1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held in the Boardroom of the Association Offices, 34 Patrick Street, Hobart on Wednesday 14 May 2008, commencing at 1.00pm.

DISTRIBUTION:

Mayor Mike Gaffney  
President

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine  
Hobart City Council

Mayor Mike Downie  
West - North West Region

Mayor Barry Easther  
Northern Region

Clr Robert Legge  
Northern Region

Mayor Deirdre Flint  
Southern Region

Mayor Jock Campbell  
Southern Region

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Kevin Hyland  
West - North West Region

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Allan Garcia  
LGAT

Dr Katrena Stephenson  
LGAT

Ms Christine Agostinelli  
LGAT
Index

1. NOTICE OF MEETING ................................................................................................. 2
   1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES * ................................................................. 4
   1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING * .................................................................................... 4
   1.3 SUBJECT: PRESIDENT’S REPORT ............................................................................. 4
   1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT MARCH 2008– MAY 2008............... 5

2. POLICY ..................................................................................................................... 7
   Policy Items for Discussion & Decision........................................................................ 7
   2.1 SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWERAGE .......................................................................... 7
   2.2 SUBJECT: HERITAGE ACT .......................................................................................... 8
   2.3 SUBJECT: GOOD NEIGHBOUR CHARTER FOR COMMERCIAL FORESTRY IN TASMANIA * .......... 9
   2.4 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION .......................................................... 9

3. PROJECTS & SERVICES .......................................................................................... 10
   Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision ................................................ 10
   3.1 SUBJECT: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ..................................................................... 10
   3.2 SUBJECT: NRM UPDATE & CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY .................................... 11
   3.3 SUBJECT: 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE * ................................................... 12
   3.4 SUBJECT: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ............................................................ 13
   3.5 SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT .................................................................. 14
   3.6 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARDS ............................................... 14
   3.7 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ............................................. 15

4. FINANCES ................................................................................................................ 16
   Financial Items for Discussion & Decision ..................................................................... 16
   4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT * ................................................................... 16
   4.2 SUBJECT: CASH FLOW STATEMENTS ** .................................................................... 16
   4.3 SUBJECT: BUILDING LEASE – 34 PATRICK STREET .................................................... 17
   4.4 SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION BUDGET & SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008/2009 * ....................... 18
   4.5 SUBJECT: MEMBERS ALLOWANCES * ..................................................................... 19

5. ADMINISTRATION .................................................................................................. 20
   Administration Items for Discussion & Decision ......................................................... 20
   5.1 SUBJECT: CEO CONTRACT REVIEW .......................................................................... 20
   5.2 SUBJECT: VOLUNTEER OFFICER ............................................................................ 20
   5.3 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING ......................................................................... 21
   5.4 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE .................................................................... 21

* Denotes Attachment
1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Minutes of the meeting held 12 March 2008, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meeting held 12 March 2008 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee receive the report on business arising from the previous meeting.

Carried

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

1.3 SUBJECT: PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the President’s report be received.

Carried

Since 12 March 2008 the President has attended, organised, represented or been involved with the following:

Media
Print Water and Sewerage
Radio/TV Water and Sewerage

Ambulance Levy
Elected members Allowances

Correspondence Careers Expo
Commissioner Johnston
Elect members Workshop,Guest Speakers
Mayor Bury
Commissioner McCreadie
Governor Underwood

Meetings Michael Aird, Ambulance Levy, 18 March
Demographic Change Advisory Council, 18 March
PLGC, 29 April
GMC CEO Review Committee, 29 April
Sustainability Working Group, 30 April
Disaster Mitigation
Presentations
Legislative Council, Water & Sewerae, 8 April

Writings
LGAT Newsletter March 14 & 28
April 11 & 25
May 9

Magazines
Local Government Focus
LGAT News

Workshops
Elected Members Workshop Weekend, 15 & 16 March
ALGA, Canberra – 18 & 19 March

Forums
Ms Roseanne Haggerty

Events
Governor Underwood, Hobart Town Hall
Legislative Council Sittings, 9-10, 15 - 17 April

1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT MARCH 2008– MAY 2008

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Lord Mayor Robert Legge

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

Carried

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

Interface with External Bodies
- Quadrant Board Meeting
- Australia Post - Postal Services Consultative Council – Melbourne
- Marsh Insurance – General discussion regarding insurance arrangements for councils in state
- Civic Mutual Plus Board Meeting
- Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association re working with councils in relation to transport matters
- Goanna Energy Consulting – contestable electricity market impacts on councils
- Forest Practices Authority – discussion of exemptions from Forest Practices legislative regime of certain land clearing activities in urban areas
- University Careers Expo
- Tourism Council – interface between sectors
- GH&D – water and sewerage
- TCCI – ongoing arrangements re provision of IR advice and services
- Heart Foundation Healthy By Design Reference Group
Local Government Forums
- Waste Management Forum – all regional reps and Director of Environmental Management
- Forest Practices Advisory Committee
- PLGC Meeting and Officials Meeting
- CMP Insurance Meeting
- IPWEA NAMS.Plus Forum – asset management
- Waste Reference Group
- Local Government Standards Panel hearings
- Victorian Local Governance Association – elected member training and development
- Roads and Transport Advisory Committee (ALGA)
- Environment and Policy Directors Forum (ALGA)
- Financial Sustainability Steering Committee
- Community Recovery Workshops (3x regional)

State Government Meetings
- Local Government Office monthly meetings
- PLGC Officials Meeting
- PPAC Local Government Subcommittee
- COAG Indigenous Partnerships Steering Committee
- Minister’s Housing Issues Working Group
- Disability Bureau
- Environment Industry Council
- Tripartite Agreement on Positive Ageing Steering Committee meeting
- Demographic Change Advisory Council
- Heritage Tasmania – legislation review
- DPAC – pandemic issues
- Tasmania Together – links to council strategic plans
- Minister Cox – project funding and general discussion
- Tasmanian Road Safety Council
- Climate Change Office – State and Local Government cooperation
- Southern Regional Transport Forum
- Consulting Kids Forum

Media
- Penguin, planning issues – Mercury
- Councillor allowances Examiner
- Fines and penalties – ABC
- Water and sewerage - Mercury, Examiner, ABC
- Elector Polls – Mercury and Advocate
- Council Cost Index – Mercury

Other
- Production of Pandemic Matters
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWERAGE

That the Committee note the report in relation to the progress of this major reform.

Noted

Background

Both the Corporations and Industry Bills have now passed through the Legislative Council with introduction into the House of Assembly due on 27 May 2008.

The Association took the opportunity to comprehensively brief the Legislative Council, the Opposition and the Greens on the Bills and sat through the full debate on the legislation to ensure availability to respond to issues arising. A supplementary briefing was provided to Council members following issues being raised in the Council in relation to developer charges.

The Bills passed with amendments moved by the State Government. These amendments followed representations to the Treasurer and Treasury officers in relation to the role of the Treasurer and the proposed governance of the new entities with the result that the Treasurer now will have minimal involvement with the new entities post formation and no powers of veto.

The opportunity was taken by the southern urban councils and representatives of northern councils to also put forward their positions in relation to the Bills.

While the legislation is yet to pass through the Parliament and be proclaimed, much will happen very quickly in the near future. A Joint Steering Committee of State and Local Government personnel will oversight the transition process and the matters that need to be attended to in relation to the establishment of the new entities. At a regional level thinking has commenced on the transition task with project managers/teams currently being considered. Funding for these regional arrangements is to be considered by the Joint Steering Committee at its initial meeting at the end of May.

In addition to the formation of these groups there are some key matters that need to be addressed over the coming few months. With the passing of the legislation it is hoped to be able to have in place the owners’ representatives by no later than 30 June with a selection committee for the Board then in place by 31 July. By 30 August it is anticipated that the inaugural Chair would be appointed with the remainder of the Board in place by no later than 30 September. Ideally, it would be hoped to have the CEO’s in place by 30 November.

It is expected that the due diligence tender documentation would be available for scrutiny/consideration by the Joint Steering Committee at its May meeting. The timing for tender responses and completion of the necessary work would be considered at that meeting.

The Association CEO will be presenting an item on Water and sewerage at the upcoming Local Government Conference. It is intended that this session will detail the project implementation plans for transition and the various governance structures/arrangements and responsibilities.
Budget Impact
The reform process will impact on each council significantly in the transition process and beyond. Funds are to be made available to assist with transition and the dividend arrangements will address current returns on asset and future equity issues.

Policy Implications
This reform represents the most significant change to Local Government in 15 years. The Legislation is in keeping with previous motions passed at the Association’s November 2007 General Meeting and the timetable set out above seeks to ensure that the new entities are in place by 1 July 2009.

2.2 SUBJECT: HERITAGE ACT

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Jock Campbell

That the meeting note the report.

Carried

Background
In September 2007, Heritage Tasmania released the Managing our Heritage position paper, which outlined how State Government proposed to respond to the Mackay Report in relation to reform of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995. Local Government and other planning authorities participated in forums and made submissions, generally in support of the proposed approach, particularly in relation to removing overlap, inconsistency and duplication of effort. However some concerns were raised, including the need to consider the detail and resourcing implications. It should be noted that an increased number of development appraisals required as a result of the increased number of local listings likely, not only increased the workload of heritage personnel but also planners, administrative staff, development engineers etc.

Since the release of the paper in 2007, Heritage Tasmania has developed draft flow charts that outline the proposed approach, working consultatively with Justice, Workplace Standards, RPDC and the Environment Division. They have now commenced theoretical testing of these proposed processes with planning authorities and the Heritage Council.

In April 2008, Heritage Tasmania conducted two forums, one in Ross and one in Hobart and they propose that participants from those forums join to form a reference group which will have regular input into the reform process. LGAT is represented through participation of the Policy Director but staff from a number of Councils will also participate.

It is proposed to create a new Heritage Act, drawing on the existing Act and proposed amendments, to ensure it is logical in its layout and uses plain English. Furthermore, there will be, wherever possible, alignment with LUPPA and EMPCA.

Embedded within the new legislation will be criteria for both State and local listings and a defined process for local listing which removes the need for planning scheme amendments.

It is likely there will be a broader symposium on the proposed reforms which can be widely attended in June and the release of a Tasmanian Historic Heritage Strategy in late 2008.

The consultation and review process undertaken by Heritage Tasmania to date suggests that a State Heritage Policy, which had been mooted, would not be necessary.
In parallel to this work by Heritage Tasmania, the Land Use Planning Branch in the Department of Justice, is developing a standard planning scheme schedule for heritage as part of a suite of schedules being developed. There will be a great opportunity to test this and other schedules through the NW Regional Planning Initiative.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
LGAT is participating in the consultative processes around reform of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act* and made a submission in response to the September 2007 paper on behalf of Councils. The Policy Director will be receiving a detailed briefing from Heritage Tasmania in the next month. Heritage Tasmania has been reminded of the Partnership Agreement on Consultation and Communication.

### 2.3 SUBJECT: GOOD NEIGHBOUR CHARTER FOR COMMERCIAL FORESTRY IN TASMANIA *

Mayor Barry Easther/Lord Mayor Rob Valentine

That the President sign the Good Neighbour Charter for Commercial Forestry in Tasmania on behalf of the Association.

*Carried*

The Good Neighbour Charter for Commercial Forestry in Tasmania has been in place for a number of years and has recently been reviewed, a copy of the Charter is at [Attachment to Item 2.3](#).

### 2.4 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued re the possible changes in roles and responsibilities for General Managers and staff when the changes to water and sewerage have transpired.

It was determined that the matter be tabled for discussion at a time when those changes are more apparent.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Mike Downie
That the meeting note the report.

Carried

Background
The Financial Sustainability Project was last reported on at the March General Meeting.

On 30 April 2008 the Steering Committee reconvened.

The agenda included:
- consideration of the relationship between this project and the PLGC project;
- review of activity in relation to the Access Economics Recommendations;
- consideration of draft papers on debt funding and audit committees;
- consideration of the asset management planning tool, NAMS; and
- agreement on future actions.

Key outcomes of the meeting were:
- a better understanding of the relationship with the PLGC Project ‘Stronger Councils, Better Services’ and some possible priorities identified in resource sharing and asset management;
- endorsement of Debt Funding Guidelines for circulation to councils;
- endorsement of a discussion paper on Audit Committees for circulation and feedback; and
- agreement that the Long Term Financial Plan Summary Statement Template from South Australia be circulated broadly for comment on efficacy as a framework for Tasmania.

The Steering Committee will reconvene shortly after the Annual Conference.

Budget Impact
The project represents a significant call on Association resources and will require external inputs. Current budget allocations should allow adequate support for the project.

Current Policy
The project is a key element in ensuring the future financial sustainability of councils. Several actions/proposals are likely to cause some concerns but will need to be balanced against the longer term financial governance requirements for councils.
3.2 SUBJECT: NRM UPDATE & CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Mike Downie

That the meeting note the new program and the potential issues for local government.

Carried

Background
Funding for the current Natural Heritage Trust Program (NHT3) which incorporates the National Landcare, Environmental Stewardship, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Working on Country programs will conclude on 30 June 2008 and be replaced by the re-badged "Caring for Our Country".

The Australian Government has stated Caring for Our Country will focus on the key goals of a healthier environment, which is better protected, well managed and more resilient against the challenges of climate change. There are six national priorities under Caring for Our Country:

- Australia’s national reserve system;
- biodiversity and natural icons (including weeds, feral animals and threatened species);
- coasts and aquatic habitats;
- sustainable farm practices and landcare;
- natural resource management in remote and northern Australia; and
- community skills, knowledge and engagement.

Project funding will be aligned to these priorities and focus specifically on effective delivery through collaboration and partnerships. The Australian Government has been clear that it will fund only those projects which will deliver tangible outcomes on the ground. This means that individual councils will be in competition with other councils, Industry, Business, State Government Agencies, NGO’s and others. In order for most councils to get a look in, collaboration will be the order of the day. Significant coordination and effort will be required from all councils wanting to maintain a foothold in this field.

The new program raises a number of challenges for continued Local Government involvement in environmental stewardship and access to future funding.

As of 1 June 2008 the national Local Government Facilitator network will cease to operate. The current network consisting of a State Facilitator/Coordinator based in each State and Territory Association will be replaced with one National Local Government Coordinator based in Canberra. This Coordinator will assist all Australia’s 673 councils develop partnerships across the whole community.

Local Government is the closest sphere of government to the community and plays a key role in environmental and natural resource management throughout Australia. The loss of the network may have serious ramifications on the delivery of the six priority areas of the Caring for our Country, in particular the goal of community skills, knowledge and engagement. Further impacts may been seen in relation to Local Governments’ capacity to deliver future climate change and environmental protection agendas.

There will be significant impacts on the capacity of councils to access funding under the new program. Councils will have representation in the form of a single nominated member on each of the Regional NRM Boards. The onus will be on the single Local Government representative on the Regional NRM Boards (NRM North, NRM South and Cradlecoast) to disseminate information back and coordinate collaborative input across councils into funding applications.

The LGAT NRM position only receives Federal funding until 30 June 2008. While LGAT will no longer support NRM specifically, the NRM Coordinator position, held by Christine Materia, is contracted and funded to November 2008. LGAT is already exploring possible options for future funding in order to maintain a position that provides support to Councils in the areas of environmental sustainability and climate change.
3.3 SUBJECT: 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE *  

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Mike Downie  

That the Committee note the following report.  

Carried  

Background  
Arrangements for the Annual Conference, 18-20 June, are coming together well with all plenary and workshop speakers confirmed, sponsorship negotiations completed, and trade exhibitors locked in. The Conference Program and Registration Form is now in the design phase and will go to print shortly, ready for distribution to all councils. At Attachment to Item 3.3 is a copy of the Conference Program which details the plenary presentations and workshops.

A very pleasing (and perhaps unprecedented) level of sponsorship has been achieved this year, with sponsorship totalling over $75,000 (2007 total was $59,000), approximately $4,000 worth of in-kind support, and $30,000 in trade sales. Due to the high level of sponsorship gained, and savings made in other areas, the delegate registration fee will not increase this year.

For the first time, concurrent workshops will be held while the plenary sessions are in progress, for council officers and managers who are not attending the conference. Delegates will be able to attend a one-off workshop of interest, at minimal cost ($95 per person), and will be encouraged to visit the trade hall afterwards for light refreshments and the opportunity to interact with their peers while making valuable contact with trade exhibitors. The workshops will also make better use of the hired space, which would otherwise be sitting vacant during this time.

Several other new initiatives have been introduced this year to enhance the conference program and to assist in raising the additional revenue needed to stage the conference in Launceston including:
- Moving Moments throughout the day to get the delegates moving;
- Handbook advertising for the business sector; and
- New sponsorship packages to suit a wider range of budgets and requirements.

Plans are well underway for the staging of the Conference Dinner to be held at the Albert Hall on 19 June. While the historic building has posed some challenges for organisers, the theming, AV requirements, caterers, entertainers, MC and return coaches have all been confirmed. As the Albert Hall has the capacity to accommodate 500 guests, measures will be taken to boost dinner numbers.

This year’s Partners Program will offer a guided tour of the Tamar Valley region including a cruise, a visit to Ninth Island Winery, lunch and a tour at Sea Horse World.

ALGWA’s 30-year Anniversary Celebrations on the evening of 18 June will be followed by a special ALGWA dinner at Scarlett’s Restaurant.

Money raised through the annual raffle will help to fund research into the devastating Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease.
2008 Local Government Awards for Excellence
Entry forms have been distributed to all councils inviting nominations for the 2008 Local Government Awards for Excellence and are also available on the LGAT website. Nominations are required by 5.00pm on Friday, 23 May. The winners will be announced at the conference dinner on 19 June.

Budget Implications
Despite the additional expense associated with moving the conference north, the financial outlook for the 2008 Conference is looking very healthy as a result of successful negotiations with sponsors, trade, speakers and service providers.

3.4 SUBJECT: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Jock Campbell
That the meeting note the progress to date with the Household Hazardous Waste Project.

Carried

Background
Establishing a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection was identified as a priority for funding under the State Government’s Living Environment Program. The State allocated an amount of up to $500,000 towards the project, and this is to be matched by Local Government through the Regional Waste Authorities/Bodies. The proportions agreed to, and stated in the Grant Deed are 49% (Southern Waste Strategy Authority), 28% (Northern Tasmania Development) and 23% (Cradle Coast Authority).

Once the Grant Deed has been signed by all parties and the State Government contribution released to LGAT, the Local Government Waste Management Reference Group (LGWMRG) will oversee the commencement of the project. This process is underway, with completion expected before the end of May.

Originally it had been envisioned that Project Officer, to be employed three days per week, would be based at the Association offices in Hobart. However, LGAT is currently exploring an opportunity to lever off a similar position in Launceston, potentially making the position more attractive to a greater range of candidates.

The project involves a Collection Program of HHW, based at 3-4 sites per region per annum on an alternating basis. The projected cost is estimated to be $175,000-$182,000 per year ($875,000 - $910,000 over 5 years).

Budget Implications
LGAT has indicated to Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts (DEPHA) that it is prepared to host the project officer on the basis that there is no direct cost to the Association, and that the Association will not be liable to fund the continuation of the HHW program beyond the stated period of the project.

Current Policy
Local and State Governments have agreed to consider suitable waste management projects for joint funding under arrangements previously established under the auspices of the Premiers’ Local Government Council (PLGC).
3.5 SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT

That the Committee note discussions with the VLGA in relation to the provision of online learning and development opportunities for elected members.

Noted

Background
The Victorian Local Governance Association has developed and is in the process of expanding a suite of online courses for elected members. The experience of the VLGA is that elected members have difficulty committing to structured learning and development due to work, lifestyle and council commitments. It has found the take-up and demand of courses online, where participants can undertake the courses in accordance with their own timetable, has been very successful. VLGA has entered into a strategic alliance with a training provider to assist with the development of learning materials and accreditation of courses.

The Association has indicated a willingness to work with the VLGA to promote the courses when they become available. There will not be any financial gain for the Association in this process but it is considered very appropriate to maximise the exposure of Tasmanian elected members to suitable training materials. There is a possibility for the Association to work with the VLGA to develop jurisdictional specific material or to adapt standard courses to “Tasmanianise” them. Under these circumstances it may be that the Association is able to generate some commission although this would tend to be relatively small in amount.

The offering does not become available for some months yet but the Association will continue to monitor developments. Discussions also took place with the VLGA in relation to the possibility of rolling out some of its face to face training in Tasmania and discussions will continue in relation to these opportunities.

Budget Implications
Does Not Apply

Current Policy
The proposal supports the Association’s strategic objective of seeking to improve the skills and understanding of elected members to enable them to maximise their capability to fulfil their role.

3.6 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Barry Easther

That the nominations for Local Government Awards be approved.

Carried

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

Current Policy
Awards are considered as per the Local Government Service Awards Guidelines and Criteria, copies of which are included with the attachment.
### 3.7 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Mike Downie**

That the Committee note the following Local Government Representative appointments.

- **Carried**

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Elected Member/Officer</th>
<th>Coordinating Agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Library Advisory Board</td>
<td>Ald Sandra French, Burnie</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
<td>Department Of Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms Lorraine Green, N/Midlands</td>
<td>Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clr Julian Bush, Kingborough</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
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<td>Clr Doug Chipman, Clarence</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
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4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Mayor Jock Campbell/Mayor Robert Legge

That the profit and loss report to 30 April 2008 be received.

Carried

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of the Profit And Loss Report to 30 April, 2008.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 SUBJECT: CASH FLOW STATEMENTS **

Mayor Jock Campbell/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of February and March 2008.

Carried

Background
It is considered appropriate that the Committee should have access to information relating to the cash position of the Association detailing cash on hand, reserves, amounts held for projects and expenditures and revenues pending.

Detailed cash flow statements have been prepared for the information of the Committee and are at Attachment to Item 4.2

Budget Impact
As above.

Current Policy
The Association has a responsibility to manage the assets of the organisation in a responsible and transparent manner.
4.3 SUBJECT: BUILDING LEASE – 34 PATRICK STREET

That the Committee note the potential rental increase for the current Patrick Street accommodation and the proposal to negotiate better terms.

Noted

Background
Mr Greg Smith sold the property in which the Association is presently accommodated in January of this year to Platinum Properties. The property was not offered to the market.

Within the current lease arrangements there is a provision for an annual market rental review. This review mechanism has been in place since the sale by the Association to Mr Smith. The increases in past years have been reasonable in light of the demand for commercial properties in the greater Hobart area and also in real terms. By way of example the per month figure in 2006-07 was $3623+GST ($43,476 per annum) with the amount rising to $4140+GST in 2007-2008 ($49,680).

The new owners have written to the Association indicating that they have taken advice in relation to the upcoming year and propose to increase the rental to $75,000 – an increase of 50% on the previous year.

Clearly this is exorbitant and discussions will be entered into in relation to seeking an alternative valuation with a view to negotiating a more reasonable rate. In the event that this is not possible it is proposed to bring the matter back to the Committee with a view to endorsing the CEO to seek alternative accommodation for the Association. While there are some contractual obligations in relation to the lease (ie a further 2 years of tenancy), exploration of alternatives will be necessitated if the proposed charges cannot be reduced.

Budget Implications
The proposed increase has a significant budget impact as detailed above.

Current Policy
Does Not Apply
4.4 SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION BUDGET & SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008/2009 *

Mayor Jock Campbell/Mayor Mike Downie

That the Committee note the key features of the proposed budget and subscriptions for 2008-09 and endorse a 1.5% subscription increase to be taken to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

Carried

Background
There are very few major shifts in the budget for the upcoming year. The largest increases relate to the building lease (as detailed above) and salaries. At the last General Meeting member councils endorsed the engagement by the Association of a dedicated careers officer. Provision has been made for standard salary increases of Association staff within the budget.

In addition, with the cessation of funding by the Australian Government of the Local Government NRM Network there is an obligation to meet the cost of the present NRM facilitator at the Association for at least 5 months of the upcoming financial year. As the Association will not be funded for NRM activity it is intended to utilise this resource to focus on climate change issues as well as the broader suite of environmental issues. Given the agreement reached at the PLGC to work with the State Government on climate change matters it is proposed to extend this position until at least the end of the financial year to enable some of the groundwork and frameworks to be put into place for councils. The position would be reviewed at the time of budget preparation next year to assess the desirability of retention or cessation of the role. The Committee will recall that the Association was required to bring to account some project funding from the previous Networking the Nation Program in the past financial year. While it has been the circumstance that these funds be assigned to the types of activities they were originally granted, it is proposed in this instant to fund half of the cost of the Climate Change officer from this source. It is considered an effective use of the funds and will provide a significant stimulus to Local Government’s climate change action.

With the engagement of the careers officer and the placement of a project officer to conduct the household waste management task it is also proposed to purchase another vehicle for general use by Association staff. This will have some effect on vehicle running costs. Additional computer hardware and software will also be procured although in the case of the project officer this will be recouped from project funding. There is some increase proposed in relation to travel, mainly in recognition of the careers officer, but this is in keeping with the additional funds flagged at the last General Meeting. Additional funds have also been allocated for publications and career events.

The subscription for ALGA has increased by $5,500. A review of the President and Vice President emoluments is due this financial year and additional funding of $9500 has been set aside for this function.

A range of downward adjustments have been made in the budget to offset some of these increased expenditures.
Subscriptions
Subscriptions received from councils last year totalled $881,372.

Councils agreed to meet the additional cost of a dedicated careers officer for the coming two years at which time the position outcomes would be reviewed. This results in a $100,000 increase in expenses to the Association per annum and would, if no other changes were made, result in increases in subscriptions to $981,372.

With the relevant adjustments made to the budget it is proposed to increase subscriptions by either -
1% which would result in an almost breakeven outcome of $185.00; or
1.5% which would be in line with last years expected result of a $4,593.00 profit

Budget Implications
Self explanatory.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.5 SUBJECT: MEMBERS ALLOWANCES *

That the Committee note the submission presented by the Association to the Inquiry. Noted

Background
After deciding initially not to put a submission into the Inquiry process, the Association compiled a submission that sought to address broad issues that have been raised by elected members since the last review. The Association considers that particular issues and concerns of councils are best argued by those capable of substantiating claims with personal experience, data and facts rather than making broad assumptions about the broad range of activities, aspirations and experiences of councillors.

That said, the Association has provided a submission to the Inquiry which seeks to provide a balanced and robust position in terms of the responsibilities of councillors and the remuneration they receive for their contribution to the community.

A copy of the submission is at Attachment to Item 4.5.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Policy Implications
The Association supports the 4 yearly review of councillor allowances by an independent body.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

The Meeting deferred discussion of this motion and moved on to Item 5.2.

This Item was dealt with in a closed session and the Minute for this item will be provided to Committee members only.

### 5.1 SUBJECT: VOLUNTEER OFFICER

That the Committee note this initiative.

Noted

**Background**

The Association has secured the services of a volunteer officer who is assisting predominantly with the Annual Conference. Hilry Dixon has previously worked in a similar capacity with other organisations such as the Heart Foundation. She is providing administrative support to the Communications Manager.

Appropriate enquires have been made of insurers in relation to the obligations and requirements associated with the taking on of a volunteer and the Association is satisfied that the appropriate actions have been taken. The term of the appointment is for a period of approximately 3 months.
5.2 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Jock Campbell

That the Committee meet for a brief session, immediately following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on 18 June 2008.

That the GMC Meeting scheduled for 15 October, 2008 be moved to 22 October, 2008.

Carried

An announcement of the General Management Committee election results will be made at the Annual General Meeting on 18 June 2008.

It is a requirement, as per the Rules of the Association, that the Vice-President be elected at the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. As the next meeting of the Committee is not scheduled until 13 August and in the interim there is a PLGC meeting and an ALGA Board meeting to co-ordinate, it is determined that a brief meeting be held to welcome Members and to elect the Vice President.

2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>AGM/General Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 June</td>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 August</td>
<td>General Meeting/GMC</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<td>14 August</td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-18 September</td>
<td>General Managers Workshop</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - 26 October</td>
<td>Elected Members Workshop</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 November</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Devonport</td>
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<td>13 November</td>
<td>Mayor’s Workshop</td>
<td>Devonport</td>
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<td>4 December</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December</td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December</td>
<td>PLGC Xmas Dinner</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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5.3 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

The President discussed Party endorsed candidates in Local Government Elections and it was determined that this issue be raised following the GMC Elections.

The CEO provided details of a meeting held with Mr Tony South of the Paraplegic Benefit Fund and his request that the Association and Councils consider taking part in the scheme. It was suggested that this matter be dealt with through the State Disability Reference Group.

The Meeting went into a closed session to discuss Item 5.1.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 3.30pm.