General Meeting

Minutes

10 March 2010

Brighton Civic Centre

25 Greenpoint Road
Bridgewater

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PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
RULES REGARDING CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

13. WHO MAY ATTEND A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
(a) Each Member shall be entitled to send a voting delegate to any Meeting of the Association, such voting delegate exercising the number of votes determined according to Rule 16(a).
(b) After each ordinary Council election, the Chief Executive Officer shall request each Member to advise the name of its voting delegate and the proxy for the voting delegate for Meetings of the Association until the next ordinary Council elections.
(c) Members may change their voting delegate or proxy at any time by advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing over the hand of the voting delegate or the General Manager prior to that delegate taking his or her position at a Meeting.
(d) A list of voting delegates will be made available at the commencement of any Meeting of the Association.
(e) Members may send other elected members or Council officers as observers to any Meeting of the Association.

14. PROXIES AT MEETINGS
(a) Up to 1 hour prior to any Meeting of the Association, a Member may appoint another Member as its proxy.
(b) The form of the proxy is to be provided by the Chief Executive Officer and is to be signed by either the Mayor or General Manager of the Council appointing the proxy.
(c) The Chair of the meeting is not entitled to inquire as to whether the proxy has cast any vote in accordance with the wishes of the Member appointing the proxy.
(d) Proxies count for the purposes of voting and quorum at any meeting.

15. QUORUM AT MEETINGS
At any Meeting of the Association, a majority of the Member Councils shall constitute a quorum.

16. VOTING AT MEETINGS
(a) Voting at any Meeting of the Association shall be upon the basis of each voting delegate being provided with, immediately prior to the meeting, a placard which is to be used for the purpose of voting at the meeting. The placard will be coloured according to the number of votes to which the Member is entitled:

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<tr>
<th>Population of the Council Area</th>
<th>Number of votes entitled to be exercised by the voting delegate</th>
<th>Colour placard to be raised by the voting delegate when voting</th>
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<td>Under 10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>10,000 – 19,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 – 39,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Blue</td>
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<tr>
<td>40,000 and above</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Green</td>
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(b) The Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the raising of a coloured placard as the recording of the vote for the Member and as evidence of the number of votes being cast.
(c) Except as provided in sub-rule (d), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
(d) (i) When a vote is being taken to amend a Policy of the Association, the resolution must be carried by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting or not.
(ii) When a vote is being taken for the Association to sign a protocol, memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement, the resolution must be carried by a majority of votes capable of being cast by Members and by a majority of Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
(iii) When a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

9.30am  Coffee on arrival

10.00am  Meeting commences

10.15am  Rene Hidding MP

11.00am  Nick McKim MP
          Leader of the Parliamentary Greens

12.30pm  Approximately, lunch will be provided

2.30pm  The Honorable David Llewellyn
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25 Closure ........................................................................................................ 32

* Denotes Attachments
The President welcomed Members and declared the meeting open at 10.05am.

Apologies were received from -
Mayor Tony Foster Brighton Council
Mayor Adriana Taylor Glenorchy City Council
Mayor Darryl Gerrity West Coast Council
Mr Peter Harder West Coast Council
Mr Gerald Monson Latrobe Council
Mayor Charles Arnold King Island Council
Mr Mark Goode King Island Council
Mr Paul Arnold Burnie City Council
Mr Stephen Mackey Derwent Valley Council
Mr Ian Pearce West Tamar Council
Mr Stephen Brown George Town Council
Mr Raoul Harper Flinders Council
Mr Rod Sweetnam Launceston City Council
Mr Glenn Doyle Huon Valley Council
Mr Nick Heath Hobart City Council
Mr Jock Campbell Clarence City Council
Mr Risden Knightley Kentish Council
Mayor Lynn Laycock Devonport City Council
Mr Ian McCallum Devonport City Council
Mr David Metcalf Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Mayor Kim Polley Northern Midlands Council
Mr Greg Preece Meander Valley Council

1 ITEM: MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2009 *

Central Coast Council/Central Highlands Council

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Background :
To confirm the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 18 November 2009.

See Attachment to Item 1.
2 ITEM: BUSINESS ARISING *

That Members note the information.

Resolved

Background :
At Attachment to Item 2 is a schedule of business considered at the previous meeting and its status.

3 ITEM: CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That consideration be given to the Agenda items and the order of business.

Resolved

Background :
Delegates will be invited to confirm the agenda for the meeting and the order of business.

4 ITEM: FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That the meeting note the report detailing progress of motions passed at previous meetings and not covered in Business Arising.

Resolved

A table detailing action taken to date in relation to motions passed at previous meetings is at Attachment to Item 4.
That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
Electricity competition is progressively being introduced to Tasmania as part of the State’s entry in to the National Electricity Market. Businesses that use more than 150 Mega Watt Hours (MWh) of electricity per year, which roughly equates to an annual electricity bill of around $25,000, must now choose their electricity retailer by 30 June 2010. Businesses must choose from one of three options:

1. Stay with Aurora Energy by entering into a retail contract;
2. Enter into a retail contract with another licensed retailer; or
3. Purchase electricity through the wholesale market.

If a business does not choose one of the above options, it will move onto a fallback contract. A fallback contract is not a safety net or default tariff. Under a fallback contract, the energy price is the spot price in the wholesale energy market which can be quite volatile and at times reach $10,000 MWh.

Issues Facing Tasmania’s Newly Contestable Electricity Customers
Goanna Energy Consulting received funding from the Consumer Advocacy Panel (electricity and gas) as part of its grants process for a project to look at the benefits of electricity contestability electricity consumers in Tasmania. LGAT was a member of the Steering Committee for this project. As part of the project Goanna Energy Consulting conducted a number of free workshops state-wide to provide information on electricity competition and seek the views and experience of newly contestable electricity customers including a number of Tasmanian councils.

A Report on the findings of the project is now complete. The Report makes 11 recommendations and has been provided to the State Government and other major political parties. A key finding of the Report (page 3) is that many newly contestable customers “appear to lack bargaining ‘power’ in terms of their knowledge, experience and motivation, in the electricity contract negotiation process. This has combined with a very low level of retail activity and competition in the market, to heighten customer perceptions of risk in entering the new market”.

Local Government Information Session on Negotiating Electricity Supply and Contracts
Through involvement in the promotion of the state-wide workshops on negotiating an electricity contract, LGAT has received feedback from councils on two key issues of concern:

1. That a number of newly contestable councils were finding the contract negotiation process for electricity purchase challenging; and
2. That a number of councils needed legal advice on contract matters in regards to electricity purchase but were finding that quotes for the provision of such advice were very expensive.
Consequently, LGAT liaised with Goanna Energy Consulting and Simmons Wolfhagen Barristers and Solicitors to deliver an information session on issues surrounding negotiating an electricity contract including a discussion of legality issues surrounding contracts, specific to Local Government. The two hour information session, held 19 February 2010 provided opportunity for Councils to receive information on negotiating an electricity contract and ask questions of both Simmons Wolfhagen Barristers and Solicitors and Goanna Energy Consulting.

Following the session a number of councils queried whether LGAT could pursue shared legal advice for interested councils, to enable the standard contracts offered by Aurora and ERM energy to be ‘vetted’ for use by Local Government. Interest was also raised in the prospect of further advice on negotiation electricity rates and process for going to tender. LGAT agreed to progress this issue and advise councils of options for further advice on a shared cost per council basis.

A special thank you is noted to Mr Marc White of Goanna Energy Consulting and Mr David Morris of Simmons Wolfhagen Barristers and Solicitors who both donated their time and expertise to enable the session to be run at minimal cost to councils.

Budget Impact
Does not apply.

Current Policy
LGAT will continue to inform members with updates as relevant.

6 ITEM: ASBESTOS REFERENCE GROUP
Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
LGAT has been a member of the Minister for Workplace Relations’ Asbestos Reference Group, Chaired by Workplace Standards Tasmania. The Asbestos Reference Group and Asbestos Steering Committee were formed following a Tasmanian Asbestos Forum held in March 2009. The Asbestos Reference Group was tasked with providing advice to the Steering Committee on policy and legislation, increasing public awareness, and improving education.

The Reference Group provided a discussion paper to the Steering Committee in late November 2009. Issues covered by the discussion paper included:

- Prioritised removal
- Mandatory reporting and disclosure
- Costs to businesses, individuals and government
- Health issues including data collection, reporting and decision making
- Identification of lines of responsibility
- Resourcing requirements
The Steering Committee was required to develop recommendations for a Whole of Government policy for the future management of asbestos. The Steering Committee provided a report on dealing with asbestos in Tasmania to the Minister, the Hon Lisa Singh MP, in late December 2009.

The Report, to be used as a framework to help shape Government policy on the management of asbestos was launched on the Hobart Waterfront on 24 January, 2010. Key recommendations in the report include:

- A dedicated Asbestos Unit to be set up within Workplace Standards to drive overall government policy including areas such as long-term removal, training and licensing;
- Specialist asbestos inspectors for each region of the State;
- Mandatory building inspections prior to demolition permits being issued;
- Asbestos be listed as an essential safety requirement for Building Maintenance Certificates;
- Increased penalties for incorrect removal and disposal of asbestos; and
- Legislation to make it compulsory to disclose the presence of asbestos in residential rental properties, including financial incentives for landlords to remove asbestos.

**Budget Impact**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
With the launch of the Report, the Reference Group and Steering Committee have now completed work and both groups have been dissolved.

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**7 ITEM: CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

| That Members note the following report. | Resolved |

**Background comment:**

**Planet Footprint**
A process for securing information from Clarence City Council, Kingborough Council and Hobart City Council has been established so that state wide energy and greenhouse gas data can be collated. State-wide Local Government energy and greenhouse gas emission data will be available at the end of March.

Planet Footprint is in the process of engaging a person to spend three months in Tasmania to work with councils to deliver the 2009-10 program. As part of the Partnership Agreement with the State Government, councils are required to develop Climate Change Action Plans by 30 June 2010. The Planet Footprint employee will be available to provide council staff with the advice, training and the tools needed to enable them to deliver on this requirement. Councils are encouraged to make the most of this resource.
In the coming months Planet Footprint will also be:

− Continuing to work with property management staff within councils to identify all accounts relating to their nominated two largest facilities and prepare property report and producing ten Property Footprint Reports to each Council;
− Assisting councils with utilising the Account Management Toolkit;
− Collecting street lighting and fleet data;
− Delivering the full Greenhouse Reports;
− Identifying opportunities to councils to implement reduction targets on specific properties;
− Working with councils to establish Corporate Management Committees/Sustainability Groups; and
− Profiling councils and increasing public awareness of councils’ work in reducing emissions.

Regional Workshops
Three Climate Change Regional Workshops are currently being organised for April 2010. The workshops will have a focus on planning and adaptation and will provide staff and elected members with an update on State Government climate change tools and programs as well a session on how LGAT can assist councils in meeting their climate change needs into the future. The workshops are open to both council officers and elected members.

Budget Impact
Does not apply.

8 ITEM: STANDARDS PANEL
Contact Officer – Georgia Palmer

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
Under the Local Government Act 1993, LGAT is required to establish and provide the registrar services for an independent Standards Panel to hear complaints referred to it and appeals of determinations made by Council Code of Conduct Panels. The Local Government (General) Regulations 1995 establish the powers and procedures under which the Standards Panel operates.

Since its inception in 2006 the Standards Panel has heard 27 cases.

During this period, a number of difficulties have become apparent with the Code of Conduct provisions under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 1995.

The Association compiled a number of issues related to the Code of Conduct panels with input from councils in 2008 and these were provided to the Local Government Division.
In relation to Standards Panels, there have also been a number of issues which have arisen, including:

- The inability of the Panel to impose penalties when sanctions are not complied with;
- A lack of clarity around the extension of the immunity provisions to both council code of conduct panel members and the standard panel members;
- The potential for cross over with other Acts such as the Electoral Act 2004;
- The disclosure provision relating only to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Panel members;
- The ability of the complainant or the respondent to reject the other party from having legal representation; and
- The need for more clarity regarding time frames, withdrawal of complaints, and mediation.

The Local Government Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet is undertaking to review specific components of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 1995 this year. The review will cover the provisions relating to the Standards Panel. LGAT will work with the Local Government Division with the view to rectify these issues through amendments and will seek further input as that work progresses.

In addition to the difficulties with the Act and the Regulations, issues have arisen in relation to the attribution of the cost of a complaint referred to the Standards Panel by the Council. Councils are reminded that a motion was carried in December 2006 for all costs of the panel to be the responsibility of the council and that this included legal advice that LGAT may require if the determination is appealed to the Supreme Court.

Councils also need to be aware that in a few cases the Standards Panel has had some difficulty in determining a breach of a Code of Conduct due to the ambiguity of the code wording. Consideration may need to be given to a more standardised Code of Conduct across the councils.

This task may be met by the functions of the new state Integrity Commission as outlined in Section 8 (1)(a) of the Integrity Commission Act 2009 ‘develop standards and codes of conduct to guide public officers in the conduct and performance of their duties’. LGAT will liaise with the new CEO of the integrity commission in relation to this matter.

**Budget Impact**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
The Association is required by the Local Government Act 1993 to establish the Standards Panel.
That Members note the following report.

**Background comment:**
Tasmania is the first state to roll out the Federal Governments National Broadband Network (NBN). The network will connect 200,000 Tasmanian premises with super fast broadband, with the remaining premises being offered next generation wireless or satellite internet services. NBN Tasmania Limited has been established to manage the network rollout in Tasmania.

Work is currently underway for the rollout of the National Broadband Network in the ‘Stage 1’ or ‘Smart Town’ communities of Smithton, Scottsdale and Midway Point. Communities in these locations will be connected by July 2010.

To date there has been some concern regarding consultation with councils and the community regarding the network rollout. NBN Tasmania has recognised this concern and has since held discussions with the General Managers of Dorset, Circular Head and Sorell Councils to help develop community communication plans.

The Federal Government has also recently relocated officers from the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to Tasmania to work with NBN Tasmania on the Tasmanian roll out.

NBN Tasmania and the Federal Government have acknowledged that the consultation with Councils has been invaluable in garnering the local community views and concerns and in tailoring the communication plan to the needs of the local community.

Councils have also provided a high level of support in facilitating access for the infrastructure side of the network rollout.

The owners of premises in the Stage 1 communities will shortly receive letters inviting them to community briefing sessions. These briefings will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the work planned in their neighbourhood as well as the advantages of connecting to the network. Council will be consulted regarding advertising and presentation material and will play an important role in making sure these briefings are a success.

Over the coming weeks, NBN Tasmania will also be meeting with community interest groups to make sure there is a high level of understanding regarding the new network.

There have been no further announcements regarding the roll out of the network to the Stage 2 communities.

**Budget Impact**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
10 ITEM: CHANGES TO AGM/CONFERENCE DATES
Contact Officer – Allan Garcia

Latrobe Council/Waratah Wynyard Council

That Members note the proposal to bring a motion to the next Annual General Meeting of the Association that would seek to move the Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting to early in the financial year rather than conducting them at the end of the financial year.

Carried

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

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

The Annual General meeting has traditionally been held in conjunction with the Annual Conference and is preceded by a General Meeting. The General Meeting has been the traditional meeting at which member councils bring large numbers of motions and set the scene for policy debate and the development of positions on particular matters that are either adopted on the floor or progressed at a later stage through the establishment of an appropriate process. The General Meeting adds colour to the Conference proceedings, although they are separate, and provides the impetus for the media to get involved and better understand Local Government issues and positions.

In light of the “blockage” in the May/June period and the implications of end of financial year, it is felt that consideration should be given to moving the LGAT Conference to late July. While the AGM does not necessarily need to be held in conjunction with the Conference, for the reasons outlined above, there is significant merit in retaining them on block. The change in timing would ensure that there were not clashes with other major conferences, that the end of financial year rush was avoided and sponsorship opportunities may be enhanced by being early in the financial year rather than at the end of the cycle.

The implications of moving the AGM are minimal save for the fact that in a transitional financial year there would not be an AGM per se. Any significant shift in the date would require an amendment to the rules but in light of the reasons outlined, this measure is considered worthy of further review.

The last meeting of GMC agreed that the matter should be brought to the next AGM for decision/consideration but that the opportunity be provided at this meeting for preliminary discussion and clarification about any issues that councils may wish to raise prior to the matter being formally deliberated.

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

**Current Policy**
An amendment to LGAT Rules would be required to move the date of the AGM.

### 11 Item: Water and Sewerage Update

**Contact Officer – Allan Garcia**

That Members note the following report.

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**Background comment:**
Advice was received from Treasury in early January indicating that the next review of the Interim Price Order (IPO) for water and sewerage was to commence in the near future and that any comments that the Association had on the terms of reference and an accompanying cost benefit analysis were required to be submitted by the end of the month.

The proposed IPO commences the transition of the three water and sewerage corporations to full cost recovery including a commercial return on assets. The order is also designed to assist in changing pricing arrangements towards a more cost reflective approach, including two-part pricing across the state.

Two issues arose from the request, the first being the amount of time in which to provide a considered response and the second relating to a proposition within the terms of reference to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the water corporations since start up against a conceptual single model. This reflected an undertaking that the Treasurer apparently provided to Parliament following concerns expressed about the costs associated with the establishment of the corporations.

Failing to achieve an extension from the Department, a three month extension was subsequently granted by the Treasurer following comments to the press by the Association of the dissatisfaction of having the regulator assess the operations of the corporations against a mythical single entity when they had only been in situ for six months. The Treasurer also subsequently withdrew from the terms of reference, any mention of the single entity and any comparisons with the three corporations.

The Association submitted interim comments in relation to particular matters relating to the terms of reference following inputs from member councils and also provided a response to the water meter paper detailing broad support but highlighting some concerns relating to findings from previous studies and analysis undertaken by Hobart Council, in particular.

Further comments will be provided on the terms of reference for the IPO closer to the April closing date. As an aside, the Regulator also sought an extension of time for the review given some issues that had to be resolved with the corporations relating to data.
That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
The first installment of the inaugural short planning course for elected members was delivered on Saturday, January 2010.

Attracting a capacity enrolment, the day was enthusiastically received by those in attendance although given the temperature of the day, even the most ardent of students required regular breaks to ease the discomfort.

Delivered by the University of Tasmania, the course was developed in consultation with the Association with development funding provided by the State Government under the Stronger Councils Better Services Project.

Twenty-six elected members attended the day and, at the time of writing, were due for their follow up session in the coming weeks. In the intervening period, participants were given “homework” and were required to undertake a practical online activity which would be subject to assessment. Further, they were to be subject to an online examination. The culmination of the course will see attendees awarded certificates of participation/successful completion with a brief ceremony likely to occur during the LGAT Conference. For those not able to attend conference certificates will be awarded at their Council.

It is expected that following evaluation of the course, consideration will be given to a further intake later in 2010, likely around October. Future offerings will also be considered for employees (other than planners); potentially State Government officers and members of the public. These latter offerings are possibilities only and would be subject to interest and would be separate from those offered to elected members.

Budget Impact
The planning course is offered on a cost recovery basis

Current Policy
Improved understanding of the planning system and its processes by members of planning authorities is a positive policy contribution by the Association
That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
The 98th Local Government Conference will be held at Wrest Point in Hobart, from 12-14 May 2010. This year’s conference theme is Up Up Up – A Focus on Excellence and Innovation.

Confirmed plenary speakers include:
- World Top-10 speaker, Dominic Thurbon, Managing Director of the Centre for Skills Development.
- Fae Robinson, Principal Consultant and Futurist of Impact Solutions International.
- Dr Carole Boyle, Associate Professor and Director of the International Centre for Sustainability Engineering and Research, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Confirmed workshop presenters include:
- Professor Niki Ellis, Deputy CEO Australian Health Workforce Institute, University of Queensland.
- Dr Carole Boyle, Associate Professor and Director of the International Centre for Sustainability Engineering and Research, University of Auckland, New Zealand.
- Brad Wynter, Manager Organisation Development, City of Whittlesea.
- Tim Gardner, Managing Director, Stornoway Group.

The conference will be officially opened by His Excellency, Governor Peter Underwood.

Full delegate registration will cost $695 (incl GST).

Conference Dinner
Dinner will be hosted off-site at the Hotel Grand Chancellor on 13 May, with dance music provided by Sugar Train. Tickets will cost $130 per person.

Local Government Awards for Excellence
Entry forms for the 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence have been distributed to all councils. The closing date for entries is Friday, 19 March. All councils are encouraged to submit nominations. The winners will be announced at the conference dinner.

Partners Program
This year’s Partners Program will take delegates on a guided tour of Richmond, the Bonorong Wildlife Centre, Salmon Ponds and New Norfolk.

Budget Impact
With a marginal increase in delegate and trade exhibitor fees, and at current sponsorship levels, the conference is well placed to cover the associated expenses and deliver a modest return.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
14 ITEM: ASSET MANAGEMENT/FINANCIAL PLANNING *
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
Of the $200,000 available to the Stronger Councils, Better Services Project, LGAT received $70,000 to progress a consultancy project to assess the benefits of, and barriers to, implementing a common specified framework for long term financial planning and strategic asset management planning in all councils in Tasmania. This was completed towards the end of last year and was the subject of a presentation at the August 2009 General Meeting. The report is on the LGAT website.

As reported at the November 2009 General Meeting, the Association made a submission, supported as a priority by the State Government, to the Australian Government’s Local Government Reform Fund. This was one of 6 submissions that went out from Tasmania and a copy is at Attachment to Item 14.

While applications closed on 30 November 2009, the Australian Government have not yet made any funding decisions. At the Local Government and Planning Minister’s conference held in February 2010 the Commonwealth advised that they had concerns about the quality of the submissions stating that it would need to consult with jurisdictions on the submissions to clarify issues. No consultation has yet occurred but we have been advised anecdotally that the Tasmanian and South Australian submissions have been perceived as being of a higher quality than others nationally.

The delay in a funding decision is frustrating as some of the momentum from the previous consultancy is lost. Some councils have indicated a desire to move forward. In doing so, reference to the International Infrastructure Management Manual and the Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines (both produced by IPWEA) is recommended as a mechanism of ensuring alignment between councils.

Budget Impact
Unclear - pending Commonwealth funding decision.

Current Policy
This is a priority for the Premier’s Local Government Council as indicated in the 2010 work plan.
15 ITEM: CAREERS PROJECT **  
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Latrobe Council/Launceston City Council

That Members note the interim evaluation report on the Careers Project.

That Members note the anticipated costs for, and proposed activities to be undertaken, should the project be extended.

That Members agree to extend the funding of the Project for an additional 2 years, including the proposed additional activities.

Carried

Background comment:
At the General Meeting in March 2008 it was resolved that councils provide $200,000 over two years to address skills shortages in Local Government.

This motion was agreed in recognition that the skills shortage was still a prevailing issue, that the Association had worked collaboratively with a range of organisations to help raise the profile of Local Government but that it was a resource intensive exercise that was not sustainable; and that having a centralised careers resource within the Association was a more sensible option than a piecemeal approach with each council devoting scarce resources to this purpose.

The project’s scope was essentially to develop, deliver and measure services to councils, on careers and training issues. After a review of the available research a strategic approach was developed to positively influence recruitment, retention and management capacity. To achieve these objectives, a range of actions were developed in the areas of advertising, training and data collection.

An officer commenced in the position on a three day per week basis in September 2008 and consequently the project is due to conclude in September 2010.

In carrying the motion, it was agreed at the Meeting that there would be a review of outcomes within the two years, with a report back to the General Meeting and any proposed future actions were to be agreed. Ideally a review would be closer to the project end point but the Association feels it is important to give councils time to consider any future funding within their budget forecasting and prior to agreeing the Association’s budget at the Annual General Meeting in May 2010.
Attachment to Item 15A outlines the progress of the project to date and also some options for the future in some detail. These are summarised below -

Key outputs:
- Developed the brand “Think Big. Work Local” and ensured its placement in the jobs market.
- Produced a television commercial showing the diversity, professionalism and international possibilities in council careers (to be screened after the State election).
- Developed a Local Government careers website to be launched with ad.
- Booths at various careers fairs.
- Supported a trial of integrated subject at Reece High School, involving placements with Devonport City Council.
- Submissions have been made for around 100 employees to undertake a range of VET training.
- A system of HECs free scholarships has also been negotiated with UTAS.
- A range of training courses have been promoted to councils, and there is ongoing advice available to councils and review of content with some training providers.
- Developed and piloted workforce planning survey and analysis methodology with generic findings and methods are available for all councils to use.

Future Funding Options
At the end of Attachment to Item 15A is more detail on all options, with a breakdown of projected activity and individual activity costs.

Presented in the table below are a base Year 1 cost and base Year 2 cost. The costs predominantly relate to the retention of a part-time dedicated resource however, Year One includes a significant advertising budget with the intent, if funded, to re-run the advertisement on commercial TV at the end of ‘school’ year for University students entering the job market.

Additionally, in each year activities would include:
- additional website content;
- at least 5 careers fairs per annum;
- training advice;
- additional workforce planning surveys;
- annual workforce survey across the whole sector;
- management of funding applications;
- further liaison with the University regarding uptake of Local Government relevant postgraduate research; and
- detailed policy input at the national level.

The fourth column of the table outlines the potential cost of additional project activities. The fifth column briefly describes some examples of additional activity. In the attachment, more detail is provided with costs broken down. Some items could only be delivered if it was a two year program because of timing constraints. Councils could support funding all or none of the additional activities, or anywhere in between.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>2 Years</th>
<th>Additional Activity Options</th>
<th>Examples of additional activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Officer (including on costs)</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
<td>$98,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel (predominantly intra state)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration (printing, stationary, IT, etc)</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
<td>$47,000*</td>
<td>$107,500</td>
<td>Derivative ads. Additional screenings. Other advertising, print/billboards etc. Additional website functionality. Custom expo booth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>Creation of training content for shared use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>Additional workforce surveys. Public awareness survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$104,000</td>
<td>$163,298</td>
<td>$129,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Advertising Budget significant for year 1 only.

An estimated cost per council for each of the options is provided in Attachment to Item 15B and is based on council subscription percentages.

**Current Policy**
Following a resolution at the 2004 Annual Conference the Association has been addressing skills shortages and training issues in Local Government through a range of strategies as a component of the broad range of policy work.
16 ITEM: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION *
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
An outline of the phases of work being undertaken by ALGA was provided at the November 2009 General Meeting. Briefly, these are -

- **Phase 1** July 2009 – December 2009
  Starting the conversation.

- **Phase 2** January 2010 – November 2010
  Seeking support for particular plan.

- **Phase 3** December 2010 – Constitutional Commission
  Stakeholder and Community Engagement.

Phase 1 is essentially complete and ALGA has received drafts of the deliverables – four factsheets and a full colour brochure. State Associations have made some comments on the written materials and ALGA is currently finalising the content of these documents to ensure that although they are national in flavour, they reflect the differences between councils, between the states, as well as having a balance between rural, regional and urban councils.

During Phase 1 of the campaign approximately 25 meetings were held between ALGA and key federal stakeholders as well as presentations made to two parliamentary committees and to the Local Government Planning Ministers Council. Feedback has been positive from both sides of politics.

On 23 December an e-update was sent out to all councils, informing them of the developments in the progress of constitutional reform.

ALGA is also looking at proposals for a dedicated website for constitutional reform.

Finally, ALGA is in discussions with another potential constitutional ambassador and hope to have a decision shortly.

While created for a different purpose (promotion of Local Government careers), our advertisement will help raise awareness of Local Government and may prove a useful opening tool in Phase 3.

It is worth noting that in January, coinciding with the visit of Prince William, there was some discussion in the media about Local Government reform, federal-state relations and Australia as a republic and how these issues might be incorporated into a single referendum, a copy of a Government News article is at Attachment to Item 16.
Budget Impact
Does not apply.

Current Policy
This is one of the three pillars of ALGA’s strategic ‘3Fs’ agenda

17 ITEM: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REVIEW
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
In September 2009, the Minister for Local Government approved a review of the Measuring Council Performance program (KPI Project) in light of national and state wide developments on improving Local Government performance and on the sustainability of the sector.

A review committee has been established and comprises representatives of the previous KPI committee and from the Local Government Association, the Local Government Division, Local Government Managers Australia, the State Grants Commission, the Tasmanian Audit Office and the Australia Bureau of Statistics.

Terms of reference and a work program have been agreed. The intent is to complete the review in time to implement any changes ahead of the data collection for 2009-10. This requires a tight timeframe. The work program will include an environmental scan, communication and consultation opportunities and consider broader data requirements in addition to data required to support Key Performance Indicators.

It has been agreed that the 2008-09 Measuring Council Performance report will not be published (although the data will be collated and available as required) and that the KPI Committee be discontinued. Councils are reminded that data must be provided in order to meet the requirements of the State Grants Commission prior to allocation of Financial Assistance Grants to councils. A few councils have not yet provided data.

In undertaking the review it will be important to consider the range of external drivers, including likely national sustainability indicators arising through the Commonwealth’s Local Government Reform project and the Local Government Board’s report on principles for guiding voluntary mergers.

Budget Impact
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
That Members note the status of this project.

Resolved

Background comment:
The Steering Committee for the above project has been established and has met on two occasions. The Steering Committee comprises representatives from the Local Government Division, the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment, the Valuer-General, Frank Pearce from LGMA, Frank Barta from the Clarence Council and the CEO of the Association.

Draft terms of reference for the project have been developed but are still subject to ratification. An issues/background paper is also presently under preparation that will support other documentation for inclusion with a request for tender for consultants to undertake the review.

Preliminary thinking indicates that the review may require two separate consultants – one for the valuation component and another for the rating elements. It is not envisaged that the outcomes for the review would be available for the upcoming financial year and in terms of the valuation aspects, would not likely take effect until after the present round of valuations.

As further progress is made on the review, information will be provided to councils.

Budget Impact
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
19 ITEM: ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT (eDA) PROJECT
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
By way of a brief recap:

- Tasmania secured up to $500,000 through the Commonwealth Government’s Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) to roll out eDA processes.
- Two councils in Tasmania are participating - Hobart City and Northern Midlands.
- The emphasis of the Tasmanian project is on improving efficiency through improved communication with, and guidance for applicants, using electronic tools, linked to the ability to communicate to applicants on how their application is progressing electronically (i.e. internal tracking) and improved ability to assess compliance.
- Following a tender process Infomaster were selected to provide and implement the eDA systems.
- The project is being independently evaluated, to determine the cost benefits and implications of, further roll out, by Stenning and Associates.

At the time of the last report, the two councils were expected to have live systems by the beginning of January 2010. There have been a few technical issues and at the time of writing Northern Midlands Council had just gone live with Hobart due to follow shortly after. To view the product, go to the Northern Midlands Council website and on the home page, click on the link eDA eplanning.

One requirement of the project is the ability to demonstrate compliance to the eDA interoperability standards (eDAIS) via a test harness. This is being developed nationally and has not been achieved on time and so all jurisdictions are entering into contract variations with the Commonwealth to extend the timeframes.

It is likely the project will come in under budget and the Commonwealth have indicated a willingness for the Association to develop a business case regarding an extension of the project to an additional councils and/or working on referral aspects in partnership with a body such as the EPA or Onstream.

Budget Impact
This project is fully funded by the Australian Government.

Current Policy
Actions to improve housing affordability have been identified as a priority by PLGC. The eDA project is part of the COAG agenda
That Members note the following report.

**Background comment:**
On the 4 February the Local Government Division sent an email to General Managers regarding the Proclamation of the Dog Control Amendment Act which deals with restricted and dangerous breeds. Key elements of the legislation are due to commence 1 July 2010 including:

- Stronger control measures on dangerous dogs, including child-proof enclosures of a minimum standard.
- A new classification of restricted breed dog with stronger control requirements.
- Mandatory de-sexing of restricted breed dogs and dangerous dogs.
- Restrictions on selling and exchanging dangerous and restricted breed dogs.
- Stronger provisions for councils to seize and detain dogs.
- A new noise abatement notice process to tackle problem barking dogs.

Compulsory micro-chipping of all dogs will commence from 1 July 2011.

The Association has been involved in the progress of these changes since 2006 through working groups and submissions and working with the Local Government Division on the draft Bill. The Association has emphasised the requirement for adequate training for Animal Control Officers and broad public education.

The Local Government Division is developing an implementation program in collaboration with LGAT and the Animal Management Officers Association of Tasmania (AMOAT) through a joint implementation group. This will include the development of advice and information, and training for council staff in relation to the new control requirements.

Registered Breed signage has been developed and the design will be made available to councils shortly. If a council is uncertain about suppliers, the best contact is Steve Rigby at Glenorchy City Council. Steve is the President of AMOAT.

The Local Government Division has developed a webpage, including a set of frequently asked questions in relation to the legislation, which will be of assistance to your officers and to which members of the public may be referred for further information. The webpages can be found at http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/dog_control. It is intended to update the FAQ template on the LGAT website for your use (noting that the templates are all currently under review). It would also be timely for councils to review and update their Dog Management Policies.

The Local Government Division intends to hold regional information sessions on the changes in the near future, as well as providing training for assessors on restricted breeds in the North and South.

AMOAT will be a useful source of information and provide opportunity to raise and solve issues with peers as legislation is implemented (for both cats and dogs). Membership is open to all council management control officers and those in allied professions (e.g. RSPCA, vets). Membership fees are very moderate and are tax deductible. Many councils pay membership fees for their staff. Membership is highly encouraged.

**Budget Impact**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
A number of motions relating to amendment of the Dog Control Act were carried over past years.

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**21 ITEM: STATE GOVERNMENT URBAN PASSENGER TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK**  
Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

**That Members note the following report.**

**Resolved**

**Background comment:**
The State Government has released its Tasmanian Urban Passenger Transport Framework.

The Framework identifies 5 priority areas:
1. Reduced greenhouse emissions.
2. Liveable and accessible communities.
3. Travel reliability.
4. Healthy, active communities.
5. Integrated transport and land use planning.

This follows the release of Hobart City Council’s Sustainable Transport Strategy 2009-2014, which has been under development since 2008 and involved significant community consultation.

The State Government’s Tasmanian Urban Passenger Transport Framework draws substantially on the Hobart Passenger Transport Case Study looking at transport and land use planning issues and responses in the Hobart metropolitan area. The Study included investigation into the utilisation of the rail corridor to provide a light rail passenger service between Hobart and Glenorchy as well as Derwent River Ferries. In short, it is concluded by the Study that both light rail and Derwent River ferries are unfeasible based on high cost and lack of commercial viability.

The Framework indicates that the existing public transport system (largely based on buses) is the most appropriate public transport system to provide the flexibility required to meet the needs of Tasmania’s dispersed urban settlement patterns. The focus in the medium term is therefore to improve this system and encourage greater take up of public transport as well as actions such as park and ride facilities at strategic urban fringe locations. For travel over shorter distances, the Framework aims to support and improve walking and cycling opportunities. A Walking and Cycling strategy is currently under development.


**State Government Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy (draft)**
A number of councils recently participated in a consultative session on the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources’ (DIER) Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy. DIER is developing state-wide policy and planning for cycling and walking as viable forms of transport and encouraging Local Government and other interested organisations to play an important role. DIER has advised it will continue to consult with Local Government on an “as needs consultative basis” as actions under the Strategy are developed.

At the recent consultative session, a key issue raised by councils is that in order for a walking and cycling strategy to be successful, a State (Planning) Policy on active transport was required so that councils could enable their local planning schemes to have ‘more teeth’ and to allow for connections between municipal boundaries. It is not yet clear to what degree the Regional Planning Initiatives will address this policy gap. Another issue raised by councils was that DIER’s maintenance program for State roads, did not necessarily support use of state road infrastructure by cyclists due to road surfacing inappropriate for use by cyclists such as ‘spray surfacing’. Such maintenance techniques prevent cyclists from commuting between local areas using State roads. DIER agreed to look at this issue.

Councils stressed the need for DIER to continue to work with Local Government and provide councils with opportunity to engage their community members to build support and ownership of walking and cycling policies and activities. It was also recommended that education sessions were provided to elected members to promote best practice and build support at Councillor level. The Association agreed that this was something it could assist with.

**Budget Impact**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
LGAT will continue to represent members’ interests and inform members on relevant issues.
22 ITEM: ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE  
Contact Officer – Kate Hiscock

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:

$5 Million State funding for local roads - immediate allocation
Following one of the wettest winters on record in Tasmania, many councils suffered major damage to roads, creating a significant burden on maintenance budgets. Some councils also experienced significant damage to road related infrastructure including the loss of bridges.

The Association directly raised Local Government concerns on this issue with the Premier through the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) and requested that funding be allocated to councils suffering significant damage through activation of the Local Government Relief Policy. The Premier's initial response was that the storm conditions were not severe enough to justify activation of the policy; however he would discuss the matter with the Treasurer.

On Monday 8 February 2010, the State Government announced an immediate once off fund of $5 million to assist Tasmanian councils to address affected roads in their municipalities. Funding will be distributed using the traditional Commonwealth formula for road funding that takes into account length, type and usage of roads.

The $5 million is welcomed by councils across the state although it is clear that the standard distribution does not take account of the fact that some councils suffered significant damage to critical infrastructure which will create ongoing funding challenges. The Association had also requested financial support for those councils whose infrastructure had been impacted significantly by the storm damage late last year. However, follow up with the Premier's Office subsequent to the announcement of the $5million indicates that additional funding for storm related damage will not be forthcoming.

State Infrastructure Strategy
The Premier launched the State Infrastructure Strategy on 10 February 2010. The Strategy is high level, with no designated funding attached. The Strategy focuses on the State’s key economic infrastructure sectors of transport, telecommunications, energy and water. It has been designed as a living document which will be continually updated to reflect emerging issues, new priorities and emerging technologies.

Local Government and other stakeholders were involved in the earlier stages of the Strategy's development through a number of workshops. The State Infrastructure Strategy is available on the internet at: www.infrastructure.tas.gov.au.

Budget Impact
Does not apply.

Current Policy
LGAT will continue to represent members' interests and inform members on relevant issues.
23 ITEM: PLANNING LEGISLATION UPDATE  
Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

That Members note the following report.

Resolved

Background comment:
Detailed updates on the progress of the State Government’s planning reforms were provided at the last two meetings.

The intent of this paper is to briefly outline the status of legislation and particularly the impact of the State election on the passage of legislation.

Amendments to the Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997 which established the Tasmanian Planning Commission came into effect on 1 September 2009.

Amendments to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 which introduced Projects of Regional Significance and put in place processes to underpin the Government’s Regional Planning Initiatives came into effect on 1 January 2010.

Amendments to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 which were to introduce improved enforcement provisions for Local Government were not considered by Parliament in its last session and will need to be revisited by the new Government.

The foreshadowed amendments to the State Policies and Projects Act 1993 which are intended to improve the State Policy making process were not completed in time for consideration by Parliament and will need to be revisited by the new Government.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission has indicated that they will take the opportunity to consult with councils again prior to the new Government revisiting outstanding legislation.

Budget Impact
Does not apply.

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

Resolved

Background comment:
The Tasmanian Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, Chemsafe Homes Tasmania, was officially launched by the Minister for the Environment Michelle O’Byrne and LGAT President Barry Easther on 20 October 2009 at the Launceston City Council Works Depot. Newspapers and ABC radio carried the story across the state. Further media alerts were released prior to drop-off days in the south and north. Brochures promoting Chemsafe Homes Tasmania, were delivered statewide on 26 October 2009.

The first drop-off day on 28 November 2009 at the Derwent Entertainment Centre, Glenorchy attracted 220 participants safely disposing of household chemicals ranging from pesticides, fuels, poisons, fertiliser, paint, batteries and many more. The following day a further 239 participants visited the Kingborough Council Works Depot, Kingston. The following weekend drop-off days were conducted in Launceston (143 cars) and Burnie (67 cars).

The second campaign will begin the weekend Saturday 13 March 2010 at McRobies Gully, Hobart, and Sunday 14 March at Clarence City Council Chambers carpark. Further services are organised for Smithton, Spreyton, Scottsdale and Launceston during March. Chemsafe Homes Tasmania is supported by a freecall telephone service on 1800 857002, with 115 calls received up to 31 December 2009.

In consultation with regional waste management groups and the chemical contractor, further sites will be assessed and approved for conduct for collection days during 2010-11. They are likely to include jurisdictions yet to receive a drop-off day.

The success of Chemsafe Homes Tasmania will be measured using qualitative and quantitative data collected throughout the life of the 5-year program. In the first 2 years, key performance indicators include number of participants, volume of waste collected, cost per kilo collected, number of reported incidents, proportion of material reused/recycled/treated/destroyed, community attitude, frequency of community approaching councils with household hazardous waste, and other indicators.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Where possible, the HHW collection program approach is to be aligned with Regional, State and National Controlled Waste Strategies.
25 CLOSURE

The matter of Member Subscriptions was raised by the CEO, Mr Allan Garcia. Several councils have recently undergone the revaluation process with the majority moving up a category in the subscription schedule, with one council moving up two categories. It has once again highlighted an inequity in the way subscriptions are determined and the need for a review of the subscription schedule to be once again undertaken. It was proposed that options be provided at the Annual General Meeting for councils to consider, with the view that a change of the Association Rules at the AGM could be implemented to reflect changes made.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 2.50pm.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Follow up of Motions</td>
<td>Refer Item 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Electricity Retail Contestability</td>
<td>Refer Item 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Asbestos Reference Group</td>
<td>No Further Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Climate Change Update</td>
<td>Refer Item 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Standards Panel</td>
<td>No Further Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>National Broadband Network</td>
<td>Presentation arranged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Changes to AGM/Conference Dates</td>
<td>Refer Item 5 - AGM Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Water and Sewerage Update</td>
<td>No Further Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Elected Members’ Short Planning Course</td>
<td>No Further Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2010 Local Government Conference</td>
<td>No Further Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Asset Management/Financial Planning</td>
<td>Refer Item 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Careers Project</td>
<td>Refer Item 8 - AGM agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Constitutional Recognition</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Key Performance Indicators Review</td>
<td>Refer Item 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Valuation Rating Review</td>
<td>Refer Item 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Electronic Development Assessment Project (eDA)</td>
<td>Refer Item 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Dangerous Dogs</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>State Government Urban Passenger Transport Framework</td>
<td>No Further Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Roads and Infrastructure Update</td>
<td>Refer Item 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Planning Legislation Update</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Household Hazardous Waste Update</td>
<td>Refer Item 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Follow up of Outstanding General Meeting Motions Report

Motions which had been completed by the last meeting (August 09) or which have been replicated in later meetings have been deleted in order to more efficiently monitor outstanding activity.

REPORT A:

This report details motions which are still being pursued by LGAT. Where and end point has been reached there will be a final update and indication that this item will be removed from future reports.

### 2006 Motions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June Conference</th>
<th>August 2006 General Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.2</strong> Review of Sewers and Drains and Waterworks Clauses Acts:** That the LGAT request the State Government to review both the Sewers and Drains Act 1954 and the Waterworks Clauses Act 1952 to improve resource management and governance of these essential services within the state</td>
<td>LGAT attended the first meeting of the Drains Act Review Reference Group, convened by the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), on 31 March 2010. The Reference Group also includes representation from a number of councils, the EPA, Department of Justice and Ben Lomond Water (given the unique relationship of Ben Lomond Water with Launceston City Council). A discussion paper has been prepared for targeted consultation. Stakeholders will be provided four weeks to respond to the paper, which will be distributed by DPIPWE in mid to late April.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>13</strong> Constitutional Recognition:</th>
<th>ALGA are continuing to progress activity in this area. See report this meeting.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Continue to lobby for the inclusion of appropriate recognition of Local Government in the Commonwealth Constitution.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Urges the Local Government Association of Tasmania to renew its efforts to gain appropriate recognition of Local Government in the Commonwealth Constitution, including the formal of a special committee to work with other states to finalise the wording of proposals, and undertake appropriate lobbying activities to achieve Constitutional recognition.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Urges the Local Government Association of Tasmania to use all efforts to press the Australian Local Government Association to be more active in pursuing the Australian Parliament to undertake measures to have Local Government recognised in the Commonwealth Constitution.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2007 Motions

#### May Conference

**4.2 Borrowing Limits:** That in light of the recent LGAT sustainability review and the evaluation that many councils could better utilise loans to assist in funding asset renewal gaps the LGAT actively lobby the State Government to have borrowing limits extended.

LGAT has written to the Treasurer on this matter. He advised that the Net Debt to Revenue benchmark of 40% will remain in place given they do not appear to be limiting LGAs access to borrowings to fund infrastructure projects. A review of the current benchmark levels, will however, be conducted after considering all LGA borrowing requests in 2008-9 to ensure the current process continues to meet the funding requirements of councils.

**5.2 Review of Rules Governing Aurora:** That the Local Government Association of Tasmania take up with the State Government the issue of Aurora undergrounding power for new developments other than for subdivisions greater than 5 lots and in particular that the rules governing Aurora be reviewed for both on ground works and charging regimes to ensure the best long term development outcomes for communities.

In light of State Government comment, LGAT has written to the Energy Regulator seeking clarification. He advises he is investigating Aurora’s needs including amounts to finance underground supply. Matters raised by LGAT will be raised with Aurora and Energy Regulator will respond in due course. Flagged for follow-up.

#### August 2007

**12 Review of Part 5 of the Local Government Act:** That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request a review of Part 5 (Interest) of the Local Government Act.

A letter has been sent to the State Government. LGAT and the Local Government Office have commenced a project to review components of the Act but it is not likely to be progressed until next year.

**10 Valuation of Land Act:** That Local Government establish a high-level working group to investigate all other alternate options in relation to this matter and in the event a change is supported the LGAT then make representation to the State Government.

See Item 17, August 2009

#### June 2008

**10.2** That LGAT lobbies the State Government to make changes to the eligibility criteria for pensioners under the Local Government (Rates & Charges Remissions) Act 1991 so that pensioner residents of retirement villages can still receive a State Government remission from their rates.

Preliminary discussions with Local Government Division undertaken. To be picked up in rating and valuation review.
| August 2008 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| That the LGAT requests the State Government to review those provisions in the Act relating to public meetings by petition with a view to: 1. Limiting the compulsion to hold a meeting to matters of relevance only to the municipal area over which the Council has control; 2. Balancing the rights of ratepayers and residents of the municipal area against those of others attending a public meeting; and 3. Addressing some of the practical issues that have arisen in recent times. | Has been raised with the Local Government Division who have included it on a list of issues for consideration in a review of the Act. |

<p>| June 2009 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1 &quot;That the Local Government Association of Tasmania seek amendment to the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 section 43, Expenses for councillors, which reads: “A councillor is entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses in accordance with the policy adopted under Schedule 5 to the Act in relation to - ...” Sub-clause (c) to be altered from: &quot;(c) Care of any child of the councillor” to: &quot;(c) Care of any person for whom the councillor is responsible.&quot;&quot; | Has been raised with the Local Government Division who have included it on a list of issues for consideration in a review of the Act. |
| 1.4 That a review of the following sections of the Local Government Act be undertaken: 28E – Code of Conduct 28G – Establishment of Code of Conduct Panel That a review of Section 199 – Interpretation of Division 6 – Definition of nuisance, of the Local Government Act be undertaken. The review is to include strengthening provisions under Section 199 | Has been raised with the Local Government Division who have included it on a list of issues for consideration in a review of the Act. |
| 5.2 That the Local Government Association of Tasmania is asked to lobby the State Government for an increase in operational funding for the Parks And Wildlife Service Tasmania | Letter sent to Minister. No response received at this time. |
| 6.1 and 6.2 &quot;That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request the State Government to legislate, so that Local Government is empowered to ensure that the planting of trees within town boundaries are species that are appropriate in relation to both fire and general safety That LGAT lobby State Government i) to reassess the state planning template; and ii) to manage road verges, rail corridors and or cycle ways in regard to fire management | Was raised at a State Government meeting regarding bushfire planning. No specific response to date. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 2009</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong> That LGAT investigate the formulation of a state-wide policy and legislation that may enable councils to legitimately charge developer contributions for both hard and soft infrastructure in the future.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16</strong> That Members agree that LGAT should continue to explore opportunities that might arise through joint State/Local Government approaches to roads maintenance or pooling of funds and other objectives and priorities that were identified at the roads forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong> That the Local Government Association of Tasmania be requested to appoint a Working Group or an independent consultant with power to co-opt the Valuer General to review the rating provisions within the Local Government Act 1993 and the Valuation of Land Act 2001 including: 1. The costs/benefits of requiring the Valuer General to provide assessed annual values of all lands within each valuation district under Section 11 of the Valuation of Land Act 2001. 2. The success of the bi-annual assessed annual adjustment factors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November 2009

| 28 | That the Local Government Association of Tasmania further progress these matters on Australian Government Financial assistance with the Water and Sewerage Corporations and the State Government as a matter of urgency. |

The State Government has made application to the Commonwealth for funding for water meters. This follows discussions with the water corporations. LGAT is continuing its dialogue with the Chair of the corporations to ascertain the most effective means by which to secure additional funds for Water & Sewerage infrastructure.

March 2010

| No motions brought by members |  |
REPORT B:

This report details motions which are unresolved but which are dependent on new State Government Action. LGAT proposes to hold this as a record but not to further report on these items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion No.</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Status (at Last Report)</th>
<th>Date of Last Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2005 Motions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td><strong>Projects of Regional Significance</strong>: That subject to the appropriate criteria being developed in consultation with Local Government, projects of regional significance be incorporated into the <em>State Policies and Projects Act 1994</em></td>
<td>Will be picked up under planning reform.</td>
<td>March 2010 (Planning Report)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2006 Motions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td><strong>Heavy Vehicle Funding</strong>: That LGAT lobby the State Government to provide a greater share to Local Government in Tasmania of the heavy vehicle registration fees to enable Councils to develop a sustainable model for more adequate maintenance to their roads.</td>
<td>The Association included this issue in its 2010-11 Budget Submission but received no traction on the issue with State Government.</td>
<td>March 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4.1 Highway Signage:

That the Association request the State Government to review its existing policy relating to the Tasmanian Visitor Information System (TVIS) throughout the State and provide an opportunity for specific improvements in signage particularly for businesses that do not have frontage to major Highways.

The matter was considered at the May General Managers’ Workshop. This forum determined that the most critical issue related to illegal signage on highways and roads. LGAT has written to DIER advising this and suggesting a complementary State and Local Government response to the problem. A departmental response is yet to be received despite follow up.

November 2008

### 2007 Motions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Establishment of Walkways and Cycleways: That the LGAT requests State Government assistance for Local Government to establish walkways, bush walking tracks and cycleways.</td>
<td>The State Government has been funding $1for $1 through the Trail and Bikeways Program. Presentation made to PPAC forum in 2010.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Derelict and Dilapidated Buildings: That LGAT strongly request the State Government to pass amending legislation to give councils clear and appropriate powers to enforce works to remedy the adverse effects of derelict or dilapidated buildings on the streetscape and nearby properties. It is recommended that those powers include the power of compulsory acquisition if the property owner does not comply with the enforcement order issued under that amended legislation.</td>
<td>This issue will be reconsidered with any future amendments to the Local Government Act.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Uniform Water Restrictions:</td>
<td>This is now a matter for the water authorities. Item to be removed next report.</td>
<td>May 2010.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>That the LGAT lobby the State Government and the Australian Local Government Association to review the levels and criteria of the different stages of water restrictions with a view to making them uniform across Australia.</td>
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<td>8.1</td>
<td>Amendment of Anti-Hooning Legislation:</td>
<td>In 2009 the State Government introduced amendments to enhance abilities to confiscate/clamp cars. Loss of licences is not automatic but subject to the court process. Unless related to a specific offence eg 37kms and over speed limit. Item to be removed next report.</td>
<td>May 2010.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania requests the State Government to amend the anti-hooning legislation to include the cancellation of a person's licence for the period the car is impounded.</td>
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<td>8.2</td>
<td>Smoking Policies and Controls:</td>
<td>Subject of a motion to May 2010 Meeting</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td>That a consistent approach to smoking policy and controls be taken across Tasmania.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pension Rate Rebate:</td>
<td>That LGAT be requested to continue to lobby the State Government for an increase in the Pension Rate Rebate under the Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991.</td>
<td>LGAT has lobbied the State Government on this matter. It also sought an indication from councils of levels of rebate support, other than through the State Scheme, that they provide to pensioners. 6 councils provide additional rebate support.</td>
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<td>10.4</td>
<td>Fire Service Levy:</td>
<td>That Local Government advise the State Government that as of 2008/9 that we require them to amend the legislation so that Local Government is not responsible for the collection of the fire service levy. That a strong message be also given to the State government that the 2006/7 increase is unacceptable and that additional funding should be found from the consolidated fund to meet the increasing costs of this service.</td>
<td>LGAT has written to the Minister for Police and Emergency Management stating the Association’s position on this matter and seeking a commitment to amend the current arrangements so councils are not responsible for collecting the levy. The Minister’s response did not address the issue fully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2007</td>
<td>Road Closure Appeal Process:</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request the State Government to amend Section 14 of the Local Government (Highways) Act 1982 to provide for the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal to receive and determine appeals against the proposed closure or diversion of local highways in lieu of the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division).</td>
<td>The Association has written to the Local Government Office on this matter. The LGO responded with advice that the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) is undertaking a Road Legislation Review with the aim of consolidating road legislation. The Local Government (Highways) Act 1982 is one of the Acts being reviewed. The review project is in start up mode with amending legislation proposed to be introduced into Parliament by the Spring 2009 session. LGATs letter has been passed on to the project team so the request for amendment can be considered in the process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| November 2007 | Water and Sewerage: Noting that the Treasurer has stated that the status quo in the provision of water and sewerage will not continue. That LGAT advises the State Government that: 1) it rejects the option of a single Statewide model and 2) If there has to be water and sewerage reform, three regional, Local Government owned water and sewerage entities is the only model acceptable to the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

That LGAT actively pursue during and after the Federal election campaign the provision of $350 million government grant funding to Local Government to undertake major capital works projects, which is essential to underpin any reform process and make it affordable to the community.

That an additional 11th principle that Local Government regional water and sewerage authorities/corporations pay both dividends and equivalent tax payments to member councils as occurs now for joint bulk water authorities, be added to the ten principles proposed by the State Government.

That Tasmanian Councils need to be left in a financial state that maintains their viability ie there should be no detrimental effects on other council works and community services due to the formation of regional water and sewerage authorities/corporations.

That representatives from the three regional water and sewerage working groups meet next week to formulate an LGAT submission to the Taskforce. |
| On 4 February 2008m, PLGC endorsed a Local Government, three region, model for delivery of water and sewerage services, with dividends to be provided to Councils. Additionally the State Government have committed $5 million in transitional funding.

Related legislation has now been passed by both houses. The Constitution has been agreed and Chairman and Directors appointed.

LGAT contributed to the Australia Local Government Association’s Federal budget submission. This submission flags five priority areas including

Delivering reforms to intergovernmental relations, including: Reform to local government general-purpose funding and investment in community and strategic infrastructure and building-on and extending investment in long term transformational programs to improve national roads and transport systems, Australia’s natural resource management, water reform and emergency management.

The Federal Government made announcements in the Budget (08) regarding the establishment of Infrastructure Australia, and the Building Australia Fund. | November 2008 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>6.1 That the State Government be called upon to create the necessary legislative mechanisms to enable planning authorities to issue planning infringements for non compliance with planning schemes and planning permit conditions including a scale of penalties which are commensurate with the seriousness of a breach.</td>
<td>Matter raised with Land Use Planning at meeting held 14 August. Position as outlined by State Government in response to motion remains.</td>
<td>November 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>6.2 That the Local Government Association of Tasmania investigate and obtain advice in seeking to review and amend the provisions of the <a href="https://www.laws.tas.gov.au/Land-Use-Planning-Approvals-Act-1993">Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</a> to prevent multi planning applications being made on the same parcel of land for the same or similar use and development until the first application has been determined by the planning authority.</td>
<td>Matter raised with Land Use Planning at meeting held 14 August. Position as outlined by State Government in response to motion remains.</td>
<td>November 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>6.4 That the Local Government Association of Tasmania request the State Government to amend the <a href="https://www.laws.tas.gov.au/Land-Use-Planning-Approvals-Act-1993">Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</a> and the <a href="https://www.laws.tas.gov.au/Historic-Cultural-Heritage-Act-1995">Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</a> to prohibit public notification of planning and works applications during the Easter period, between the Thursday prior and the Tuesday after, and over the Christmas/New Year period commencing that last working day prior to Christmas, or a sufficient time to allow for a weekend notification date, until January 15, and that the consideration period for both the planning authorities and the Tasmanian Heritage Council be extended to account for this prohibition, with a commensurate extension of the maximum 42 day period.</td>
<td>Matter raised with Land Use Planning at meeting held 14 August. Position as outlined by State Government in response to motion remains.</td>
<td>November 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2009</td>
<td>4.1 That Councils support the motion for the Local Government Association to lobby the State Government to review the application of taxes and stamp duty associated with business transactions, e.g. payroll tax, insurance premium renewals and mortgage dealings</td>
<td>Initial communication with the Department of Treasury and Finance undertaken. Treasurer has advised that he doesn’t support a review of taxation outside the normal review process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>That LGAT lobby the State Government through the DPIW Water Division to make uniform water licenses for both summer and winter conditions</td>
<td>Letter sent to Minister. No response was received. A follow up letter has been sent May 2009.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>That LGAT request the State Government, as a matter of urgency, to amend legislation to allow controlled use of grey water especially in regard to the domestic situation and to consider the latest research in the reuse of grey water and provide proposals and discussion papers in relation to the establishment of uniform state wide controls for grey water reuse in Tasmania for the consideration of Local Government</td>
<td>Matter raised with the Department of Primary Industries and Water.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2008</td>
<td>March 2009</td>
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<td>That LGAT initiate discussion with the State government as to the effect Land Tax is having on Councils and communities.</td>
<td>Letter sent to Treasurer Oct 08 with reference to ALGA submission to Taxation Review. Treasurer has advised that he doesn’t support a review of Land Tax outside the normal review process and has written to LCC. LGAT has been advised of same and has subsequently informed LCC as initiator of motion.</td>
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Discussion Paper

Sustainability Objectives and Indicators Project

May 2010

The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project is an initiative of the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) to promote excellence in council performance and to support the long-term sustainability of the local government sector.

It will allow assessment of council performance in key areas, enable communities to better engage with their councils, and assist the State Government and local government to set priorities for improved performance within the sector.

The local government sector in Tasmania is facing a number of challenges to its sustainability in the medium to long term: skills shortages, financial stress and limited revenue-raising capacity, asset deterioration and replacement costs, ageing populations, climate change, growing community demands, and governance issues. Water and sewerage reform has also highlighted issues regarding the role of the sector.

The evidence for concern about the sector’s sustainability and performance arises from a raft of studies and forums:

- In his May 2009 report on local government, the Auditor-General found that 17 councils had incurred operating deficits in 2007-08 and that 12 councils had recorded a deficit for a minimum of three successive financial years.

- A 2007 Access Economics report to the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) found that ‘one in five Tasmanian councils may be financially unsustainable’.

- A 2006 PricewaterhouseCoopers study, National Financial Sustainability Study of Local Government, commissioned by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), highlighted issues of financial viability and concluded that internal reforms alone would not resolve sustainability issues for a large part of the sector.

The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project is one mechanism to assist in addressing this concern.
Objectives of the Project

The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project has three objectives:

- to improve performance management at the local council level
- to develop a culture of continuous improvement in the local government sector
- to provide a tool to build a sustainable local government sector.

The project has three target audiences: councils, communities, and Australian, State and local government policy-makers. It will allow councils to measure and therefore improve performance and to further improve their transparency, and it will help engage communities in their council’s performance. On the basis of annual reporting and consistent analysis, the project will also be useful to all three spheres of government in guiding policy decisions and determining priorities for the local government sector.

Achieving the Objectives

It is envisaged that councils will be measured against a small number (possibly six to 10) of core elements which are considered to provide the best indication of a council’s sustainability and performance. These elements will be determined through an extensive consultation process, but may include such elements as financial and asset management and governance.

Performance in each area will be measured against indicators and targets. Councils will be supported and encouraged to:

- improve performance where they are not meeting the targets
- identify and share with the sector best practice where they are meeting targets
- track their performance over time, and against other similar councils
- continuously improve performance
- communicate with their communities about their performance/how they are tracking.

The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project recognises that, in addition to their core work, councils across Tasmania make a significant contribution to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their communities. The nature of this contribution varies between councils, partly driven by varying community expectations. For many councils, this contribution is a significant proportion of their activity.

It is likely, then, that the project will also allow councils to measure their performance and long-term wellbeing in some of these non-core areas.
Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania

Data will be collected through the current Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania (KPI) data collection. In addition to financial and asset management data currently collected, new data will be required that appropriately measure the elements and objectives of the project. Data will continue to be collected annually.

Consideration will be given to seeking qualitative data on community satisfaction, mostly through the biannual community satisfaction survey conducted by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

The KPI project is itself being reviewed. Councils are seeking more meaningful measures of their performance and an assurance that the data they collect for the annual KPI report is the right data. They are keen, as is the State Government, to ensure that the effort that goes into reporting is used optimally.

It is recognised, however, that collection of data on local government in Tasmania will be necessary on an ongoing basis. Clients such as the State Grants Commission (SGC) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) require data for grants allocations and national statistics. This is in addition to the requirements of councils, the Local Government Board, and local and State government policy-makers.

Progress to Date

The KPI and Sustainability Objectives and Indicators projects have now been collapsed into one review for a number of reasons:

- This will provide a consistent and more meaningful policy and performance measurement approach in relation to local government in Tasmania.
- There will be a single high-level list of performance indicators for the sector, which will be agreed by all stakeholders.
- All data requirements will be considered at the one time with the aim of ensuring they are collected in one process and that there are neither missing nor double requirements for data.
- The resources and expertise committed to both projects will be applied more efficiently.

The joint review is being overseen in the first instance by a joint steering committee of local, State and Australian government representatives, including representatives of the ABS and the SGC. This committee has the responsibility to:

- provide advice to the Minister for Local Government on ongoing data collection requirements and data quality management
- develop a draft set of sustainability objectives and indicators for consideration by the Premier’s Local Government Council and for consultation with councils and the community
• develop a timeframe for the project, including a consultation program with councils, key stakeholders and the community.

In the first instance, the Minister for Local Government has accepted a list of principles for future data collection and reporting as recommended by the committee (attached).

Other Jurisdictions

The project is in keeping with national trends in performance measurement and moves to shore up the sustainability of the sector.

The sector itself is also committed to performance measurement. In an address to the National Press Club on 31 March 2010, the President of the Australian Local Government Association, Cr Geoff Lake, stated the following:

“I am a strong believer in the community having a right to be able to access information on the performance of their public institutions. And local government should be no different. I support the concept of developing a MyCouncil style website so residents and ratepayers are able to compare how their council is performing compared to other like councils.

“Data is so important in targeting where reform is most needed. Getting data collection uniform and meaningful across key local government indicators makes sense and ought to be a greater priority. And using it to highlight the most innovative approaches and to target improvement where it is needed is in everybody's interests.

“This is something I want to see local government drive as a sector on a bottom up basis, rather than waiting for other governments to impose it from above.”

A précis of some interstate developments follows.

New South Wales

The Department of Local Government releases an annual report comparing performance measures between councils on 32 performance indicators. The department collects information related to rates, finances, waste management and general information by electronic surveys. The information is used to calculate financial assistance grants, analyse councils’ financial health, and check compliance of rates collected. The department makes the publication and raw data freely available on the internet to promote use, transparency and accountability.

Victoria

Local Government Victoria (Department of Planning and Community) publishes two reports annually on local government indicators.
1. The local government in Victoria report publishes data on rates, operating and capital expenditure, debt, infrastructure renewal, operating result and community satisfaction with overall performance, advocacy and engagement. It provides commentary on statewide indicator results, including analysis by local government type (inner metro, outer metro, regional cities, small and large shires). It also includes individual local government results in an attachment.

2. The community satisfaction survey assesses community satisfaction with overall performance, advocacy, engagement, contact, roads and footpaths, health and human services, recreational facilities, appearance of public areas, traffic management and parking, waste management, enforcement of by-laws, economic development, and town planning policy and approval. Councils participate in the community satisfaction survey on a voluntary basis.

Additionally, the Victorian Essential Services Commission is currently consulting on a local government performance monitoring framework. The objective is to develop a meaningful framework that provides councillors, officials and communities with information to support priority setting and decision making. For further information refer to http://www.esc.vic.gov.au/NR/exeres/EC74C2B0-6D25-491E-A046-A41D19E38680.htm.

Queensland

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning releases a Queensland local government profile report annually. The reports provide performance information (including trends over time) on income and spending, financial position, employees, community services, community infrastructure and environment. The report is designed to allow councils to compare and contrast their own performance against that of their peers, to identify trends over time in council performance, and to give communities a better understanding of their own council’s performance compared to others around the state.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation releases a Queensland local government comparative information report (also released on an annual basis). This report compares data on finances, rates, road maintenance, waste management, water services, sewerage services, personnel, library services, and parks and gardens. The report is designed to be a performance assessment tool to assist local governments evaluate their performance through comparisons with each other.

South Australia

The Local Government Association of South Australia undertakes an annual comparative performance measurement project assessing council performance on governance, community satisfaction, financial and asset management and quality of life. Data is drawn from the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission, local government statistical returns and from a voluntary community survey. A list of seven financial sustainability indicators is widely published.
Western Australia

According to the 2006-07 Local Government National Report, the Department of Local Government has established a section to monitor the financial health of local governments.

Northern Territory

The Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport and the Northern Territory Grants Commission requires councils to submit data on an annual basis regarding assets, human resources, contracts, programs and grants.

Consultation

Extensive consultation with communities, local government and other key stakeholders will be undertaken, including through regional workshops and responses to written material. It is expected that this consultation will take place following PLGC consideration of draft objectives and indicators during the middle of the year.
Attachment 1

Principles for future data collection and reporting

**Overarching principles**

Data collection and development of KPIs, while linked, are two separate functions with separate objectives and clients.

The principle of broad access to the data and any associated reports should be retained. The data and KPIs arising from the program should continue to be accessible to communities, councils and stakeholders.

The purpose for which data is collected and analysed should determine the data which is required.

In the first instance, the purpose of data collection and analysis is to, among other things, drive continuous improvement in the sector, support the sustainability of the sector, allow evidence-based funding decisions, and contribute to regional and sectoral national reporting.

**Data collection and methodology**

It is preferable that councils continue to receive only one comprehensive return for data collection.

Data collection should meet the needs of a range of stakeholders and programs, to be determined.

Any recommended model should improve the quality, consistency and comparability of data provided.

Mandatory versus voluntary provision of data will need to be considered in light of national financial and asset management and reporting requirements.

**Key performance indicators**

Key performance indicators (KPIs) must be few in number.

KPIs must be useful, in particular they must provide appropriate data to help drive continuous improvement within the sector.

KPIs must be consistent with and meet the needs of the national and statewide financial and asset management and sustainability agendas.

**Governance and resourcing**

The governance structure for a revised program will be determined in light of the recommended model.

Quality data and analysis can only be achieved with adequate resourcing and support.

The three spheres of government share a mutual interest in the collection of data on the local government sector and will therefore contribute to its development, analysis and dissemination.
Information Paper

Sentencing Advisory Council

Background

The Tasmanian Attorney-General, the Hon Lara Giddings MP, has decided to establish a Sentencing Advisory Council.

This decision arose out of the 2008 Tasmanian Law Reform Institute report on Sentencing and the experiences of a number of Australian and overseas jurisdictions with similar bodies.

Tasmania’s Sentencing Advisory Council will have the following aims and functions:

1. To improve the quality and availability of information on sentencing in Tasmania.
2. To provide policy advice to the Attorney General on sentencing issues.
3. To conduct research and community education as approved by the Attorney General.
4. To provide advice to agencies (on request) in relation to penalties and sentencing matters.

Membership of the Sentencing Advisory Council

The Council will have a membership of approximately 12 persons who will bring a range of skills and experience to the work of the Council.

Expressions of interest have been advertised for -

- a chairperson of appropriate stature and interest in the objectives of the Council and
- 2 community representatives with an interest in the criminal justice system and/or victims issues.

The Attorney will also invite nominations from the University of Tasmania, the legal profession, the Legal Aid Commission, the judges, the magistrates, the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Membership of the Council will be a part-time commitment.

No fees will be paid to the Chairperson or members of the Council although reasonable expenses incurred on Council business will be reimbursed.
The term of appointment to the position of Chairperson and all member positions will be for the period of two years.

Functions

Specific functions which the Attorney will ask the Council to perform are discussed below.

_Provision of Accessible Sentencing Data_

Base data on sentencing is captured by existing systems and processes but requires considerable manual intervention before it can be used to support judicial decision making, research or policy making.

There is considerable scope for improving the availability and usability of information about sentencing practices in Tasmania.

It is expected that one of the Council’s first priorities will be to establish a robust sentencing information system for this purpose.

_Provision of Accessible Data on Crime Trends_

The Council will need to develop close links with entities which collect and publish criminal statistics. Significant information is already published from those sources and the Council will become a major user and interpreter of crime data.

_Coordinating Strategies to Educate the Public on Crime and Sentencing Issues_

It is expected that the Council will develop targeted public education strategies in relation to sentencing issues using the opportunities which arise when individuals come into contact with the justice system, whether as victims, witnesses or jurors, as well as through the media and perhaps through the education system.

_Conducting research_

A range of opportunities exist for funding or conducting research in relation to sentencing practices and to community and stakeholder attitudes towards sentences. Funding availability and priorities will largely determine the extent of the Council’s activity in this area.

_Consulting with Government Bodies, Stakeholders and Public_

An important part of the Council's role in advising the Attorney General on sentencing matters will include consultation with appropriate and interested bodies and people.

_Advising the Attorney General_

It will be a key function of the Council to provide ad hoc advice to the Attorney General on sentencing issues. This role will be covered by the Council’s core funding but requests to undertake any major project on behalf of the Attorney General may need additional special purpose funding.

In addition to advising the Attorney General, the Council may also be a source of advice to any government agency which was developing new offences or revising or establishing a penalty regime if requested to do so.
Funding and Administrative Support

Annual funding of $150,000 has been identified for the first two years of the operation of the Sentencing Advisory Council. Subsequent funding needs will be reviewed periodically.

The Sentencing Advisory Council will be supported by the Department of Justice.

An Executive Officer will be funded from the Council budget to provide policy, research and administrative support to the Council, to manage the Council’s website and its ongoing operation in consultation with the Chairperson.

The Executive Officer will be recruited once the Chairperson has been appointed and is available to take part in the selection process.

Further information

Further information or clarification can be obtained from the Department of Justice by calling 6233 9094 or by emailing a request to legislation.development@justice.tas.gov.au.

Our Ref: 14/121 Min Ref: 195/09

23 July 2009

Mr Martin Reynolds
Corporate Secretary
Launceston City Council
PO Box 396
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Dear Sir,

Re  Invitation to Owner Representatives

I write with reference to the above and advise that Council considered this matter at the meeting of 20 July 2009. I am directed to advise that the following resolution was adopted:

That Council ...
  b) invite the owners representatives and chairman of Ben Lomond Water to attend a Council workshop.

Carried unanimously

Council will be conducting workshops on the following dates, all commencing at 5:15 pm:

  • 7 September 2009;
  • 5 October 2009.

You would be most welcome to attend either of these workshops to discuss this matter with Council.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. For further information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact me on 6397 7303.

Yours sincerely

Mark Pitt
General Manager
7 August 2009

Mr Mark Pitt
General Manager
Northern Midlands Council
P O Box 156
LONGFORD TAS 7301

Dear Mark

**Invitation to Owners Representatives – Ben Lomond Water**

I refer to your letter of 23 July and my email of 4 August 2009

Your invitation was considered by the Owners Reps on Wednesday and I advise that they are of the view that in their role of representing the eight councils in the Northern Region it is not appropriate to meet specifically with an individual council.

The Owners Reps will meet regularly with the representatives of the Shareholder Councils and are willing to extend an open invitation to all councillors to be present as observers during these meetings. For logistical reasons, councillors wishing to partake as observers are asked to register their interest with the Secretary. When a schedule of meetings between the Owners Reps and the Shareholders Reps is developed and depending on the interest by other shareholder councillors in also attending as observers, it may be necessary to restrict the numbers. However, this will be determined over time and the interest shown.

If I can provide any further information or assistance please contact

Yours sincerely

*Per*  
Martin Reynolds
Corporate Secretary / Secretary Owners Reps Northern Region

Phone: (03) 6323 3121
Email: Martin Reynolds@launceston.tas.gov.au
Our Ref: 14/121 Min Ref: 223/09

27 August 2009

Mr Martin Reynolds
Corporate Secretary
Launceston City Council
PO Box 396
LAUNCESTON  TAS 7250

Dear Sir,

RE: Invitation to Owners Representatives - Ben Lomond Water

I write with reference to the above and in regard to your correspondence received by this office on 10 August 2009. I wish to advise that Council considered this matter at the meeting of 24 August 2009. I am directed to advise that the following resolution was adopted:

DECISION
 THAT
 iv) the Council Executive be authorised to attend the Ben Lomond Water Corporation meetings.

Carried unanimously

Would you please arrange to have the following persons added to the mailing list for the Owner Representative Meetings from the Northern Midlands Council

Mayor Kim Polley
Deputy Mayor David Downie
Cr Jeff Carins
General Manager Mark Pitt

I would also request advice as to the date and time of the next Owner Representative meeting.

For further information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact me on 6397 7303.

Regards

Mark Pitt
GENERAL MANAGER
19. Owners' Representatives for Regional Corporations

(1) The members of a Regional Corporation must, by special majority, appoint 3 persons as Owners' Representatives for that Regional Corporation.

(2) Where persons have been appointed as Owners' Representatives for a Regional Corporation under subsection (1), one or more members of that Regional Corporation are to notify the Treasurer in writing of the appointments.

(3) Subject to subsection (7), each Owners' Representative for a Regional Corporation is to hold that office for a term of 3 years from the date of his or her appointment, or such shorter period –

(a) as set out in the constitution of the Regional Corporation; or

(b) as determined by the members of the Regional Corporation at the time of the appointment of that Owners' Representative.

(4) Subsection (3) does not limit the number of times a person may be appointed to the role of Owners' Representative.

(5) If at any time a vacancy occurs in the role of an Owners' Representative for a Regional Corporation, the members of that Regional Corporation must, as soon as is practicable, do all things necessary to appoint a person to fill that vacancy in accordance with the procedures set out in this Act.

(6) The Owners' Representatives for a Regional Corporation are to –

(a) consult with other Owners' Representatives and undertake such other functions imposed on Owners' Representatives for a Regional Corporation under this Act; and

(b) act as the official liaison between the Board of the Regional Corporation and the members of that Regional Corporation.

(7) The members of a Regional Corporation may, by special majority, remove any person from the role of Owners' Representative for that Regional Corporation.
47/2010 Motion for General Meeting of Local Government Association of Tasmania on 12 May 2010 – Local government skills shortage

Cr Fuller (having given notice) moved and Cr Deacon seconded, "That the Council submit a notice of motion to the LGAT for their 2010 Annual meeting that reads as follows:

‘That the LGAT vigorously pursue State and Federal governments in relation to the significant skills shortage being faced by the local government sector in Tasmania, with a view to securing increased funding assistance for traineeships to assist the sector; and further

That the LGAT continue to actively explore ways in which councils can encourage Tasmanian students to undertake studies in the fields identified as crucial to maintaining a well resourced and sustainable sector.’

Cr Fuller, in support of her motion, submitted as follows:

"Preamble"

Much data has already been collected pertaining to the shortage of skilled staff for the local government sector in Tasmania.

For the purpose of this motion data has been taken from the following report, published July 2008:

*Occupational Skill Shortage Analysis – Tasmania Phase One Report*

*Prepared for Skills Tasmania by: Lisa Taylor Principal tasmanianjobs.com Lisa Taylor Consulting*

A survey conducted during the compilation of this report received the following comments from councils across Tasmania –

‘List those specific occupations that currently present difficulties in terms of recruitment and retention

. Town planning, various engineering, building surveyor, EHO, plumbers
. Town planner (at a senior level), graduate engineer
. Town planning, engineering and IT
. Engineer, Tourism Development Officer, Youth Development Officer
. Engineering and planning
. Statutory Planner, Building/health inspector, grader driver, plant
operators, financial management, IT, engineer
. Plant operators, technically qualified staff, engineering, technical
officer, works manager
. Planners, machine operators, senior accounting officer, works staff
. Office Administration
. Plant Operators & Truck Drivers
. Statutory/Strategic Planning
. Concreting
. MR licence
. Engineering, Planning, Accountancy, Public Health, Child Care
. Engineers, Planning Officers, Environmental Health Officers, Senior
Accountants, Qualified Child Carers
. Town Planners
. Systems Development Officers
. Outside School Hours & Vacation Carers
. Engineers
. Plumbers
. IT
. Project Management
. Treatment Operators
. Town Planners
. Roads Maintenance and Construction
. Systems Development
. Child Care
. Nursing, child care
. Aged Care within community
. Office Administration/reception
. Town Planners, Engineers and Construction Workers
. Construction (non-tradespeople) – specifically in areas such as
concreting, paving
. Management
. Diesel fitters (retention issue)
. Admin assistants (retention issue)
. Development appraisal planners (retention issue)

Identify occupations or skills areas in your council, which are likely to
experience significant growth in demand in the next ten years.

. All professional skills will have a shortage however the growth in
workload and demand I expect to be reasonably steady.
. Probably aged care if that responsibility comes to council. Also there will be increasing need for staff with advanced IT skills.
. Tourism positions, planning positions, building positions, risk management.
. Engineering, planning, building.
. No significant growth anticipated.
. Environmental Management Officers.
. Information Technology, Engineers, Planners.
. Nursing and aged care, technical services (i.e. plumbing, building etc.), community services.
. Community services seems to be a growing area.
. Planning, environmental planning and environmental management.

What is the impact of the skills/labour shortage on your council?

. Currently town planning in particular although that could change rapidly – the flow on effect on customer service, regulatory capability and stress on other staff is being felt however.
. Currently contracting or utilising consultants to fill vacancies in specialist areas.
. Staff being utilised across the organisation, not always with specific skills at the level of understanding required. A dilution of the specialist skills in the organisation. Some more strategic strategies and initiatives being put on hold.
. Cost of recruitment, cost of contracting.
. Lack of productivity, more stress on current employees carrying the load.
. Rising cost of consultants.
. Most of the shortage is due to the location of our Municipality and the housing shortage due to the current mining boom.
. Staff turnover.
. Review of job priorities to work within resource capacity.
. Restricted capacity to proactively manage succession planning.
. The need to hire consultants to assist with workload.
. Extra pressure being placed on existing staff.
. Labour shortage will lead to workplace stress, long hours, workplace injuries, difficulty in accomplishing tasks within required timeframes. Potentially will lead to burnout.
. Skills shortage will lead to poor service, potential loss of income, higher cost to employ and retain staff.
. High recruitment costs and difficulties in achieving goals. Also, additional expense of hiring contractors.'
These are our own council managers, articulating what impacts on their workforce every day.

In our own Cradle Coast region we are increasing witnessing movements by staff between councils that simply leave management to poach and entice the same staff around and around the region.

With the implementation of the Water and Sewerage Corporations, another three organisations have now entered the State drawing from the same pool of qualified staff.

The impact of the shortages of relevant qualified personnel, on management and the community, are clearly articulated in the actual responses from councils in the research quoted above.

Some elected members consider that skills shortage will be a key trigger for council amalgamations.

Others are considering how we can ‘farm out’ some of our key responsibilities to other structures, e.g. local government authorities, who would provide specialised service to a region.

Whatever models councils in Tasmania decide to pursue, the reality is that we need more opportunities for traineeships in our key areas of governance.

**About the National Skills Needs List**

Australian Government incentive payments encourage employers to offer employment-based training opportunities to enable people to gain and build on their skills. The Australian Government also offers personal benefits to Australian apprentices to attract more Australians into technical and trade education and improve completion rates.

Eligibility for some Australian apprenticeship incentives and personal benefits is limited to those in traditional trades identified as experiencing a national skills shortage.

Australian apprenticeships encompass all apprenticeships and traineeships. They combine time at work with training and can be full-time, part-time or school-based.

Trades experiencing persistent skills shortage are included on the National Skills Needs List which is based on detailed labour market research conducted by the
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The National Skills Needs List is used to determine the eligibility of employers and/or Australian
apprentices for the following Australian Government incentives and personal benefits:

- Support for adult Australian apprentices payment
- Tools For Your Trade payments
- Rural and Regional Skills Shortage incentive
- Securing Australian Apprenticeships initiative.

Below are the 60 prioritised trades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade</th>
<th>Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft maintenance engineer (Avionics)</td>
<td>Lift Mechanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft maintenance engineer (Mechanical)</td>
<td>Locksmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive electrician</td>
<td>Mechanical services and air-conditioning plumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Metal fabricator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binder and finisher</td>
<td>Metal machinist (First class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat builder and repairer</td>
<td>Motor mechanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bricklayer</td>
<td>Optical mechanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butcher</td>
<td>Painter and decorator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinetmaker</td>
<td>Panel beater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>Pastry cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter and joiner</td>
<td>Picture framer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Linesperson</td>
<td>Pressure welder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Printing machinist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainer</td>
<td>Refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical powerline tradesperson</td>
<td>Roof plumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrician (Special class)</td>
<td>Roof slater and tiler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic equipment tradesperson</td>
<td>Screen printer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrous plasterer</td>
<td>Shearer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitter</td>
<td>Sheetmetal worker (First class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat glass tradesperson</td>
<td>Signwriter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor finisher</td>
<td>Solid plasterer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture finisher</td>
<td>Stonemason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture upholsterer</td>
<td>Toolmaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasfitter</td>
<td>Tree surgeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Communications Tradesperson</td>
<td>Vehicle body maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General electrician</td>
<td>Vehicle painter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General plumber</td>
<td>Vehicle trimmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairdresser</td>
<td>Wall and floor tiler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joiner</td>
<td>Welder (First class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Gardener</td>
<td>Wood machinist (A-grade)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In my opinion, only two of the 60 trades which currently appear on the National Skills Needs List would be trades that would be regularly utilised by local government. They are ‘Roof plumber’ and ‘Tree surgeon.’

This Skills List is used to prioritise financial incentives and support provided by the Australian Government to attract and retain trainees, through programs delivered at a State level.”

The Director Development & Regulatory Services reported as follows:

"PURPOSE

This report considers a motion on notice from Cr Fuller proposing that the Council submits a notice of motion to the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) for their 2010 Annual meeting proposing that the LGAT pursue State and Federal governments in relation to the significant skills shortage being faced by the local government sector in Tasmania, with a view to securing increased funding assistance for traineeships to assist the sector. And further that the LGAT continues to actively explore ways in which councils can encourage Tasmanian students to undertake studies in the fields identified as crucial to maintaining a well resourced and sustainable sector.

BACKGROUND

Local government is experiencing critical skill shortages in professions such as land use planning, environmental health, building surveying, engineering, finance and, in some council areas, there are general labour shortages across the board. Indeed, skill shortage is a major issue which is not only confronting local government, but other industries across Australia, as the nation’s workforce is not growing sufficiently to keep pace with the labour and skills needs of a range of industries.

The nature of the local government skills shortage is illustrated by a recent Occupational Skills Shortage Analysis for Tasmania which utilised a classification system to define the nature of skills shortage in the Tasmanian labour market. These classifications were:

Level 1
- Few people available with the essential skill set
- Education and training not provided in Tasmania

Level 2
- Few people available with the essential skill set
Long training time to develop skills
Training is available in Tasmania or has the potential to be available in Tasmania
Level 3
Few people available with the essential skill set
Short training time to develop skills
Training is available in Tasmania

The analysis found that the occupations in greatest demand across all industries are those highly skilled roles that require a number of years of education and training as well as ongoing education and training. Those occupations that are not in short supply are the low or unskilled occupations, predominantly administrative personnel or general labour, however, industry also advises high turnover for these occupations. This finding was particularly true for local government in which highly skilled professionals are required in specialist areas such as Land Use Planning, Environmental Health, Engineering, Building Surveying, Human Resource Management and Information Technology. Level 1 or Level 2 skill shortages are reported in each of the local government employment areas listed in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Educational Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asset Management Engineer</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building &amp; Eng. Professionals</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Inspectors</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education / VET pathway exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Surveyors</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education / VET pathway exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Env. Health Officers</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>University Education / VET pathway exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Professionals</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education / VET pathway exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Professionals</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Officers</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>University Education / VET pathway exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Planners</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>University Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Local Government related Occupational Shortages

The skill shortage problem is compounded by the fact that the demand for local government is growing. It is estimated that employment will grow annually by just under 13% in the period 2004–2005 to 2012–2013. However, the ability to meet
this estimated growth is dependent upon the capacity of local government to find appropriately skilled staff at a time when it is confronted with a current and looming
skills shortage. This reduced capacity to fill jobs with appropriately skilled staff will cause significant detriment to key functions of local government and will therefore delay local production and economic development. For example, shortages may result in planning delays, reduced food safety enforcement and education, delayed infrastructure renewal and replacement and general cut-backs on local services.

**DISCUSSION**

The Australian local government industry is confronted by low take-up rates of people entering training in local government occupations (for example courses such as Environmental Health, Land Use Planning, Engineering and Building Surveying).

One of the root causes for the low take-up of training may be a negative public perception of local government. A 2008 study of the work attributes and organisational preferences of 650 final year university students found that local government organisations were perceived to be the least attractive employer, coming last in the ranking with only 3.2%. Overall, most participants' perceived local government as dealing with trivial issues, which have a minor impact on society:

‘I wouldn't want to work for the Local Government because the issues they deal with only cover a small number of people and they are usually more trivial issues.’ Moreover, they believed that Local Government work involves mundane tasks: ‘Local is boring ... yawn’ and ‘I do not find discussing building permits and garbage collection interesting enough’... They saw Local Government work as offering little prospects for career advancement: ‘I can't see much room for moving up in Local Government.'

The LGAT has been actively working to address local government skills shortage issues in Tasmania. Current projects include:

1. A television advertisement has been developed to promote local government careers and will commence airing in late March/April 2010.

2. A new website is being prepared for the same launch date – it will have case study videos of employees (mainland ones) and a range of tools to find jobs based on peoples interests, and then the training. It will be called www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au which is the TV ad tag line, and part of the theme of the website.

3. Workforce planning is being undertaken with some councils. This involves gathering information on job roles, employee training and development, date of birth etc., and then undertaking a survey to provide more detail including staff intentions about leaving or staying at the council etc. This information
is then used to make some predictions about retirements, future training needs etc.

An application for approximately $200,000 from the Federal Government to pay for 75–90% of council costs for around 80 certificate and diploma courses for seven councils.

Additionally, various professional associations such as the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia are actively working to address skills shortage issues in their respective professions.

Clearly, local government faces an enormous challenge in attracting the best and brightest of the younger generation. The local government sector cannot recruit from as large a pool that prefer government jobs as even a decade ago, and the pool seems to be shrinking. The overall quality of the local government workforce is determined by its ability to attract, hire and retain high quality employees and part of the solution is to improve the marketing of government jobs and to provide incentives such as those proposed in Cr Fuller’s motion.

**CONSULTATION**

No consultation has been undertaken in preparing this report.

**IMPACT ON RESOURCES**

No impact on resources is anticipated.

**CORPORATE COMPLIANCE**

The Central Coast Strategic Plan 2009–2014 includes the following strategies and key actions:

Council Sustainability and Governance

- Improve service provision
- Improve the Council’s financial capacity to sustainably meet community expectations

**CONCLUSION**

Cr Fuller’s motion is submitted for consideration.”

Motion Carried unanimously