement at the AGM.

The Meeting adjourned at 1.00pm for lunch, resuming at 1.30pm.

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### 4.4 SUBJECT: OFFICE SPACE LEASE RENEWAL

That the Committee note the following report.

**Background**
Discussions have taken place with the landlord in relation to the renewal of the lease. He is happy to extend the lease on the basis of a three year term with a further two year option. The present lease is currently being reviewed and will be finalised prior to its 30 June expiry.

Unfortunately, there has not been an opportunity to investigate alternative investment options prior to the meeting, however, a full report will be tabled at the next GMC meeting.

**Budget Impact**
The rental is reviewed annually on a market basis and adequate provision is made within the budget.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee meet on Wednesday 15 August 2007 in Launceston.

Carried

Background:

2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 April, Wednesday</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Campbell Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>PLGC</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<td>30 May, Wednesday</td>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<td>General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May – 1 June</td>
<td>LGAT Conference</td>
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<td>15 August, Wednesday</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
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<td>21 August</td>
<td>PLGC</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<td>10 October, Wednesday</td>
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<td>7 November</td>
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<td>Premier’s Dinner</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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5.2 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE