Local Government leaders from around Tasmania learnt how they could play an important role in managing global warming at the 95th Local Government Conference, held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 30 May - 1 June.

The Conference kicked off with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting and AGM, providing Tasmanian councils with an opportunity to discuss important issues currently facing Local Government such as water and sewerage reform.

LGAT President, Mike Gaffney said it was imperative for the Local Government sector in Tasmania to meet regularly to discuss and debate issues and continually investigate ways of managing and facilitating change more effectively.

"The LGAT Conference, AGM and General Meeting provide Local Government members with an opportunity to further extend their knowledge base and personal networks among colleagues who understand the sensitive environment in which they work," Mayor Gaffney said.

This year’s conference, The Art of Survival, addressed a range of challenges facing Local Government today including financial sustainability, the development and implementation of effective public art policy, skills shortages, health and wellbeing in the workplace and emergency management.

Mayor Gaffney said the conference theme was timely and relevant, and the varied program had resulted in a strong turnout of delegates.

“We are delighted with the high standard and diversity of guest speakers and trade exhibitors who participated in the conference this year,” he said.

Climate Change - Global Threat, Local Opportunity

According to keynote speaker Professor Ian Lowe, in the future, Tasmanians can expect more very hot days, a further decline in rainfall, more frequent extreme weather, sea level rises and problems with food production, including the effects of fewer frosty nights. However, climate change also provides opportunities for Tasmanian councils who are looking ahead to play an important leadership role in managing global warming in the future.

Professor Lowe told delegates surviving the impact of climate change and its implications for Local Government would transform the way in which councils operated over the next decade.

“Tasmanian councils are already facing various impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, less rainfall, coastal erosion, more extreme storms and decreased river flows. There are many ways in which councils can address the issue of climate change and set an example for their communities as well as State and Federal Governments. These include reducing council emissions, creating incentives for communities
to use energy efficient appliances and developing incentives for those who car pool, cycle, walk or use public transport,” he said.

Prof. Lowe put forward some challenging targets for 2020 for Tasmanian councils to consider, including making 20% of transport fuels non-petroleum, 20% of electricity supplied from renewable sources, 20% of domestic water supplied from rain or grey water and 20% of CBD road space pedestrianised. “Climate change is a global threat that provides local opportunities - Tasmanian councils have an opportunity to stand up to the challenges ahead and set an example for the rest of Australia,” he said.

Peter Boyer, one of two Tasmanian-based, Al Gore trained Climate Project Presenters, also spoke at the conference on the topic of climate change saying Tasmania was well placed to set an example for the rest of the country and the world by becoming more involved in galvanising and organising action.

“Tasmanians have the capacity to limit the damage from climate change and mitigate its effects while in the process, create a better, more sustainable way of living on this planet, but we must act quickly, decisively and together,” Mr Boyer said.

“Tasmania’s hydro system gives us a higher capacity to generate carbon-free electricity than other states. We need to make sure we maintain and increase that capacity, making the most of other sources of renewable energy such as wind and wave power. Tasmania receives as much sun as northern Italy or southern France, which provides an opportunity to exploit the sun as an alternative source. If we can successfully foster mass take-up of solar technology, it would be a viable proposition both to heat hot water and to generate household electricity.”

“Mainly due to our Hydro power system, Tasmanians are low greenhouse gas producers by Australian standards, but by world standards it’s a different story. On a per-person basis, Australia is among the top two or three polluters on Earth, so on that scale Tasmanians can consider themselves high-level polluters. We therefore owe it to others elsewhere in the world and to those Tasmanians who come after us, to put in the effort to clean up our mess, whatever the sacrifices,” he said.

Developing Effective Art Policy

Limited funding and few specially trained staff in councils need not be immovable barriers to the effective incorporation of the creative work of artists, craftspeople and communities within council projects. Understanding the ‘why’ of public art and preparing public art and cultural policies which fit a council’s means, can be the springboard for remarkable place-making in even tiny projects according to public art expert Pamille Berg AO.

Pamille Berg addressed delegates on the second day of the conference about how councils can take advantage of and reveal the richness and capacity of art and crafts in their Local Government areas. Ms Berg has worked as a consultant on projects throughout Australia, in Asia and Hawaii, and had a special introduction to Tasmania 25 years ago when she immigrated to Australia from the USA as part of the design team for Australia’s new Parliament House. Tasmania was a place of special focus by the Parliament’s design team and the result was the major commissions in Parliament House to Tasmanian designers, sculptors and craftspeople such as Kevin Perkins, Peter Taylor, John Smith and Robert Blacklow.

Other keynote speakers featured at this year’s conference included:

Wendy Campana - Executive Director of the Local Government Association of South Australia. Wendy highlighted the process being undertaken to implement the recommendations resulting from the South Australian Sustainability Review and the lessons learnt from the conduct of the inquiry.

Peter Bland - Antarctic adventurer, survivor and leading motivational speaker. Peter is the first Australian to have adventured to both the North and South Magnetic Poles. Peter shared his remarkable story of survival, which he experienced during an expedition to Antarctica, where an avalanche threw him 40 meters into a crevasse.

Graeme Orr - Chief Executive of the Australian Sales and Marketing Institute. Graeme looked at how Local Government can provide stronger leadership through the application of smarter thinking, lateral approaches to increasing revenue, and implementing more effective means of engaging the community.
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Survivors Dinner

A highlight of the event was the Civic Mutual Plus Survivors Dinner, incorporating the announcement of the winners of the Awards for Excellence. Four hundred guests filled Hobart’s City Hall to enjoy an unforgettable night of fine food, wine, entertainment and festivity. In keeping with the ‘survival’ theme, the grand, old building was transformed into a deserted island with palm trees and tropical flowers, skulls and sails, campfires and candlelight. Guests drank from enamel mugs and were welcomed by the relaxing sounds of bird life. During the evening, guests enjoyed performances by Taiko Drum, Scottish comedian Kevin Kopfstein, and danced to the sounds of Beluga.

The Local Government Conference is coordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania in association with Local Government Managers Australia (Tasmania) and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

Special thanks to our Sponsors and Supporters

LGAT would like to acknowledge the following sponsors and supporters for their contribution to the event: Civic Mutual Plus, Commonwealth Bank, Komatsu, Sinclair Knight Merz, Telstra Country Wide, Simmons Wolfhagen, Pitt and Sherry, Technology One, William Adams, Southern Cross Television, Beyond PR, Marsh, KPMG, AUCD, Quadrant, the Australian Government’s National Heritage Trust, Hobart City Council, McArthur Consulting Group and LG Performance Tasmania.

Wrest Point Prize Winner

Congratulations Steven Bayley from Tasman Council, winner of the Wrest Point Special Occasions package. Steven’s name was drawn from the names of all registered delegates at the conference. Steven and his partner will enjoy two nights Executive Tower accommodation for two people including full buffet breakfasts each morning, dinner at the Point Revolving Restaurant, a bottle of sparkling wine on arrival, and chauffeur transport. The package is valued at $850. Enjoy your stay!
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conference ’07
CRSP Update

Northwest Appointment

Recently Bob Sharp filled the vacant Northwest road safety consultant position. Bob has had extensive experience in the field of road safety in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Bob is based in Burnie and can be contacted on 64 346490.

Winter Safety Checks

On 14th June the RACT, in association with the Kingborough Community Road Safety Partnership, conducted free winter car safety checks in the busy car park at Channel Court. As a service to motorists RACT technicians checked the cars’ lights, tyres, battery, fanbelts, coolant hoses and windscreen. The program was extremely popular and several minor defects, such as under inflated tyres, were detected.

Launceston College Road Safety Week

Congratulations to Launceston College, which recently conducted a successful community road safety activity in collaboration with community organisations. The College community had road safety as a focus for a week. The students developed the theme of ‘YOUR LIFE – YOUR CHOICE’ and the message was promoted with interactive displays, which included a crashed car in the college hall. Students submitted artistic and audiovisual material as part of a competition and some outstanding posters and radio advertisements were developed. Congratulations to all involved, particularly Natalie Heiniger, College Social Worker, who led the event.

Updated Progress Reports

Recently all Council General Managers were sent copies of the updated CRSP Progress Reports, March 2007, which detail activities being undertaken in participating municipalities. Should further copies be required, please contact the CRSP Project Manager or log onto the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources website for an electronic copy. http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/safety/community_road_safety_partnerships

LGAT Conference

CRSP was showcased for the first time in the trade displays at the recent LGAT conference. It was a positive opportunity to celebrate the successes of participating Councils.

MORE INFORMATION?

Anyone interested in obtaining more information regarding the CRSP Program can contact Project Manager, Geoff Frier (DIER) by phone 62 334861 or email geoff.frier@dier.tas.gov.au
The Local Government Awards for Excellence are coordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania with the sponsorship support of Civic Mutual Plus. The winners of the 2007 Awards were announced at the City Hall on 31 May.

The Local Government Awards for Excellence recognise excellence in Local Government and are presented for large or small projects that benefit the community and promote a better future for Tasmania. As well as recognising outstanding efforts, the awards aim to promote sharing of good management practices and effective responses to community needs. This year, a total of 27 entries were received from councils across the state. LGAT congratulates the finalists and winners of the 2007 Local Government Awards for Excellence and thanks all councils that submitted an entry.

Sustainable Community Assets Award

Clarence Recycled Water Scheme

Clarence City Council emerged as the Gold Award Winner of the 2007 Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence for its innovative recycled water scheme. The Gold Award was presented by the Tasmanian Minister for Community Development and Minister Assisting the Premier for Local Government the Hon. Michelle O’Byrne MHA.

The Clarence Recycled Water Scheme, the largest water recycling scheme in Tasmania, is recognised as a remarkable engineering, environmental and economic response to two of Australia’s most pressing issues - water conservation and pollution reduction. Opened in September 2006, the scheme enables the replacement of fresh water resources with recycled water for agricultural use and provides up to 2,700 megalitres of recycled water to around 100 Tasmanian growers. Farmers are now able to access a reliable water resource every day of the year, which is particularly beneficial through periods of drought. Additionally, these farmers have benefited from the fact that the water is nutrient rich.

The Clarence Recycled Water Scheme provides a renewable water source to a wide range of users in Clarence from broad acre agribusinesses and golf courses, to small horticultural and viticultural users. In the first six months of operating, 361 megalitres of effluent, 11 tonnes of nitrogen and three tonnes of phosphorus have been diverted from the River Derwent.

Invigorating Communities Award

Glenorchy Operation Bounce Back

GLENORCHY CITY COUNCIL

Frequently, victims of motor vehicle theft are owners of older, uninsured vehicles. For these community members, theft of their motor vehicle has a significant impact on their lives, often affecting their capacity to undertake everyday activities, including work, which results in further financial hardship.

The Glenorchy Operation Bounce Back project has demonstrated that through a multi-pronged, sustained education and awareness strategy, community awareness of how to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft can be heightened and the incidence of motor vehicle theft can be reduced.

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Operation Bounce Back has been identified by the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council as the most successful of all projects funded by the Council across Australia. Initiatives from Operation Bounce Back have been included in the Council’s best practice resource package - Tackling Vehicle Theft, which has been distributed to Local Government authorities across Australia.

As part of the program 2,500 information kits on reducing the risk of vehicle theft were distributed to community...
members and information displays were erected in all major shopping precincts in Glenorchy. In addition, highly visible theft reduction signage was installed in all car parks in the commercial areas and other hot spots, and theft reduction television advertisements were screened to a cumulative average audience of 436,800 per month across Southern Tasmania.

In the 12 months to June 2006, compared to the same period the previous year, Glenorchy experienced a 3% decrease in motor vehicle theft, compared to a statewide increase of 19%.

### Innovation and Creativity Award

**Rates Modelling**

**BRIGHTON COUNCIL**

Running rates estimates has always been a time consuming but necessary procedure for councils. Revaluations dramatically compound the time involved in calculating new rates options and the newly introduced two-yearly adjustment factor revaluations have added an even greater workload to this process.

Brighton Council has simplified the process of running rates estimates for all councils in Tasmania, NSW and WA by developing a Rates Modelling software application that simplifies the laborious process. The application provides virtually instantaneous results to allow for dynamic modelling at decision-point time.

The process results in considerable time-saving as it eliminates the need to extract data to external programs such as Microsoft Excel and can be run during estimates workshops, enabling different options to be tested on the spot.

### Developing Council People Award

**Huon Valley Council**

**WORKPLACE HEALTH PROGRAM**

In 2006, Huon Valley Council introduced the Workplace Health Program, offering free health screening for all council employees during work hours. The staff health checks involved blood pressure readings, cholesterol checks, diabetes checks, basic eyesight tests, body mass index tests and skin cancer screenings. For male staff, a specific health promotion session with renowned men’s health expert Bernard Dennar was also arranged.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness of health issues among employees as well as increase staff morale and productivity. The program has also helped to reduce workplace accidents and enhance recruiting potential and ability to retain valued employees, as well as reduce personal and organisational health and care expenses and absenteeism.

59% of Council’s employees took part in the health checks, with 73% participation by the outside workforce and 48% by internal employees. Half of participants surveyed following the checks indicated that they thought more about their health as a result of their participation, with 25% indicating that they intended to increase their exercise levels. The program is a simple model that could be easily transferred to other councils and its success reinforces that workplace health programs are a worthwhile investment.

Continued Page 18 ▶

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Climate change is potentially the most serious issue our communities will confront over the next few decades and innovative means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions should be promoted and recognised. West Coast Council recently transferred its fleet of light vehicles to LPG, also providing the West Coast community with access to LPG through new LPG outlets in Zeehan, Queenstown and Strahan.

The outlets will provide additional revenue for Council as well as providing an alternative to high fuel costs on the West Coast for the local community. Fuel at its peak on the West Coast costs as much as $1.70 per litre and LPG retails for around 80 cents.

On current fuel usage, West Coast Council alone will save 73 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year, or 23% of its total emissions from vehicles. The project will also result in more LPG conversions on the West Coast and capital cost savings as a result of the change in Council’s motor vehicle policy. Cash benefits are expected to return twice the level of expenditure for the project, allowing Council to reallocate these cost savings to other essential infrastructure upgrades in the municipality.

Through this project, West Coast Council has demonstrated commendable leadership and commitment to addressing the issue of climate change in an innovative way that has multiple benefits for the West Coast Council and community.

Runners-up in the 2007 Local Government Awards for Excellence include:

Sustainable Community Assets Award
MEANDER VALLEY COUNCIL
Planning for Future Needs
Invigorating Communities Award
KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL
Dru Point Access for All Playground
Innovation and Creativity Award
CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL
The Barn
Developing Council People Award
GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY
TAFE Training Initiative
Building Better Futures Though Governance Award
FLINDERS COUNCIL
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Exploring Tassie’s Far South 

From Dover to Cockle Creek, Tasmania’s Far South is one of Tasmania’s ‘best kept secrets’. Now the secret’s out thanks to a new guide about the region and its unique attractions. The new regional map and guide, entitled *Tasmania’s Far South*, is an initiative of the newly incorporated Far South Tourism Network. The map will raise greater awareness of local attractions detailing everything the visitor needs to know from local walks, tourist attractions, camping facilities, fly fishing spots and picnic areas. More than 26 local businesses are featured in the guide to provide easily accessible accommodation, shopping and service information.

New Law to Provide Flexible Work Arrangements 

A new law to protect workers with family and carer responsibilities from discrimination and give them a right to request flexible work arrangements, was among a number of recommendations released in March by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).

The It’s About Time: Women, men, work and family paper, is the result of extensive research and national community consultation conducted over two years. The paper sets out a framework for reform which recognises changing family and carer responsibilities across the life cycle. The paper outlines what support Australians need, to provide real options for effectively balancing paid work and the care of family members and proposes a range of measures to make our communities, tax and welfare systems, child care, aged care, disability services and workplaces more family-friendly.

The It’s About Time: Women, men, work and family paper makes 45 recommendations in creating a new social vision for Australia, based on the wealth of time spent with family, as well as the wealth that comes from economic prosperity.


Developing Leaders Of Tomorrow 

During May, twenty of Tasmania’s promising future leaders travelled to Cradle Mountain to begin a 10-month intensive program to develop their leadership skills as part of an innovative Tasmanian Leaders Program.

The twenty participants, aged from 28 to 49, include representatives from local councils, state and federal government agencies, the private sector, community organisations and small business operators. The program is run by the Department of Economic Development to provide valuable opportunities for our young leaders to expand their horizons and to ensure a brighter future for Tasmania.

The young leaders will be encouraged to discuss ideas and explore issues and opportunities in addressing the complex challenges facing Tasmanian organisations, individuals and society today. In addition, the program will provide access to leading opinion formers and decision-makers and participants will be required to implement at least four innovative community or business development projects each year.

For further information on the program or to contact program participants, call Program Director Jen Lee on 0417 379 703.
A looming crisis in the aged care sector means elderly Tasmanians could struggle to find care in the future, placing pressure on other services, communities and the family.

Currently, there are around 160,000 Australians living in residential care and this figure is set to grow by around 215% to 504,000 by 2044-45. Tasmania’s population is rapidly ageing, with Tasmania projected to take over as Australia’s oldest state within only a few years. Already Tasmania’s male population has the oldest median age in Australia. The ‘baby-boomer’ generation is now facing the challenge of helping, looking after or making arrangements for their ageing parents.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that by 2051, those aged 65 and over could represent a quarter of the Australian population however, in Tasmania, the figure of those aged 65+ years is likely to be around 34 per cent by 2051. With more older Tasmanians living longer and having increased expectations for a wider range of quality services, the aged and community care sector is facing greater challenges than ever before.

How the Federal Government will financially support these escalating numbers is a cause of real concern to the industry and it should be a concern for local and state governments. Under the current funding regime, the sector will not be able to cope with future levels of demand. Simply put, a system under strain today will become a system in collapse tomorrow.

For the aged care sector to manage the impending tide of people needing to access services, there must be a sustainable funding model. The Commonwealth’s indexation method for funding for aged care has not kept up with the real cost of providing aged care. Already, wages in our sector are comparatively lower and this makes it difficult to employ much-needed staff, including nurses, who can earn more money working in hospitals.

In addition to funding not keeping pace with the costs of care, aged care providers are continually being asked to do more with less. Government regulation, to monitor the already excellent standard of care provided, is regularly introduced without additional funding for its implementation. This diverts resources away from the core reason aged care services exist - to provide care for older people. For example, the recently legislated introduction of compulsory police checks for aged care employees meant one employer of 270 care staff faced an immediate $11,000 bill and will incur a similar amount every three years - without additional funding.

In the past 20 years, the age profile of those entering aged-care facilities has increased by six to eight years, with people tending to stay home until they need higher levels of care. This has added complexity to the daily management of the care needs of our frail aged. Analysis through Alzheimers Australia suggests that the number of people with dementia will be 25% higher by mid-century than projected in 2003. In Tasmania, that could mean 16% of the population aged 80 to 85 years by 2012.

The Federal Government’s recently announced aged care package Securing the Future contains some useful and positive measures, such as more community care and investment in assistive technology. However, it fails to address some critical industry issues such as inadequate
government funding to enable the aged care sector to keep pace with the real costs of providing quality care. In 2007, our frail aged receive less than what was possible when community aged care packages were first introduced in 1992/93.

Of particular concern to Local Government, any loss or diminution of an aged care service in any part of Tasmania has a knock-on effect in terms of the local economy and local community. The closure of a single northern rural provider would mean the loss of $3 million to the community, up to 80 jobs and the loss of the only residential facility within a 50km radius. Furthermore, if aged care providers in Tasmania cannot keep up with the cost of aged care in residential and in community care, there is a much greater likelihood that older people will turn to the hospital system.

For aged care to continue to properly provide for elderly Tasmanians, there needs to be sustainable funding for the future. Australia needs to make a serious, long-term commitment to fund aged care adequately, so that all older Australians, regardless of their background or where they live, can receive the care they need and deserve.

1 Aged Care Industry Council (2007) Position Paper Campaign 2007

5 DHHS Mental Health Services (2004) Dementia Care Plan 2000 and Beyond: Position Paper

Aged and Community Services Tasmania represents 90% of Tasmanian aged care bed licences and a significant number of community aged care packages in Tasmania as well as sizable proportion of Home and Community Care (HACC) provision.

TASMANIA’S NEW INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Lowdown on the Local Government Elections

BRUCE TAYLOR, ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER
Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Local Government elections are due later this year for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor (2-year terms) and half the councillors (4-year terms) on each of Tasmania’s 29 councils.

Where positions have been filled by recount since the 2005 elections, and they are not due to expire in 2007, by-elections will be held for the balance of the 4-year term.

As usual, elections will be conducted by post, with eligible electors receiving ballot papers together with candidate statements to assist voters in making their choice. The timetable will be as follows unless changes are necessary due to the Federal Election.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notice of election to be published</th>
<th>15 September</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electoral Rolls close at 6.00pm</td>
<td>20 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nomination period</td>
<td>17 September - 1 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominations close at 12 noon</td>
<td>1 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominations announced at 12 noon</td>
<td>2 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot material delivered to electors by post</td>
<td>16-19 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polling period</td>
<td>16-30 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of Poll at 10.00am</td>
<td>30 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results released as available</td>
<td>30 October - 2 November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Candidates should obtain a copy of the Information for Candidates booklet. It is proposed to produce a supplement for 2007 which will be available from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC), or can be downloaded from the TEC website at www.electoral.tas.gov.au. The supplement will be available closer to the election.

Candidates are reminded that material produced now that may be displayed during the election should be appropriately authorised. In addition there are limits on newspaper, radio and TV advertising with an overall expenditure limit on these items of $5,000 in respect of a single election and $8,000 in respect of simultaneous elections for councillor and mayor, or deputy mayor.

The number of signs that can be displayed is also limited to 50. When erecting signs, candidates must obtain permission from the responsible person or organisation, obey council by-laws and other laws, including not attaching signs to electricity poles.

With a Federal Election due between August and December, and most likely not before October, it is probable that there will be some overlap with Local Government (LG) elections. This may cause some problems for candidates and the TEC in trying to get clear messages out to voters. The exact problems will not be known until the Federal Election dates are announced.

It is possible however, that if the Federal Election is announced before the Local Government notice of election, the whole Local Government Election timetable could be delayed until after the Federal Election. If the Local Government notice of election has been published and the Federal Election is announced soon after, it is possible to finalise nominations and delay the polling period for up to 30 days. These options could assist in limiting the difficulties but there may still be problems for candidates electioneering and for election officials in finalising results.

Further information can be found on the TEC website at www.electoral.tas.gov.au
Study Assesses Financial Health of Tasmanian Councils

In 2006, Access Economics was commissioned by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) to undertake a study into the financial sustainability of Tasmanian councils. The independent study, released on 21 March, provides a snapshot of councils’ current situation and details a suite of initiatives that will assist in improving their long-term financial sustainability.

The report highlights an infrastructure backlog and the provision of increasing services to the community as the key challenges facing councils. The report also identifies a range of actions Tasmanian councils should consider to address their sustainability issues.

While reinforcing the overall health and strength of the Local Government sector in Tasmania, the study identified six small Tasmanian councils that particularly need to address pressures affecting their long-term financial health. The councils in total contain about 8% of the state’s population.

LGAT President, Mike Gaffney says the report identifies the need for councils to more closely scrutinise their revenue streams with a view to finding an appropriate mix of revenue raising and expenditure savings in order to improve their overall fiscal health.

“A steering committee is being established to work through the report’s 26 recommendations in order to develop a program of action. Issues such as the development of 10-year financial plans, improved asset management practices, the establishment of audit committees and the development of service policy statements, provide a wide range of opportunities for Tasmanian councils to enhance their overall financial sustainability,” he said.

The steering committee will also be looking at ways and means by which councils can work together and will draw on the experiences and actions taken in other states.

The report is available on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

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Clarence Youth Throw a Party for all Ages

The recent Bellerive Boardwalk Youth Week Festival, held on 21 April, was a terrific example of Local Government and youth working together to create an event to benefit the whole community. The festival is part of National Youth Week celebrations and provides an opportunity for entertainment, fun and awareness-raising for important youth issues.

Clarence City Council’s Youth Network Advisory Group, a collective of 12 young people aged between 14 and 25, were the organisers of the festival. Their goal was to produce a festival which would display positive images and the talents of young people while entertaining all ages. The Youth Network Advisory Group is supported by Clarence’s Youth Services Team. Network members were responsible for ideas, decision-making and the production of the festival. Financial support for the event was also received from the Office of Children and Youth Affairs.

This cooperative style of event management empowered youth in the production management process and also created an event with a special festive atmosphere.

Taiko Drum opened the festival followed by activities such as roving street theatre, a craft area, balloon art and the ever-popular jumping castle for the smaller festival-goers.

Participants could express themselves through pavement art, take up the challenge of rock climbing, aerial acrobatics, pacer car racing, as well as learn about topics that matter to youth and families in a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere.

The Stage on the Bay was the platform for some fantastic young bands to strut their stuff before an appreciative audience. The band performances, as well as the art exhibition from Rosny College were aspects of the day which the network hopes to develop in the future.

The network representatives, who were MCs throughout the day, manned the Air It, Share It, and Peg It installation. This unique component of the festival encouraged people to air their opinions on body image. Designed to counter the negative and damaging messages in the media and society concerning young people and body image, Air It, Share It and Peg It involved visitors in writing their positive body image messages and pegging them to a line to encourage others.

Many visitors took advantage of the service stalls and collected useful information on the youth activities and services available. Youth representatives also conducted a survey to inform Clarence City Council’s Youth Plan, which is being created to direct future youth policy in the City. The Bellerive Boardwalk Youth Week Festival is now an annual celebration, showcasing young people’s creativity and sharing their special energy with the whole community.

For further information, contact Lyndall Edwards, Events and Publications Officer at the Clarence City Council on 6245 8651.
Celebrate and Promote Adult Learning

Adult learning opportunities are everywhere!! As well as the formal studies offered by colleges, vocational training organisations and universities, there are endless learning opportunities available through Adult Education, libraries, access centres, neighbourhood houses, and hundreds of local community groups and organisations.

Adult Learners’ Week (ALW), to be held from 1-8 September across Australia, celebrates and promotes adult learning by individuals and within communities. The 2007 ALW national campaign slogan is ‘Sign Up Now - for a course with your local community education provider’. Local Government and Tasmanian community groups and organisations can take part in Adult Learners Week by:

- Promoting ALW to individuals and local learning providers (including groups and organisations of all sizes)
- Ordering ALW marketing packs and distributing promotional materials
- Organising special ALW events
- Registering events on the national ALW online calendar
- Applying for small grants to support local ALW events
- Nominating for the state ALW Awards to showcase achievements in adult learning in local communities.

Last year in Tasmania, local community education providers hosted over 100 special events during Adult Learners Week. Here are just a few examples:

- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council held an information day in Triabunna titled *Learn Some History About Your Town*.
- Wynyard Online Access Centre held the *World-wide Scavenger Hunt*, a demonstration on buying and selling over the internet.
- Kingston Online Access Centre held *Photos with Wings*, a class on emailing digital photographs.
- The Penguin Club held a session in Launceston titled *Improving Confidence in Women*, and in Hobart, *Adult Learning Opportunities with the Penguin Club*.
- Devonport Community House ran a three-hour demonstration on *Healthy Budget Cooking*.

Other ALW events in Tasmania have included open days, expos in community halls and shopping centres, demonstrations, performances, public talks, taster courses, and community get-togethers to recognise local adult learners, tutors and mentors.

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Adult Learners’ Week 2006 in Devonport: community members enjoy the theory and practice of eating well. Photo courtesy Devonport Community House

Adult Learners’ Week is an opportunity for every community to celebrate and promote adult learning. Sign Up Now! For more information, visit www.adultlearnersweek.org or phone 1300 453 276.

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Clarence City Council Aldermen Shave for a Cause

Some people would go to any lengths to support a good cause - even the shortest of lengths! This was certainly the case for six fearless Clarence City Council representatives who joined the fight to raise money for Tasmanians living with leukaemia, by shaving or colouring their hair as part of The Leukaemia Foundation’s 2007 World’s Greatest Shave.

Willing supporters included Clarence Ald. David Eddington, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in May last year, Ald. Tony Mulder, whose young daughter was diagnosed with leukaemia, Ald. Martin McManus, Ald. David Traynor, John Peers and Doug Doust.

When Ald. Mulder was asked to participate in the World’s Greatest Shave, he was delighted to assist. “Our daughter was diagnosed with leukaemia when she was two years old and endured two and a half years of chemotherapy, radiation therapy and blood transfusions. Thankfully, she has been in remission now for over twenty years however, I’m still touched by the tremendous support that our family received during a very trying time,” he said.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Council Cost Index Assists Rate Setting

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has released its second Council Cost Index, a tool that assists councils to set rates. The index better reflects the costs of councils business and service provision than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is often used as a guide to rate setting.

Goods and services provided by Local Government contain around 50% of general construction activity, and although CPI increased by 2.5% for the 12-month period ending December 2006, the General Construction Industry Index increased by 5.8%. LGAT proposes that the average movement in costs for the average council in Tasmania would be approximately 4.15%.

For further information, go to www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

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News in Brief

Recycled Plastic Jetty Opened At Swansea

A new and unique jetty was officially opened in June at Swansea, the first in Tasmania to be built mainly from recycled materials - including recycled plastic bottles. Recycled plastic is an ideal construction material because it does not rot like timber or corrode like metals. It is estimated that the recycled plastic in this jetty has prevented 89,527 three litre plastic milk bottles from being sent to landfill. The timber from the old jetty will be used in the development of the new streetscape for Swansea. The new jetty, funded by the State Government, is designed to cater for the boating community and to provide a local amenity for walking, fishing and sightseeing.

Launceston Applauds Outstanding Volunteers

Each year Launceston City Council, in association with Volunteering Tasmania, recognises and rewards the City’s volunteers for their contribution and commitment to the community throughout the year. At a special presentation held in May, Clare Jokuszies of Launceston was presented an Outstanding Achievement award on behalf of the City for her outstanding voluntary service to the community for her work with the RSPCA. Seven organisations were awarded Hours of Service certificates for their work within the community, and 119 volunteers were recognised for their individual hours of service.

Energy-Saving Design on Display

Tasmania’s first certified GreenSmart display home, which reduces energy and water use, has opened at 23 Alfreds Garden, Kingston. GreenSmart is an initiative of the Housing Industry Association which provides resources for members on construction methods. The program incorporates indoor air quality, sensitive use of materials, stormwater control and site waste minimisation. The display home provides examples of affordable, environmentally-friendly features, such as passive solar design, solar hot water and concertina foil batts for insulation and demonstrates ways to reduce our impact on the environment, without detracting from the home’s appearance.

Way Forward for Women in Local Government

The Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA) has launched the National Framework for Women in Local Government Review - The Way Forward which identifies issues affecting the low participation rate of women in Local Government both in the elected and employed areas. The review found a vital need for better governance in the sector, and for codes of conduct to be implemented and monitored. ALGWA is calling for local councils to bring about essential changes to culture and governance that will promote and underpin increased participation by women. The framework is available on the national website at www.algwa.net.au.

Clarence Addresses Future Water Needs

Work has commenced on Hobart’s Eastern Shore on a new joint initiative between Clarence City Council and Hobart Water to connect two existing drinking water supply systems to meet future needs. The $4.8 million project will take 18 months to complete and includes the construction of a 9ML reservoir, three pipelines and two pump stations, together with associated infrastructure. The new infrastructure will improve water distribution throughout the southern sections of the Clarence municipality, particularly in Rosny, Bellerive, Tranmere, Rokeby and Lauderdale. The project is scheduled for completion in late 2008.

Milestone Decision to Reduce Flooding Risks

Launceston City Council and the State Government recently announced agreed measures to address serious flooding risks in Launceston. Measures include the upgrading of levees and land acquisition, estimated to cost up to $39 million. The State Government has committed $10 million towards the project, to be allocated over the six-year reconstruction period. Council will allocate funding to match the State Government’s commitment and further funding is being sought from the Federal Government.

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Main Street Makeover for Wynyard

Two urban spaces in Wynyard’s CBD will be developed with the assistance of a $135,000 State Government grant to the Waratah-Wynyard Council. Funding is being provided under the Main Street Makeover Program and will be used to improve the former service station area on Goldie Street and the area bordering the Richard Gutteridge Gardens and Goldie Street. The two distinct areas will be linked through landscaping, public art and lighting. The project incorporates creative and innovative elements such as special features and finishes, as well as purpose-built seating.

Southern Midlands Council Enters Bilateral Agreement

The Southern Midlands Council has signed a bilateral agreement with the State Government covering tourism, heritage, environment and land management, sport and recreation, education, community recovery and emergency management. This is the first such agreement with the Council and follows the signing of the protocol arrangements in 2006. The agreement provides the opportunity to build on existing developments and working relationships and will help to address specific local issues such as road safety and the development of community programs for young people.

The Transport Industries Skills Centre Inc., trading as Road Transport Training is a not-for-profit Registered Training Organisation (RTO) Providing Nationally recognised training and assessments for the Transport and allied industries in Tasmania. Road Transport Training currently conducts training courses and assessments for;

- All classes of Heavy Vehicles
- Forklift
- Transport of Dangerous Goods and Explosives
- Taxi Driver training courses
- Defensive and Effective driving courses
- 4WD training courses
- Professional Log Truck Driver accreditation (for entry to Gunn’s mills)
- Livestock (volume loading) courses
- Certificate I-III in Transport and Distribution (Road Transport) for Furniture Removalists.

Heavy vehicle driver training courses and licence tests are conducted from locations in Hobart, Launceston and the North West.

Specially equipped vehicles are provided for Medium Rigid, Heavy Rigid and Heavy Combination licence classes.

Forklift Operator Training courses and licence tests are conducted regularly at locations in Hobart, Launceston & Burnie.

Persons successfully completing courses eligible for a National qualification are issued with a Statement of Attainment detailing the units completed.

For further Information contact the offices of Road Transport Training at 5 Lamb place Cambridge 7170.

Phone 6248 5455, Fax 6248 5624.

email: admin@RoadTransportTraining.org.au