1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held at the Launceston Country Club Casino, on Wednesday 8 March 2006, commencing at 2.55pm.

PRESENT:

- Clr Lynn Mason 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 Ross Hine West – North West Region

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Allan Garcia LGAT
- Mrs Liz Gillam LGAT
- Ms Christine Agostinelli LGAT
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1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

**Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Barry Easther**

That the Minutes of the meeting held 7 December 2005, as circulated, be confirmed.  

Carried

Minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2005 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *

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

Received

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

That the President’s report be received.

Noted

President on her activities since the last meeting as follows -

December 8  PLGC
December 9  Quadrant Board
December 12  Glenorchy City Council
January 23  Discussions with Resource Planning and Development Commission – further discussion is planned to resolve issues.
January 27  Quadrant Board
February  On leave; duties undertaken by Vice President
March 6  launch of Council Careers Information Kit and website
March 8  General Meeting

The Vice President reported on activities undertaken in the absence of the President as follows-

February 15  ALGA National Security Issues Meeting, Canberra
February 17  National Speakers Series, addressed the forum on ‘A Community for all Ages, the Local Government perspective’,
February 25-26  Chaired the Councillor Development Weekend, St Helens
February 22-23  ALGA Board Meeting, Canberra
1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT DECEMBER – MARCH 2006

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Jock Campbell

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

Carried

Notable occurrences over the period since the last GMC Meeting in December 2005 are reported in the following comments:

Interface with External Bodies
- HIA – discussions regarding proliferation of owner builders and alternatives to look at in relation to registration and regulation
- Searson Buck – discussions regarding establishment of temporary register for specific skill sets required by councils
- GHD re funding opportunities for climate change
- Geoff Allen Consulting – review of ALGA
- RPDC – planning matters
- Employment Plus – employment initiatives
- Australia Post – aggregated purchasing opportunities
- Mr Yoshiyasu Hyotani Japan Local Government Centre
- National Speakers, Series on Ageing – Vice President delivered speech

Local Government Forums
- ALGA Board Meeting
- ALGA Policy Directors’ Meeting
- Skills Working Group
- Elected Members weekend Workshop (46 attendees)
- National Emergency Management Reference Group
- Emergency Management Australia – security briefing, Canberra

State Government Meetings
- State Coastal Policy Steering Committee
- Department of Education, Office of Public Health, University of Tasmania and others re environmental health issues
- Premier’s Physical Activity Council – Local Government Working Group
- Department of Economic Development – skills shortages
- Tasmanian Road Safety Council
- OPCET – Skills workshop follow-up
- MRT – Landslide and hazard issues
- Indigenous Coordination Unit - COAG briefing
- Director of Public Health – EHO qualifications
- DIER and others – builders group
- Director of Local Government – general discussions
- DHHHS – youth policy and partnership agreement
- Adult Learners Week Steering Committee
- SES – natural disaster funding programs briefing
- DPIWE – Feasibility establishing household hazardous waste collection system
- Risk Management of Committee for old landfills

Staffing
- Harriet Close appointed Graduate Policy Officer replacing Ben Ikin who moved to Local Government Division
- Karin Baddiley appointed Administrative Officer to replace Beth Buckland who relocated to Adelaide
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

Following discussion of Item 1.4, the meeting moved to discussion of Item 3.6 on the Agenda.

The meeting then returned to Item 2.1 and the general order of business as per the Agenda.

2.1 SUBJECT: RESOURCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RPDC) *

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association met with all available Commissioners of the RPDC on February 2006. The meeting was sought following a range of concerns expressed by a number of councils over the past several months.

The Association wrote to the Commission (copy of letter is at Attachment to Item 2.1) detailing some specific and generic issues which it felt could be sensibly discussed with the Commission. While much feedback was provided on the day, it was agreed that the Association would submit a more detailed listing of specific and general matters which the Commission would formally respond to.

The Executive Commissioner, Julian Green, also indicated a willingness to have regular meetings (6 monthly) with the Association to improve the relations and understanding of the problems arising and concerns of councils. The RPDC did acknowledge that communication remained an issue and was very willing to work with Local Government to improve the dialogue and understanding between the parties.

The CEO is meeting with the Executive Commissioner and the Association’s new representative on the Commission, Sandra Hogue, to discuss the hearing process, the role of the Local Government representative and possible improvements that might be possible.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.
2.2 **SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT**

That the Committee give consideration to a way forward on the following waste management policy issues.

The Committee determined that a letter be forwarded to the incoming Minister seeking clarity as to what was expected to be achieved from a levy ie specific projects/programs etc.

Mayor Jock Campbell is to organise distribution of the Southern Waste Strategy Authority - Five Year Strategy Plan.

**Background**

There are two key waste management policy matters that have recently been raised by the State Government: A proposal for a producer pays disposal fee; and a discussion paper on regional waste management strategies. These matters have been placed before General Meeting and Councils have been invited to provide comment on them. Indications from Councils are that they generally do not support the first proposal and have mixed views about the second. Thus the Committee is asked to consider how best the Association can formulate a position in relation to these issues.

1. **State Government Proposal for a Producer Pays Disposal Fee**

Following information sessions conducted in late 2005, the Minister for the Environment wrote to Councils emphasising the need for increased funding to bring Tasmania’s waste management performance to a standard comparable with other jurisdictions and presenting a case for this to be implemented through a user pays principle, in other words, a waste levy. The Minister emphasised that funds derived through a fee would not be absorbed into Consolidated Revenue; the proposal was not intended to replace the existing regional structures; and it would not be implemented without majority support from Local Government.

The Association’s policy on a waste levy is clear: Local Government strongly opposes the introduction of a waste management disposal levy and correspondence received to date from Councils indicates little support for the proposal. Nevertheless, the sector clearly needs additional funding to support improvements to waste management systems within the State and the Minister indicated that the State Government would be unlikely to provide additional funding for this purpose, particularly if Local Government does not address the second issue of regional waste management strategies. In this context, the Association needs to develop an appropriate policy response to put before the Government.

2. **Regional Waste Management Strategies**

The second matter relates to the release for comment of a discussion paper by the High Level Officials Group on regional waste management strategies. The thrust of the discussion paper is that more needs to be done by Local Government to improve and strengthen regional waste management approaches in Tasmania. The issues raised in the paper are linked to the proposal for a producer pays approach as a levy is seen as a way of providing resources to support the implementation of regional waste management plans, particularly for Northern Tasmania Development and the Cradle Coast Authority. The paper suggests that unless regional strategies are developed voluntarily the State Government will consider constituting such bodies under environmental legislation, which would require regional groups to be directly accountable to the Minister for Environment.

To date only a few responses have been received from Councils. Southern Councils indicated they are largely satisfied with the Southern Waste Strategy Authority’s regional model and
suggest Cradle Coast Authority and NTD could adapt it to suit their needs. The Cradle Coast Regional Waste Management Advisory Group has indicated that while it supports the principles underlying both proposals it considers there is a potential conflict between the two policy documents that needs to be resolved through a clear overarching waste management strategy. As at the time of writing no Northern Councils have provided comments.

Again, in light of the Government’s intimation that it will consider constituting regional bodies through legislation if Local Government does not move forward voluntarily, the Committee is asked to consider the Association’s policy position.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
1. The principle of ‘user pays’ and ‘polluter pays’ should be applied where possible in addressing the issue of charging for waste management services.
2. The introduction of a waste management disposal level is an unacceptable impost on Councils and communities that is strongly opposed by Local Government.

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine left the meeting at 3.40pm during discussion of Item 2.2.
2.3 SUBJECT: ROAD REFERENCE GROUP

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Cllr Robert Legge

That the Road Reference Group report back to GMC as to the way forward, as soon as practical, with their findings so as a combined delegation from LGAT and the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania can approach Government with a way forward to overcome the significant financial difficulties faced by Councils due to the damage caused by log trucks on the local road network.

Carried

General discussion ensued as to possible means of revenue raising to repair roads used by heavy vehicles with options being a bond to be paid by private forest owners or a levy/tax applied per ton of load.

These options will be raised at the Roads Reference Group meeting being held this month.

Background
Central Highlands Council will have to look at tearing up our bitumen roads and returning to gravel. $1,000.00 maintenance – 68% roads used by log trucks.

The other Councils I represent on the GMC are also experiencing difficulties with trying to maintain their roads.

LGAT Comment
One of the key drivers for establishing the Roads Reference Group was to better understand the impact of log truck (and other heavy vehicle) activity on local roads and the opportunities to work more closely with the industry, State Government and other stakeholders on resolving the present difficulties faced by councils in relation to the increasing freight task.

The forestry industry has expressed its concerns that although the logging industry pays registration and other indirect charges (eg fuel taxes), it is called upon to fund additional works in relation to road infrastructure. It considers that it is singled out as an industry and does not believe that the current arrangement is reasonable or fair. While some concession is given to some requests by council for assistance, the industry has indicated a desire for consistency and transparency in relation to any future funding contributions.

The Roads Reference Group is meeting in late March and will focus on this matter as a priority.

Within the context of the present State Government election, the Association wrote to all major political parties citing the issue of funding assistance for infrastructure to enable industry development activities to be appropriately carried on across the state.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.
2.4 SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL ROADS GRANTS *

That the Committee notes the action taken by the Association in response to the above Review

Noted

Background
The Commonwealth Grants Commission is in the process of undertaking the most significant review of Local Government finances in the past three decades. The terms of reference require the Commission to recommend an interstate distribution of local roads grants and to advise on how the interstate distribution might be updated for future years. The Commission is required to base its recommended interstate distribution on the relative needs of Local Government to incur maintenance and preservation expenditure for local roads and, to the extent practicable, bridges.

The Commission released an Issues Paper in late 2005 and required submissions to be forwarded by 15 January 2006. Because of the nature of the Review the Commission sought submissions from State Associations rather than individual councils on the basis of the need to assess the aggregated state by state positions rather than the relative needs of individual councils.

The Association prepared and submitted a comprehensive submission to the Review addressing the specific matters raised by the Commission. While the outcomes of the review cannot be pre-empted, grave reservations are held about the potential outcomes. The Association has argued a strong case but the reality is that Tasmania has fared very well over recent years with little real data and evidence available to demonstrate an ongoing favourable arrangement. Arguments in relation to costs, Tasmania’s demography and settlement patterns, limited resource availability, lower wages, seasonal conditions, weather, etc have all been argued in detail to further the state’s case but it is expected that all states will have their idiosyncracies providing the Commission with a difficult task of differentiation.

The Association’s submission has been provided to all councils. The Commission’s draft report is due to be completed in April followed by a conference with stakeholders in May with a final report to be provided to the Minister by June 2006.

A copy of the submission is at Attachment to Item 2.4.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
2.5 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

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

Noted

Review of the Local Government Board
It was determined that a reference group be formed, chaired by the President of the Association, to establish the Local Government position on the review of the Local Government Board.

Membership of the reference group to be determined by the Association in conjunction with the President.

Background
This is a standing agenda item intended to allow members the opportunity to raise any matters of strategic policy not addressed elsewhere in the agenda.

Mayor Jock Campbell left the meeting at 4.20pm, following discussion of Item 2.5.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services - Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: ASSET GAP RENEWAL

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
The consultants engaged in the above process have commenced their work with councils across the state. The feedback from councils has been extremely positive with a number now seeking to become involved in the Tasmanian Asset Management Improvement Program (TAMI). The effort by councils to have the necessary data available has been commended by the consultants, together with the co-operation from council officers.

The modelling software has been adapted to allow for analysis of water and sewerage. A few councils have already indicated a desire to purchase the software in their own right and will utilise it to monitor expenditure patterns and matching to useful life considerations and intervention strategies.

Only one council has refused to participate in the program. While this is extremely disappointing there is little the Association can do to force participation given the need for the consultants to engage council officers and have access to council data and records.

Budget Implications
$30,000.00 is to be sourced from LGAT reserves.

Current Policy
The LGAT is committed to enhancing the asset management capability of all Tasmanian Councils.
3.2 Subject: Tripartite Agreement on Ageing

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
As the Committee is aware, the Association has been involved in the development of a draft Tripartite Agreement on Ageing.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in organising signing of the document by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments. A new Federal Minister and the State election have further delayed this process.

It is fair to say that, at officer level, there is a high degree of frustration that the Agreement has not been signed. In effect, it has probably stopped some good work from happening because there has been a hesitation to proceed with strategies that are proposed in the draft agreement without formal finalisation of the document. Some of these strategies may well have proceeded through other mechanisms but for the draft agreement.

On a more positive note, in the meantime there has been considerable progress, under the auspices of the ALGA Action Plan, in developing materials to assist Councils in addressing issues associated with the ageing demographic.

It is proposed that the CEO approach the Director of Partnerships with a view to convening a meeting of the Steering Committee to consider progressing the Agreement and to establish whether there are any strategies which the parties feel could be commenced.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
At the General Meeting in August 2004, members of the Association voted unanimously in support of the President, on behalf of Councils, signing the Tripartite Partnership on Ageing.
3.3 SUBJECT: 2006 CONFERENCE UPDATE *

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
The theme for the 2006 annual conference is ‘Working Together’.

“The achievement of optimal outcomes for the community more often than not requires collaboration: within the council (across disciplines and departments), outside of the council (with other governments, the private and community sector and with individuals) or with other councils.

Working Together June 21-23 is a conversation in collaboration. An exploration of the aspiration of local councils to find solutions to achieve our preferred future.

Working Together is about challenging existing paradigms, searching for synergies and creating connectivity.”

The sponsorship prospectus has been updated and circulated, although, at the time of writing, it is too early to report on sponsor and trade exhibit uptake.

Four of the six workshops are secure and negotiations are occurring with a number of keynote speakers.

It is hoped to have the program and major sponsorships resolved by mid-March.

The committee has determined that this year, there will be no dancing at the conference dinner and alternative forms of entertainment are being looked at. Given budget constraints, it is likely that quality background music will be sought from the local market.

The committee has determined to split the 2006 Awards for Excellence finalists presentations into a number of short plenary presentations. This will enhance exposure for the finalists as they will be presenting to the full complement of day one delegates.

2006 Awards for Excellence
A review of the Awards for Excellence has been undertaken and it is proposed to significantly change the way the awards categories are structured. The awards were 'tweaked' in 2004 to bring them up to date, but the essential structure hasn't changed.

The new categories are a departure from the strict alignment to council service delivery areas used in the awards until now and encourage a broader range of submissions. Through the new category Excellence in People Management Award, they will also recognise the responsibilities of councils to be good employers.

A table detailing the new categories and criteria is at Attachment to Item 3.3.

Budget Implications
Conference is fully budgeted and is run on a cost recovery basis

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.4 SUBJECT: SKILLS SHORTAGES – COUNCILS CAREERS KIT LAUNCH

That the Committee note arrangements to officially launch the Council Careers Information Kit and Website.

Noted

Background
The Council Careers Information Kit and website will be officially launched on Monday, 6 March by the President at Rosetta High School. A wide cross section of guests have been invited to the launch, including representatives from State and Local Government, politicians, education institutions, training organisations and employment providers. At the time of writing we expect approximately 40 attendees. The media will also be invited and a press release issued.

The Association has developed a range of promotional material to accompany the launch and the wider distribution process, including posters, brochures and showbags. Following the launch the kit will be widely distributed throughout various sectors of the community and Councils will be encouraged to use it to support their own promotional strategies within local schools and at relevant community events. The Association will continue to work with schools, colleges, TAFE and the University to ensure the kit becomes widely known, particularly with careers advisors.

The kit will have its first official outing at the University Careers Fair on 16 March.

The website will be accessible at www.councilcareers.tas.gov.au. It is expected to be operational by 16 March.

Budget Implications
Costs associated with developing the kit, promotional material, website and launch have been met from the Association’s budget, with a contribution from LGMA.

Current Policy
One of the Association’s governance policy objectives is to maximise awareness within the community of Local Government’s role. It was also specifically requested, through a 2004 General Meeting motion, to address skills shortages in specific Local Government professions.
3.5 SUBJECT: MENTORING PROGRAM

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

To ensure that all newly elected councillors are aware of the mentoring program, it was determined that a further letter be sent to newly elected members outlining the program.

Background
The Association’s mentoring program has been well publicised but with little response to date. The Chief Executive Officer received the first request for a ‘match’ subsequent to the recent elections.

Following an assessment of the needs of the person requesting assistance, a proposed match-up with a mentor was arranged and successfully implemented. The initial party had a number of matters they were seeking advice/assistance/guidance upon with the respondent willing to assist. Gender and geography were important to the person seeking mentoring, together with the capacity to meet face to face.

The mentoring program will be publicised again in the coming months to make new councillors aware.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

Item 3.6 was discussed following Item 1.4, prior to Lord Mayor Rob Valentine leaving the meeting.
3.6 SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

That the Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Councillor Development Committee and the success of the Councillor Development Program with increased attendances at the past two Elected Member Development Sessions.

It was determined that the model for delivery now in place was appropriate and that the ongoing requirement for the Councillor Program Committee was not warranted.

Background
Considerable effort over the past 18 months has gone into understanding what councillors want and into reviewing the model of delivery and marketing of councillor learning and development.

Research undertaken by the communications manager has found that in Tasmania, councillors do not find weekday events convenient, have very limited ‘windows of opportunity’ to attend out of region events, are offended by the notion of ‘training’, value the opportunity to network and are more likely to respond to an adult learning environment, in particular one that can accommodate family responsibilities such as partners.

Based on these findings, the Councillor Program Committee has provided input into an alternative model of delivery of councillor learning and development.

At the heart of the issue of councillor learning and development is a culture within local government elected representatives that hasn’t registered learning and development as a key element of the whole package of ‘local government councillor’.

The corporate model is that in whatever area you are employed, you seek out further professional development for the benefit of you as an employee, and the benefit of your employer.

Government has no definitive model for the ongoing professional development of elected representatives.

LGAT has determined to move right away from a training model to develop its own, unique structure for the delivery of councillor learning and development. The approach involves the following elements:

**Branding.** As part of the redesign of LGAT’s corporate image, a new ‘brand’ for councillor learning and development was designed. *Making the Most of Life In Local Government* is a specific message to councillors that attending LGAT councillor events is a natural extension of their role as councillor. A further element of the branding of councillor events is to remove any reference to ‘training’ & ‘development’. They are *councillor events*.

The timing is right for a new brand for councillor events. Post-election, there is an opportunity to influence a new generation of councillors into accepting as natural the investment of their time into enhancing their knowledge and abilities as a councillor.

**Marketing.** Councillor event flyers are now circulated directly to the councillor, with a copy going to the general manager for council’s records. Language is a very important element in adding appeal, so the language used on councillor event brochures is personal and cheerful “go on, make the most of life in local government”, suggesting that learning something new and having a good time are not mutually exclusive.
Attendees now receive certificates of attendance. These are evidence of attendance and are another value-add for each councillor who chooses to participate. All councillor materials (certificates, feedback forms etc.) are branded.

**Timing.** Research has made it clear that there are only a few times of the year when it is viable to offer up councillor events, so the councillor program reflects this. A February residential workshop, the conference, and then another 2 (max) regional workshops later in the year (before November).

It has been found that consistency is important so, depending on the level of success achieved this year, it is anticipated that an annual program will be created that enables councillors to plan their attendance well ahead.

**Content.** LGAT recognises that there are key areas of knowledge that are fundamental to the efficacy of a councillor. However, feedback to LGAT is clear that it is a mix of topics that councillors are interested in: some relate to their personal skills as councillor and some relate to their functions of councillor. The councillor program will include a combination of all three.

Adults learn best when content is contextualised to be relevant to their situation and when new knowledge and skills are practiced. This is borne out by the feedback from Tasmanian councillors who value highly any opportunity for group interaction. Consequently, workshops are specifically designed for allow for group learning exercises and presenters are extensively briefed to enable them to contextualise their presentation.

**Price.** Local Government in Tasmania is particularly price sensitive. LGAT is committed to providing the best learning opportunities for the least price possible. LGAT works from a cost-neutral position, however, where one event attains a surplus, this provides a financial buffer.

**Delivery.** Delivery is limited to weekends and at venues around Tasmania to provide some equity in terms of travel. The February residential workshop is offered at a quality resort where councillors and their partners can enjoy a comfortable and pleasant weekend away. Where possible, regional councillor events will be value-added by a regional experience, for example, a tour of Port Arthur. Every effort is made to ensure a councillor event is relaxing, interesting and is able to accommodate partners.

The traditional approach to councillor learning and development has been to adopt the corporate training model and apply it to Local Government councillors. In fact, in 2004-05, the Victorian Local Government Association produced a range of well designed and highly professional councillor ‘training’ products. Without going so far as offering accreditation, these products offered units of core learnings or competencies. Unfortunately, MAV has been disappointed with the uptake of these products and in 2006 is undertaking an extensive review of its approach which includes consultation with LGAT.

The response to the February residential workshop is encouraging. 46 delegates represents the highest number of attendees at a weekend residential and it would be nice to think it is a turning point for councillor events in Tasmania.

It is hoped that the Councillor Program Committee, currently two members short, will meet again later in the year to review the councillor program and to look at content for 2007.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
The Association has as an internal policy a requirement to provide Elected Members with the information and resources necessary to maximise their representation.
3.7 **SUBJECT:** NATIONAL BIENNIAL HUMAN RESOURCES CONFERENCE

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**Background**
In early 2005, the national network of Local Government human resources / training officers resolved to host the inaugural national human resources conference.

Every year, the NSW Local Government Association holds a human resources conference and it was felt that, with the support of the other States, this could be developed into a national event.

There is no such event held in Tasmania and LGAT agreed to participate. Every state was required to provide input into content and to promote the event locally. In turn, the state association would share in a proportion of profits based on the number of delegates attending from that state.

In Tasmania, Iris Goetzki, Communications Manager, was a member of the organising committee.

The conference was held in Sydney in November 2005. It attracted a total of 207 delegates, of which 5 were from Tasmania (17% Tasmanian councils). This is a most pleasing response from Tasmania as Victoria recorded 5 delegates (7%), Western Australia 7, the Northern Territory 1, and Queensland 19.

The dividend to LGAT for its involvement in the conference was $1308.00 which offset the travel costs for two officers attending this event (registration was free of charge).

The formal evaluation of the event suggests that the event was well organized and met a need within Local Government for a targeted HR conference. There is an in-principle agreement between the states to progress a 2007 conference.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
3.8 SUBJECT: NRM UPDATE

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
Jenni Rigby has joined LGAT as the Local Government Natural Resource Management Facilitator, following the departure of Tim Phillips in October last year. Jenni studied environmental management and public policy at the University of Tasmania and most recently, worked at Tourism Tasmania in the area of sustainable tourism.

Australian Government funding for the network of Local Government NRM Facilitators has now been extended until June 2008. The Local Government Association of Tasmania intends to continue its support of this project throughout this extended period.

In line with the next phase of NRM implementation the strategic direction and work plan of the Local Government NRM Facilitator position is currently being reviewed to ensure the position continues to successfully meet the long-term objectives of the project.

NRM Regions:
Each of the three NRM regions in Tasmania are currently finalising their second Regional Investment Proposal. The Investment Proposals provide a business plan to guide funding and investment in proposed activities that address the issues identified in the regional strategies. Once the Australian Government has accredited the next round of Investment Proposals, the NRM regions will seek expressions of interest for the delivery of proposed activities.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.9 SUBJECT: LG IT STRATEGIES UPDATE

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
Whilst the LOGONS project has now been wound up, Brian Oliver has been retained at the Association to manage, maintain and administer the suite of deliverables that were derived from the initial project.

The content management system, Unity DCW, acquired through the LOGONS project continues to demonstrate its effectiveness as a content management system employed by 24 out of 29 Tasmanian councils. This success is attributable to a number of key outcomes of the LOGONS project.
- Services Identification Project;
- Navigation, Interaction and Transactions Project;
- Local Laws II Project;
- Hosting and Tools Project;
- IDEA II Project; and
- Project Management and Common Elements Project.

The council websites that are utilizing Unity DCW have enjoyed an increase in the amount of online utilization by Internet users.

CouncilConnect website information services are currently under review with a view to offering these information sources for delivery directly through council websites.

Local Government Online Services User Group
Following an initial lukewarm adoption of the formation of the Local Government Online Services User Group, few Councils elected to take an active role within this group. Without more active participation from Councils in this group, the group will not achieve any kind of relevance.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
The Association is committed to the provisions of an aggregated, customer-focussed suite of online services that can be accessed by all Tasmanian ratepayers.
3.10 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

That the Committee noted the following Local Government Representative appointments and resolved that the representative for the State Fire Commission be determined out of session to ensure due consideration be given to all nominations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Elected Member/Officer</th>
<th>Coordinating Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Library Advisory Board</td>
<td>Sandra French</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Rheinberger</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger McLennon</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julian Bush</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Communities Online Advisory Board</td>
<td>Alwyn Freidersdorf</td>
<td>E/Member</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Planning Development Commission</td>
<td>Sandra Hogue</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industry, Water &amp; Environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT:  PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Cllr Robert Legge/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the profit and loss report to 28 February 2006 be received.

Carried

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of the Profit And Loss Report to 28 February 2006.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 SUBJECT:  CASH FLOW STATEMENTS *

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of November and December 2005 and January 2006.

Carried

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

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

Budget Impact
As above.

Current Policy
The Association has a responsibility to manage the assets of the organisation in a responsible and transparent manner.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 SUBJECT: ELECTION OF GMC PROXIES

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Mike Downie

That GMC recommend the LGAT Rules be changed to state –

“If following ordinary GMC elections there is only one nomination for a population category or if the position of proxy becomes vacant and there were no further nominations at the last GMC election from which to draw a proxy, the Chief Executive Officer call for nominations and conduct a ballot if necessary.”

That a motion to this effect be put to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, 21 June 2006.

Carried

Background
Following Council elections in October 2005, a vacancy arose for the position of proxy to GMC for those councils in the Southern Electoral District having populations of less than 20,000.

When the Electoral Commissioner was invited to conduct a by-election to fill this vacancy, he pointed out that this is not provided for in the LGAT Rules.

Rule 21 (d) states that –

‘A casual vacancy on the General Management Committee shall be filled by the conduct of a by-election in accordance with Rule 20.’

It does not address vacancies in the proxy positions.

Rule 20 (n) and (o) of the LGAT Rules provide:

(n) Where more than 1 nomination is received for a population category within an electoral district, the person polling second shall automatically be the proxy.

(o) Where only 1 nomination is received, the Members in the population category shall nominate a proxy to the Chief Executive Officer.

In this case, there were no further nominations from which to appoint a replacement proxy. Because of the proximity of full GMC elections, Rule 20 (n) was not actioned.

However, in examining this issue, the practicality of the method proposed in Rule 20 (o) for determining proxy members of GMC was questioned – would Councils be expected to somehow discuss this issue amongst themselves and come up with a name to forward to the CEO; or would each council forward a name to the CEO and the CEO appoint that person with the majority of nominations; what would occur if there was no person with a majority?

It is suggested that GMC consider this issue with a view to proposing changes to the LGAT Rules at the Annual General Meeting to be held 21 June 2006.
There are a number of options:

1. Leave Rules unchanged.  
   This option is not recommended as it does not address the issues above.

2. Change Rules so that, if the position of proxy becomes vacant and there were no further nominations at the last GMC election from which to draw a proxy, the Chief Electoral Commissioner be asked to call for nominations and conduct a ballot if necessary.

   This option is not recommended because it only addresses the issue of casual vacancies and not the situation when there are insufficient nominations at the ordinary GMC elections from which to determine a proxy.

   It also seems rather extreme to involve the Chief Electoral Commissioner in these circumstances.

3. Change Rules so that at the time of calling nominations, these are called for both GMC member and proxy.

   The option is not recommended as it restricts the opportunities for candidates.

4. Change Rules so that, if following ordinary GMC elections there is only one nomination for a population category or if the position of proxy becomes vacant and there were no further nominations at the last GMC election from which to draw a proxy, the Chief Executive Officer call for nominations and conduct a ballot if necessary.

5. Change Rules so that, if following ordinary GMC elections there is only one nomination for a population category or if the position of proxy becomes vacant and there were no further nominations at the last GMC election from which to draw a proxy, the person elected to GMC to represent councils of a population category in an electoral district appoints a proxy from councils in that same category and electoral district.

Recommendations 4 and 5 would address the two circumstances that need to be addressed.

Recommendation 4 could be seen as being a more democratic process.

**Budget Impact**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
As per the Rules of the Association.
5.2 SUBJECT: LGAT SUBSCRIPTIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS *

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the subscription categories remain as they are, based on the Assessed Annual Value of each council.

That the Committee recommend increasing the number of population categories from four to six.

That, if the response from Councils is positive, a motion to this effect be taken to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, 21 June 2006.

Carried

Background

During the President’s council visits last year the issue of the number of votes allocated to members of the Association in relation to the level of subscription paid was raised.

By way of example, in Attachment to Item 5.2 Derwent Valley is entitled to one vote at General Meetings and falls in the 3rd highest subscription category. There are four other councils in a similar position – Dorset, Circular Head, Latrobe and Break O’Day in 06/07. Glamorgan Spring Bay will actually go up to the 4th highest subscription category in 06/07 although still only having one vote.

There are three Councils who pay the same subscription as Derwent Valley but are entitled to two votes at General Meetings – Northern Midlands, Brighton and Huon Valley.

Sorell, Meander Valley and Burnie (& Waratah Wynyard for 06/07) are also only entitled two votes but are in the 4th highest subscription category.

In other words, the non-alignment of voting entitlements and subscription categories is quite extensive except in the top category. It could be argued that because Derwent Valley is so close to the next population category they are disadvantaged, but Burnie could argue similarly. When the Association Rules were reviewed in 2003-2004, the GMC sub-committee determined not to consider changes to rules relating to voting and subscription. No objections were received to this approach. There does not appear to be a strong groundswell to review these rules at this time.

If GMC considers it timely to review these Rules, it will be necessary to develop some alternative models in some detail.

Budget Implications

Any changes in the relationship between number of votes and level of subscription would need to be budget neutral.

Current Policy

Voting and subscription categories are determined in the Rules of the Association, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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5.3 SUBJECT: LGAT ASSIST BOARD REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Mike Downie/Clr Robert Legge

That the Committee endorse the reappointment of the following representatives to the LGAT ASSIST Board for a further term of three years, expiring in March 2009 -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Geoff Dodge</td>
<td>LGMA Appointed Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tony Wolfe</td>
<td>Australian Services Union Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ian James</td>
<td>Australian Services Union Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That the term of office for the current Chairman, Mr Kaye Reeves, be aligned with that of the Board Members, expiring March 2009.

Carried

Background
In March 2003 the General Management Committee endorsed the appointment of Geoff Dodge, Ian James and Brett Direen to the LGAT ASSIST Board for a period of three years. Tony Wolfe was subsequently appointed by the Australian Services Union, on the resignation of Brett Direen.

In February 2005 Kaye Reeves was appointed as Chairman of the LGAT ASSIST Board and a term of office has not been set as yet.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
5.4 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

That the next scheduled meeting of the Committee be moved to Tuesday 9 May 2006, in Launceston.

Background:
The next scheduled meeting of the GMC is 6 April 2006. As this is only a month away it is considered that a meeting date in May 2006 may be more appropriate. This date will also be timely for any decisions required for the AGM and General Meeting to be held on 21-23 June 2006.

Dates for GMC and General Meetings are as follows:

2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 April, Thursday</td>
<td>GMC Meeting (morning)</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLGC Meeting (afternoon)</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 June, Wednesday</td>
<td>AGM/General Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22–23 June</td>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 August, Wednesday</td>
<td>General Meeting/GMC</td>
<td>Launceston, Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 August, Thursday</td>
<td>PLGC (afternoon)</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 October, Wednesday</td>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 November, Wednesday</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston, Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 December, Thursday</td>
<td>GMC (morning)</td>
<td>Launceston TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLGC (afternoon)</td>
<td>Launceston TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.5 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

An article titled ‘One National Flag’ printed in “The Flagstaff”, News and Views on the Australian National Flag and all flag issues, was brought to the attention of the GMC by Mayor Mike Downie, as requested by Clr Cooper, Central Coast Council. The General Management Committee noted the contents and considered no further action was required.

On behalf of the Committee, Mayor Deirdre Flint thanked Clr Lynn Mason for her efforts in the six years of her role as President of the Association, commending her dedication to her duties and the professionalism with which she performed those activities. She further noted the efforts of Councillor Mason in lifting the profile of both the Association and Local Government.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 4.50pm.