General Management Committee

Minutes

Country Club Casino
Launceston

Norman Lindsay Room

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* Denotes Attachment
1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held on Thursday 29 July, 2010 in the Norman Lindsay Room, Country Club Casino, Launceston.

Commenced immediately following the conclusion of the PLGC Meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Barry Easther              President
Deputy Mayor Helen Burnett       Hobart City Council
Mayor Don Thwaites              West - North West Region
Mayor Lynn Laycock               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

APOLOGIES:

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine       Hobart City Council
Mayor Mike Downie               West-North West Region
Mayor Jock Campbell             Southern Region
1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Mayor Don Thwaites/Mayor Albert van Zetten

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2010, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meetings held on 21 June 2010 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 BUSINESS ARISING *

That the Committee receive the report on business arising from the meeting held in June 2010.

Resolved

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

1.3 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

That the President’s report be received.

Resolved

Since the 21 June 2010 meeting, the President has represented the Association -

Meetings ALGA Strategic Planning Session

Forums/ Southern Midlands Council
Latrobe Council

Events Examiner Function
Scouts Tasmania AGM

Media Radio/TV LGAT Membership
1.4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

That the Chief Executive Officer’s report be received.

Resolved

Interface with external bodies
- Quadrant Board Meeting
- CMP Board Meeting
- Real estate Institute of Tasmania – PAL Policy and data access
- Rosny College Careers Forum
- Presentation to Hobart Rostrum
- Examiner Newspaper Business Forum
- Industry presentation on reverse vending and CDL
- Optus regarding business development
- Australia Post Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Local Government Forums
- ALGA Board Meeting and Roads Congress
- Sustainability Indicators Steering Committee
- Northern Midland Council Workshop – Code of Conduct
- Regional Waste Group Forum
- Standards Panel Hearings
- Southern Water briefing on operations and performance

State Government Meetings
- Capital City Strategy Workshop
- Tasmanian Planning Commission re Communication and Consultation
- PLGC Officials’ Meeting
- Skills Tasmania Strategy meeting
- Premier’s Physical Activity Council meeting
- Community Road Safety Program Funding meeting
- Road Route Code Advisory Group
- Renewable Energy Committee
- Minister for Local Government Chief of Staff
- Dog Safe Workshop
- NBN Development Group
- State Community Recovery Committee
- Valuation and Rating Review Steering Committee
- National Disability Framework meeting
- Climate Change Adaptation and Planning Working Group
- Local Government Division – regular monthly meetings and various meetings re dog control, financial sustainability of councils, Local Government Board and Stronger Councils project

Media
Climate Change and Coastal Erosion
Rating policies and increases of councils
Metropolitan Councils proposal
Glenorchy and Hobart membership issues
2. POLICY

2.1 POPULATION ISSUES

That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

It was noted that subsequent to the Premier's next announcement this issue may not be progressed as quickly as anticipated.

Background
At the last GMC meeting, Mayor Thwaites raised the issue of population growth and the potential impacts on councils by way of service and infrastructure provision. It was agreed that this issue would be explored.

As raised during the meeting, there has been some work done in this space. A brief outline is provided below as well as intended next steps.

In Tasmania
In 2006 the State Government announced the formation of the Demographic Change Advisory Council (DCAC) which is chaired by the Treasurer. The President of LGAT is a member, although DCAC has not met for quite some time. There were also representatives from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, TasCOSS, the TCCI, Unions Tasmania and the University of Tasmania.

In 2008 population projects were produced for each municipal area and this process included consultation with councils and input from demographer Natalie Jackson. A range of assumptions were used, including those in the table below. An issues paper and strategies paper were also produced and are still available on the DCAC website (www.dcac.tas.gov.au).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Fertility (total fertility rate)</th>
<th>Mortality (life expectancy at birth)</th>
<th>Interstate Migration</th>
<th>Overseas Migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Constant rate of 2.16 babies per woman.</td>
<td>To reach 92.4 years for males and 94.8 years for females by 2057.</td>
<td>Net gain of 1,000 persons per year.</td>
<td>Net gain of 2,000 persons per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>2.16 babies per woman in 2007, decreasing to 1.95 by 2017 and remaining constant thereafter.</td>
<td>To reach 88.0 years for males and 89.5 years for females by 2057.</td>
<td>Zero net interstate migration</td>
<td>Net gain of 1,000 persons per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>2.16 babies per woman in 2007, decreasing to 1.8 by 2017 and remaining constant thereafter.</td>
<td>To reach 82.9 years for males and 86.9 years for females by 2057.</td>
<td>Net loss of 1,000 persons per year.</td>
<td>Zero net overseas migration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ABS is also well positioned to provide information to councils in response to the census and has given a presentation to General Managers. The next census is 2011 and there will be more information from them next year on products and assistance for councils in understanding population issues.

It is understood the that regional planning projects make some attempt to understand demographic trends in order to establish settlement strategies for regions but the details has not been available to the Association at this stage.

**Elsewhere**

The Local Government Association of Queensland recently funded an extensive public inquiry, using an independent and expert panel, on the need for a State population policy. The 100+ page final report has just been released.

Some of the key findings would resonate in Tasmania:

- The defacto Population Policy has been to welcome growth throughout the State.
- Accepting that ongoing growth will continue means that a key focus of policies must be on enhanced growth management, seeking to accommodate growth without compromising liveability, affordability and long term ecological sustainability.
- Rapid population growth requires significant upfront investment in new public infrastructure.
- Infrastructure investment can play an important role in redirecting growth to targeted locations.
- Incentives are likely to be required to attract an increased share of employment growth to regional centres.
- Strategies to increase urban density and transit oriented development are an integral component of population policy.
- More needs to be done to ensure that an adequate supply of dwellings suited to the range of household types is provided, and to address areas of market failure in delivery of planned housing outcomes.
- There is a need to implement initiatives related to biodiversity loss, waterway health, open space networks and regional landscape values to address declines in environmental values and to support the goal of ecologically sustainable development.
- The scope, strength and dimensions of the debate about population growth, and its potentially divisive character, justify an explicit statement of Population Policy by the State Government.

The report noted that a key concern is the decreasing proportion of people in productive working ages (i.e. increasing elderly dependency rate). This is even more notable in Tasmania.

A number of jurisdictions have developed State Population Policies but an initial review seems to indicate that many of these are quite dated or have no strategies in initiatives related to issues raised in the policies. This is an area which requires some further research.

Population policy may see increasing attention during the Federal election campaign with Julia Gillard indicating that a re-elected Labor Government would look at developing a population policy related to a sustainable Australia, with a move away from the ‘grow at all costs’ philosophy to date. Currently Tony Burke is the Federal Minister for Sustainable Population.

The Federal Department of Treasury released an Intergenerational Report earlier this year which predicted Australia’s population would rise from about 22 million to 35.9 million in 2050 if current trends in overseas migration and fertility continued, with immigration by far the biggest contributor. The report caused widespread unease about whether big cities, now straining under inadequate infrastructure, could cope.
Next Steps
- Expand the research to examine in detail what work has been done in the space, particularly work that is relevant to the Tasmanian and/or Local Government context.
- Prepare a paper identifying the key issues related to population trends for Tasmanian councils. Consult with councils as part of the process of developing this paper.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

2.2 GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

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

It was agreed that the Association would follow up on the current status and possible changes to legislation in relation to Quarries and the possible impacts on Councils.

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

3.1 CONFERENCE WRAP UP

That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

Background
A great deal of positive feedback was received from delegates, trade exhibitors and sponsors in relation to the 2010 Local Government Conference held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 12-14 May.

Overall, the plenary and workshop presentations were well received, and the conference sponsors and trade exhibitors were pleased with their involvement and the business connections that they were able to make.

While sponsorship increased by $6,550 when compared to 2009, there was a 17% drop in the number of conference registrations (based on the mean average attendance levels from 2007 – 2009). Please refer to the table below for comparative data.

The winners of the 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence were announced at the conference dinner, held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor on 13 May, and were announced by the Hon Bryan Green MP. The winners were:

*Delivering Excellence for our Communities Award:*
Kingborough Council – *Conversations in Kingston: Youth Transport Project*

*Delivering Excellence for our People Award*
Launceston City Council – *Employer of Choice*

*Delivering Excellence in Natural and Built Environments:*
Launceston City Council – *Launceston Aquatic*

*Demonstrating Operational Excellence:*
Brighton Council – *Common Service Provision Model*

In total, 25 entries were received from 13 councils across the state. As has been the case in previous years, only a small number of nominations were received for the *Delivering Excellence for our People* category. The LGAT is therefore reviewing whether or not this category will continue in 2011.

Throughout conference funds were raised for Oak Tasmania’s Technology Learning Centre for people with disabilities. Delegate and sponsor contributions were topped up with a donation from the Association in lieu of purchasing speaker gifts with a total of $2,000 raised. The cheque will be presented to Oak Tasmania at the sponsor and Local Government cocktail function, to be held in Hobart on 4 August.

While feedback in relation to the partner’s tour of Richmond and the Derwent Valley was positive, numbers dropped markedly this year (8 people compared to an average of 20 people in previous years). The LGAT is therefore reviewing whether it will be viable to continue running the program in the future.
With the support of Font PR, the conference received a satisfactory level of media coverage, particularly in relation to the issues of compulsory voting and constitutional recognition.

The date set for the 99th Local Government Conference is 20-22 July 2011. The association is currently looking at venue options and will advise the details once confirmed.

**Budget Impact**
Despite the increase in sponsorship dollars, the 17% drop in the number of conference registrations has resulted in a loss to the LGAT of $7,345.37, leaving insufficient funds for distribution to our conference partners. As a result, the LGAT will employ further cost cutting measures for the 2011 event to keep it within budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Sponsorship (GST incl)</th>
<th>Trade (GST incl)</th>
<th>Sponsorship &amp; Trade Total</th>
<th>Trade Booth Nos</th>
<th>Delegate Nos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Wrest Point</td>
<td>$65,600</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>$107,600</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Wrest Point</td>
<td>$61,300</td>
<td>39,750</td>
<td>$101,050</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Country Club</td>
<td>$76,600</td>
<td>$34,175</td>
<td>$110,775</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Wrest Point</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$83,000</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Decision Sought**

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

4.1 PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Mayor Graham Bury/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Profit and Loss report to 30 June 2010 be received.

Carried

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of the Profit and Loss Report to 30 June 2010.

While some balance day adjustments are still to be input, the report gives an indication of the outcome for the 2009/10 Financial Year.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 CASH FLOW STATEMENTS *

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of May and June 2010.

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.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Franklin Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 October</td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mayors Workshop</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 December</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

Chief Executive Officers Review

Mayor Don Thwaites/Mayor Lynn Laycock

That the Chief Executive Officer’s annual review be undertaken with the Review Committee to consist of President Barry Easther, Vice President Deirdre Flint and Mayor Robert Legge.

Carried

Premier’s Local Government Reform
Following the PLGC Meeting and the Premier’s announcement re significant Local Government Reform, a detailed discussion paper will be compiled and forwarded to all Councils.

The Committee were advised that the President and Policy Director, Katrena Stephenson, would be meeting with Mayor Adriana Taylor and Mr Frank Pearce at the Glenorchy Council Chambers on 10 August 2010.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed 1.30pm.