1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held on 7 May 2009 in the Board Room of the Association’s offices, 34 Patrick Street, Hobart and commended at 11.40am.

The PLGC meeting is scheduled to commence at 3.00pm.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Mike Gaffney  President
Lord Mayor Rob Valentine  Hobart City Council
Mayor Kevin Hyland  West - North West Region
Mayor Lynn Laycock  West - North West Region
Mayor Robert Legge  Northern Region
Mayor Deirdre Flint  Southern Region
Mayor Graham Bury  Southern Region

Mr Allan Garcia  LGAT
Dr Katrena Stephenson  LGAT
Ms Christine Agostinelli  LGAT

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Barry Easther  Northern Region
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1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2009, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meeting held 11 March 2009 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Lynn Laycock
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

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Deirdre Flint
That the President’s report be received.

Carried

Since the 11 March meeting the President has attended, organised, represented or been involved with the following:

Media

Print

Water And Sewerage
TCCI
LGAT Planning for Communities in a Changing Climate Conference
LGAT Roads Forum

Radio/TV

Infrastructure Building Program
LGAT Planning for Communities in a Changing Climate Conference
LGAT Roads Forum

Correspondence:

Mr G Brookes
General Management Committee
Mayors re Legal Responsibilities of Mayors
ALGWA re new office bearers
Premier Bartlett re Compulsory Voting
General Managers re Awards for Excellence
Meetings
ALGA, Canberra 18 & 19 March
Implementation Joint Steering Committee, Hobart, 17 March & 23 April
PLGC (Special meeting Hobart, 20 March
Demographic Advisory Change Council, Tues 23 March
Leader of the Opposition Malcolm Turnbull
Mr Greg Alomes (RPDC)
Mentoring Program (Cr.)
Minister Cox, Tues 7 April, Hobart
Minister Lewellyn, Wed 8 April, Hobart

Writings
LGAT Newsletter – March 20, April 3
Magazines
Local Government Focus
Councillor

Forums
Mayoral Workshop, Launceston, 12 March
Planning Reforms, Burnie – 3 April
Parliamentary Enquiry, Monday 20 April
LGAT Roads Forum, Launceston, 22 April

Events
Mayoral Dinner, Launceston – 11 March
Municipal Bowls Competition, Penguin, 13 March
Climate Conference, Hobart 25 - 26 March
Elected Members Weekend Workshop, 2 - 3 May

1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Robert Legge
That the Committee note the Chief Executive Officer’s report.

Carried

Interface with external bodies
– Quadrant Board and Committee Meetings
– CPA Networking Dinner
– EPA strategic Planning Forum
– Attendance at CMP Risk management Forum – Hobart
– Forest Practices Advisory Council Meeting
– Government Skills Australia Forum – Canberra
– UTAS – Planning course for elected members

Local Government Forums
– Water and Sewerage IJSC meeting
– General Managers’ Workshop
– Road Summit – Launceston PLGC Officials Meeting
– Presentation to LGANT on Partnership Agreements
– Attended regional forums re planning reform
– Bushfire Planning
– National Waste Strategy
– ALGA phone conference re LG Centre of Excellence
- Glamorgan Spring Bay merger workshop
- Climate Change Planning Conference

**State Government Meetings**
- Meeting with Secretary DPAC re Legislation Program
- Meeting with Director of Environmental Management re State Waste Strategy
- WST re blasting and role of councils re notification
- Meeting with Deputy Secretary DPAC – general discussion
- Local Government Division – regular monthly meetings and various meetings re dog control, financial sustainability of councils, Local Government Board and Stronger Councils project

**Media**
Water and sewerage – defence of selection and remuneration of Chairman of Corporations
- response to queries in relation to Interim Pricing Order
- explanation of council rating process and impacts of water and sewerage separation

Forced amalgamations - response to TCCI comments in relation to forced and voluntary amalgamations

Protection of Agricultural Land – general comment on impact of updated policy on council operations and broad consistency and interpretation

Elected member allowances – responses to queries about whether reductions should result from water and sewerage severance from councils

Reduction in numbers of councillors – followed Glenorchy City Council debate and related to optimum size, reductions to save money and less councillors for less responsibility
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWERAGE REFORM

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background

The Interim Pricing Order (IPO) for water and sewerage was released by the Treasurer on 15 April 2009. The regulator determined the pricing for water and sewerage for the next two years based on material and data provided as part of the due diligence process and the projected capital program identified by councils for the coming years.

The IPO provides that a maximum allowable revenue will be recoverable by each corporation on a regional basis. There are some constraints to the regional maximum allowable revenue such that revenues recovered in individual municipalities will be capped. These caps reflect the relative differences in the level of current cost recovery and how far revenues in each municipality will ultimately need to increase.

The variance in the caps which range from between 0 and 10 per cent, reflect the relative degree of existing recovery of water and sewerage services by councils. The focus of the first year of the draft Order is on revenue transition and commencing a path towards financial sustainability for the corporations. In effect, most council areas will see an increase of 10%. This relates only to existing works and has no bearing on the cost structure for new works.

The release of the IPO has caused significant public debate with consumers now becoming aware of the impacts of water and sewerage reform in terms of increased charges. The debate has not been assisted by uninformed remarks about how councils will treat rates with the transfer of water and sewerage to the new corporations.

Both the State Government and the Opposition have accused councils of price gouging while seeking to embarrass each other for their positions on the reform. Significant effort has been put into seeking to inform the media of the impacts on budgets of the transfers as well as the effects of any cash flow deficiencies. While there is a better understanding of these issues, the ability to effectively get these messages broadcast has been difficult.
2.2 SUBJECT: PLANNING REFORM

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
The Premier used the State of the State address to highlight intended changes to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA) arising from the State Government’s review which commenced in March 2008. The Communication and Consultation to date in relation to this matter has been as follows:

- Local Government representation on the Review Steering Committee, Andrew Paul, General Manager of Clarence City Council, has been the LGAT representative
- Public submission process to Review
- Briefing of LGAT (President, Policy Director, PLGC Representative, Steering Committee Representative) one day prior to the State of the State Address
- Presentation to General Managers at Workshop (18/19 March) by Peter Fischer
- Discussion at General Meeting following presentation by Greg Alomes, RPDC
- Release of a principles document
- Regional consultation forums
- Call for response submissions.

However given the significance of the legislative changes below there has been some concern in the sector that the timeframes were not sufficient. Consequently, the President and CEO of the Association met with Minister Llewellyn to express concerns raised in the regional forums about the proposed amendments to planning legislation.

The Minister acknowledged that there were difficulties and agreed to extend the consultation period by a week. Two Bills will then be provided which will contain the detail necessary for further and fuller consideration. The first Bill (19 May) will encompass what I call the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) provisions and adjustment to section 59. The second Bill will focus on the Projects of Regional Significance (PORS) and call in powers. This second Bill is scheduled to be introduced into Parliament on 28 May but the Minister has indicated a willingness to delay that if issues that were not able to be resolved were identified.

In a press release on 21 April the Minister has rebutted claims of inadequate consultation linking current proposed changes to the Better Planning Outcomes project (2004) and the more recent Planning Review processes and stating that PORS were first canvassed at that time.

The key reform initiatives are:

- Formation of an integrated planning commission (the TPC) through combining the Land Use Planning Branch with the Resource Planning and Development Commission.
- Expanding the TPC to include representatives from State Government Agencies with planning related portfolios.
- Providing the Minister with ‘call in’ powers for specified developments, such as PORS, with assessment and decisions on those projects to be made by an expert panel with decisions that are not appealable.
- Amendment of S.59 so that costs cannot be awarded against a council which has acted to make a decision in ‘good faith’ within the prescribed time period
- Improved enforcement provisions for Local Government (not yet defined).
- A stronger focus on policy setting through the Regional Planning Initiative.
Preliminary feedback from councils includes:

− Uncertainty as to how a single Commission can function and maintain independence – perceptional issues.
− In relation to PORS, there generally has been strong opposition but some in-principle support, particularly in relation to those projects which clearly impact across municipal boundaries. The concern is mainly linked to the absence of a precise definition.
− The current list of criteria within the consultation paper appears to be far too broad and could result in more projects being selected than might be intended.
− The lack of appeal rights on regional projects is seen to be inconsistent with other provisions in the Act.
− There is emphasis that regional projects must still comply with the relevant planning scheme
− The $10million threshold is perceived as far too low.
− The Minister’s Call In powers are seen to be too broadly discretionary and indicative of State Government’s desire to increase its role in day-to-day planning (thin edge of the wedge)
− The conflict of interest provisions have had some support but it has been pointed out that most council applications are for very minor developments (eg BBQ shelter, storage sheds) and are usually permitted with no external impacts and that there is an existing “safety net” in that if someone believes that Council has made a decision that is contrary to the planning scheme then there are appeal opportunities available. This will not be available for the regional projects.
− The proposal to develop regional land use plans is generally supported as it constitutes good planning practice.
− Removal of some cost orders against Councils under S.59 of LUPAA is supported as is improved enforcement provision but recognizing that this area of compliance is likely to grow and put more demand on councils’ resources.

The LGAT Submission is at Attachment to Item 2.2.

Another piece of legislation introduced which also affects the planning system is Nation Building and Jobs Plan Facilitation (Tasmania) Act. This has passed through both houses of Parliament and will receive Royal Assent on Monday 27 April 2009.

This legislation was the subject of a special PLGC meeting on 20 March, 2009 with the Premier highlighting that existing planning approval processes would be a major barrier to meeting the Commonwealth’s timeframes for construction to commence social housing and infrastructure projects funded under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) and that a failure to meeting the conditions of the NPA will result in withdrawal of funding and, potentially, the reduction of an equivalent amount of future Commonwealth funding (e.g., GST payments) to states. The legislation exempts social housing and school infrastructure projects from the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA).

Under the Legislation, councils must be notified once a project is certified as a NPA project by either the Director of Housing or Secretary of Education. The council is able to make representations to the proponent. A soon as practicable after an NPA project has been certified the Planning Minister must consult the local council to determine if the relevant planning scheme requires amendment.

At time of writing DPAC were working to have on the web a communications strategy and supporting processes and to progress the meetings with Local Government to develop more specific process details in relation to communication and consultation with councils. Guidelines and regulations are under development.
Budget Implications  
Does not apply.

Current Policy  
This is an issue of major importance for Local Government.

2.3 SUBJECT: NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Graham Bury

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background

Following an announcement by the Australian Environment Minister, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, in November 2008, the Australian Government, with the support of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC), is in the process of developing a national waste policy.

National waste policy directions were last agreed in 1992 by the Council of Australian Governments as part of the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

A National Waste Taskforce has been formed within the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to consult widely and to develop a draft national waste policy for consideration by Australian Governments, initially through the EPHC.

The Taskforce recently released a consultation paper entitled: “A National Waste Policy: Managing Waste to 2020” and is calling for submissions on questions raised in the paper from the community, business and government.

The closing date for submissions on the National Waste Policy Consultation Paper is Wednesday 13 May, 2009.

The Association is currently in the process of collaborating with the north western, northern and southern Local Government Regional Waste groups to formulate a whole of Local Government response to the Consultation Paper.

Budget Implications  
Does not apply.

Current Policy  
The development of a national waste policy falls within the remit of present policy of the Association in relation to waste management.
2.4 SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT IN BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the Committee note the following report. Carried

Background
On 15 March 2009, the Premier announced that the State Government was to consider changes to planning and construction standards to help protect Tasmanians from the tragedy of bushfire.

Representatives of a number of relevant State Government agencies have been working on documents relating to planning (a draft bushfire schedule) and building (proposed amendments to Building regulations) issues.

In relation to planning issues, the draft standard Planning Schedule will be considered by the RPDC for introduction by planning directive. Currently about 18 Councils address the issue of bushfire planning in their Planning Schemes but there is no consistency in these provisions.

In relation to building, AS 3959 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas, is called up in the Building Code of Australia in all states except Tasmania, where it will be called up from May 2010. This will require amendment of the Building Regulations to define the term ‘bushfire prone area’. The issue of adequate water supply will also be dealt with by regulation.

This area highlights quite strongly the need for alignment/coordination of planning and building provisions, approvals and enforcement.

An Industry Reference Group has been established for consultation on these documents, with representation from HIA, MBA, Property Council, AIBS and LGAT. The Industry Reference Group has met on two occasions (at the time of writing this report).

On 20 April, Council representatives (planning and building officers) met with representatives of DPAC, Justice and TFS to consider the draft documents. The practical input of these officers was extremely useful, particularly in representing the position of rural councils. However, since that meeting, a number of councils have expressed concern at the haste with which these reforms are being developed; the lack of clarity as to the intended roles and responsibilities of councils (and potential costs); lack of clarity as to the relationship between planning and building processes; uncertainty as to future consultation.

The Premier put a very tight timeframe on this project, with a view to taking something to Cabinet in late April. Although the project is being driven hard, it is unlikely that this timeframe will be met, particularly with the Easter holiday break.

It should also be noted that consideration of a proposal by Cabinet will be the first stage and there will be further opportunities for consultation. It is fair to say that it will be difficult to align the position of Councils to that of some of the participants on the Industry Reference Group. It is important that LGAT continues active involvement in the process.

It should also be noted that the proposals being considered relate only to new developments (subdivisions and buildings on existing lots). Dealing with the bushfire risk to existing developments remains a considerable dilemma for all levels of government and the community.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
2.5 SUBJECT: AWARDS MODERNISATION

Mayor Lynn Laycock/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Meeting note the following report.

Carried

Background
Award modernisation involves the creation of a system of modern awards to operate in conjunction with the new Australian workplace relations system foreshadowed for January 2010.

Under a formal Australian Government request, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) is required to complete award modernisation in priority industries and occupations by 31 December 2008 and complete the whole of the award modernisation process by 31 December 2009.

Each modern award must be made by an AIRC Full Bench, must operate in conjunction with the National Employment Standards and does not come into effect until 1 January 2010.

The associations are working collectively, seeking exclusion of Local Government from 32 industry and occupational modern awards with general agreement that there should be a single modern national award for Local Government industry covering direct employees of councils (with some discussion to be had about specialist occupations).

The AIRC timetable is as follows:

October 2008: Closing date for lodging written comments on the exposure drafts of the priority modern awards and closing date for submissions on Stage 2 modern awards.

November 2008: Consultation on Stage 2 awards.

January 2009: Publication of exposure drafts of Stage 2 modern awards.

March 2009: Closing date for lodging submissions on Stage 3 modern awards and pre-drafting consultations.

April 2009: Final date for making Stage 2 modern awards. Publication of exposure drafts of Stage 3 modern awards.

June 2009: Closing of comments on exposure drafts of Stage 3 awards, consultations in relation to exposure drafts.

July 2009: Closing date for lodging submissions, drafts of modern awards and other proposals for Stage 4 modern awards (Local Government Administration is considered here).

August 2009: Pre-drafting consultation on Stage 4 awards.

September 2009: Final date for making Stage 3 awards, publication of Stage 4 awards exposure drafts.

December 2009: Final date for making Stage 4 awards.

The workload in this area has been increasing progressively as we move towards Stage 4 and LGAT has had difficulty in providing sufficient human resource to the issue. To that end, LGAT has sought the assistance of Peter Rodwell from Hobart City Council to represent Tasmanian Local Government interests in the process for the establishment of a national Local Government modern award under the Fair Work Act.

This representation will primarily involve participation in meetings with Local Government representative bodies to develop a draft modern award which will then subsequently be the basis for discussions with relevant unions. Ultimately the form of the new award will be
determined by the AIRC based on any matters agreed between the parties and/or submissions from the parties. Peter has extensive experience in this area and is also able to utilise existing Local Government networks such as the HR Forum.

Current Policy
LGAT will fund Peter Rodwell’s travel and associated costs from within current budget.

Current Policy
Ramifications of a modern Local Government award are unclear at this stage. Most councils have EBA’s in place that contain conditions over and above those set in Tasmanian Local Government Awards.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee note the following report. Carried

Background

The Federal Government has announced that it will make available an amount of some $8 million to establish a Centre of Excellence for Local Government. All universities across the country have been invited to participate in the application process. It is understood that while there has been keen interest by some, the field is not likely to be large.

Applicants are to submit applications to provide a Centre of Excellence to enhance professionalism and showcase innovation and best practice in the Local Government sector. The Centre will encourage the wider adoption of innovative practices and solutions to the issues and challenges facing Local Government to achieve:

- A leading role in the policy debate on current and emerging issues and challenges facing the sector;
- An improvement in Local Government workforce capability through showcasing and encouraging the adoption of innovation and best practice across Local Government;
- A nationally coordinated approach to increase the effectiveness of currently existing personnel training and development activities; and
- The attraction and retention of skilled staff and the establishment of Local government as an employer of choice.

As can be seen the focus is largely on staffing issues and is not really the focus that would have been preferred for such a centre if orchestrated by Local Government. This has been discussed with Association CEO’s with a view to seeking some shift from the Commonwealth in their deliberations on this matter as it progresses.

The Association has assisted the University of Tasmania in the development of its application. While recognising some of its limitations, UTAS has sought to extend its pitch through the possible collaboration of other campuses in Canberra and Western Australia and has drawn on the significant academic strength of the Tasmanian staff and experience in delivery of online products. David Adams is seen as a key to the bid, particularly with his significant policy experience working for two State Governments and his new role as the Social Inclusion Commissioner. LGAT has committed in-kind support to the bid on the basis of 0.1FTE to the project and other in-kind support where applicable and appropriate.
3.2 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENSUS

Mayor Lynn Laycock/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
The 2009 Elected Member census has been undertaken, results have been collated and are currently being analysed. Participation was slightly down on previous years which was disappointing given there had been reminders through numerous forums.

Some preliminary results are outlined below.

- The majority (67%) of respondents were male (2006: 77%)
- The most common age range of respondents was 56-65, 39% (2006: 56-65, 43%)
- The majority of respondents were married or lived in a de facto relationship, 90% (2006: 88%)
- The majority of respondents had no dependents, 68% (2006: 59%)
- The majority of respondents were born in Australia, 86% (2006: 81%)
- 3% of respondents identified as an aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (2006: 0.5%).
- English is the first language of 95% of respondents (2006: 97%). The percentage of culturally and linguistically diverse respondents has increased slightly over each census (2004: 1%, 2006 3%, 2009 5%).
- 10% of respondents reported having a disability (2006: 9%), of those, 76% believe that Council adequately accommodates any disability-related support needs. This represents a continual decrease in satisfaction in this area since 2004.
- For 29% of respondents, the highest level of education reached was secondary education (2006: 31%)
- 19% of respondents were in full-time paid employment; 31% were self-employed; 16% were engaged in part-time work and 24% were retired. This is a very similar distribution to 2006.
- 55% of respondents reported a gross annual income of less than $56,000, with 8% indicating incomes over $116,000 – a similar distribution to 2006.
- 86% of respondents belonged to an organisation other than Council. Of those, 44% belonged to a service club, 41% to a sporting club, and 38% to a special interest group. 19% belonged to a political organization.
- 21% of respondents have served on council 7-9 years, 13% of respondents have served as an elected member for a period of 4-6 years, 17% have served 10-15 years, 18% have served more than 16 years and 13% were elected for the first time in 2007.
- 39% of respondents reported spending over 15 hours on Council activities per week
Table 1: Comparison of key demographic characteristics between Elected Members and the general Tasmanian population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 25-55</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 56 - 65</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in Australia</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as second language</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school not completed</td>
<td>4.8% Age 20+</td>
<td>35% Age 20+ ($below $52,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income below $56,000 per annum</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>64% ($below $52,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In employment (full time, part time or self employed)</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are some additional questions in the 2009 census which will be used to inform the Governance Working Group under the Premier’s Local Government Council’s *Stronger Councils, Better Services* Project. These questions are around knowledge, training and communication.

Once analysis and the report is completed the Association will compile a report highlighting the major findings of the 2009 census which will be available to members on the LGAT website, along with the previous two reports.

**Budget Implications**
Within current budget.

**Current Policy**
The Census supports a range of policy areas.

3.3 SUBJECT : 2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE *

Mayor Graham Bury/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

**Background**
Arrangements for the annual conference, 10-12 June, are proceeding well with all plenary and workshop speakers confirmed, sponsorship negotiations completed, and the majority of trade exhibitors locked in. The Conference Program and Registration Form is now available from the LGAT website and copies have been mailed to all elected members and councils. Refer to the Conference Program at Attachment to Item 3.3 for details of plenary and workshop sessions.
Plans have been finalised for the Conference Dinner to be held at the City Hall on 11 June and, at the request of councils, the cost per ticket has been dropped $10 per head to $130 per ticket. Due to a fall in sponsorship support this year, conference registrations have increased slightly to $625 (from $595 in 2008).

This year's Partners Program will offer a fully escorted tour of the Huon Valley region including a visit to the Wooden Boat School, the township of Cygnet, Hartzview Vineyard, the Grandview Sheep Cheesery and Peppermint Bay.

Money raised through the annual raffle will be donated to the Salvation Army. The allocated funds for speaker gifts will also be donated to the fundraising effort.

2009 Local Government Awards for Excellence
A total of 20 entries have been received for the 2009 Local Government Awards for Excellence, following changes to the award categories and application process. The winners will be announced at the conference dinner on 11 June.

Budget Implications
As a result of the global financial crisis, sponsorship levels have dropped notably since 2008. For this year’s event, cash sponsors have pledged $53,500 (compared with $75,000 in 2008). Trade sales currently total $30,225, however further progress is expected to be made in this area. Where possible, cost cutting has been carried out to minimise the impact of the reduced sponsorship funding, without compromising the quality of the event.

3.4 SUBJECT: GRANTS PROGRAMS

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Lynn Laycock
That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
LGAT has been involved in a number of grants programs over recent months. A brief update is provided below.

Stronger Councils, Better Services (Local Government Division)
1) Shared Services Grant: $105,000 was available to this program. An assessment panel met on the 26 February which included the LGAT Policy Director and General Manager of Kingborough Council. The number of applications was surprisingly few. $96,000 was allocated to six projects. The remaining funds will likely be carried into the project to develop a short planning course for elected members. At the time of writing, successful proponents had not been formally announced.

2) Sustainable Business: LGAT has received $70,000 to progress a consultancy project (refer Item 3.16 on sustainability). A request for quotation document has been prepared to go out shortly.
eDA/HAF funding (Commonwealth)

In December, LGAT lodged a successful business case with the Australian Government to implement end-to-end electronic development assessment processes in two pilot councils (Hobart and Northern Midlands). Up to $500,000 is available, with the first $100,000 having been released and the next $150,000 pending acceptance of the first project report and project business plan. An independent probity advisor has been engaged and two tender processes will be run to-

1) engage a software vendor to implement appropriate systems into the pilot councils and
2) engage an evaluator to provide an independent post implementation review that will outline the implications for other Tasmanian councils.

The project must be completed by 31 March 2010 under the terms of the funding agreement but compliance may be hindered by delays in the development of the national standard (eDAIS). This has been raised as a concern with the Commonwealth.

Budget Implications

LGAT is responsible for managing up $570,000 of grant funding this year.

Current Policy

The three grants programs reflect COAG and PLGC priorities.

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### GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY MERGER WORKSHOP

**Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland**

That the Committee note the following report.  

Carried

**Background**

The CEO of the Association was invited to chair a workshop attended by the majority of Glamorgan Spring Bay Councillors to discuss the processes and considerations associated with the voluntary merger with another council. Also in attendance was the Minister for Local Government and staff from his Office, representatives from the Local Government Office and the General Manager of the Council.

The Council was appraised of the various processes, including the significant role the Local Government Board plays, the opportunities for community and council inputs and the fact that independent expertise would be utilised by the Board to undertake a financial due diligence of potentially merging councils. The cost of this work would be borne by the State Government. Minister Cox also revealed that financial incentives to make any merger a reality were possible and would depend on the nature of the issues identified during a merger investigation.

The workshop allowed councillors to discuss matters and ask questions in an informal environment and gather information that would allow them to discuss and consider the matter at any subsequent meeting of the Council. It was indicated that if two or more councils did choose to consider a voluntary merger, the overall process would likely take approximately six months from commencement to conclusion.

The merger issue is now to be considered further by Council at a formal meeting.
3.6 SUBJECT: ELECTED MEMBERS WORKSHOP & PRE ELECTION TRAINING

Mayor Graham Bury/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Elected Members' Workshop

Thirty-three registrations have been received to date for the residential workshop for elected members to be held on 2-3 May at Tidal Waters Resort, St Helens. Further registrations are anticipated.

Topics to be covered include social inclusion, the implications of climate change on Tasmanian agriculture, council mergers, water and sewerage reform, careers development for Local Government, issues under the Local Government Act and election campaigning for elected members.

Full details are available on the LGAT website.

Pre-election Workshops

Three Pre-election Workshops will be held around the state during the month of May for the benefit of people contemplating running for the 2009 Local Government Elections. The meetings will be held from 5.30pm – 7.30pm at the following venues:

- 19 May: Beachfront Voyager Motor Inn, Burnie
- 20 May: Country Club, Launceston
- 21 May: Mercure, Hobart

The free information sessions will be advertised in The Mercury, The Advocate and The Examiner on Saturday, 2 & 16 May.

Budget Implications

The Elected Members Workshop is run on a cost recovery basis.

An allowance is made within the LGAT budget to cover the cost of the Pre-election Information Sessions.

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine left the meeting at 1.00pm.
3.7 SUBJECT: TASMANIAN ROADS FORUM

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Graham Bury

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background

In November 2008 LGAT’s General Management Committee endorsed a proposal to conduct a Roads Forum to canvass an array of issues impacting the local road network and its interface with the remainder of the State’s transport networks. The endorsement of this forum process stemmed from long standing issues and concerns in the Local Government Sector and agreement that change is needed.

The key points underlying the proposal were to:

− assess the best means by which to address ongoing freight and transport infrastructure deficiencies in the state;
− focus on and showcase cooperative arrangements that are in place in other states and review options that could be considered by Local Government, in partnership with other spheres of government;
− learn from representatives from other jurisdictions such as Queensland and Western Australia as to the particular initiatives in their state that are addressing some of the challenges facing Tasmanian councils; and
− receive input from road users such as the RACT and peak organisations such as the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA).

The Forum was held on Wednesday 22 April, 2009 at the Launceston Tram Shed Function Centre and Auditorium. In welcoming the Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges to open the forum, LGAT’s President, Mike Gaffney, acknowledged that the involvement of the State Government is key to any change in the status quo. He also stressed the need for both spheres of government to work together to maximise the roading experience for all Tasmanians.

Opening the Forum, Minister Sturges said that transport infrastructure represented a significant cost to the State and for this reason it must be planned for the long term and directed towards strategic policy objectives to ensure best value for the taxpayer and ratepayer dollar. However, he expressed confidence that the continuing co-operation by government at all levels would help the State realise shared goals.

A number of interstate and local presenters addressed the forum on a wide range of approaches to road management across the country. They included:

− Adrian Beresford-Wylie - Chief Executive Officer, Australian Local Government Association
− Cr William (Bill) Mitchell JP – President of the Western Australian Local Government Association
− Les Dunn – Executive Director, Road System Planning & Performance Division, Queensland Department of Main Roads
− Chris Champion – Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA)
− Norm Mcllpatrick - Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER)
− Vince Taskunas - General Manager, Public Policy and Communications, RACT Ltd
− Peter Douglas – Regional Manager, Transport Infrastructure (TAS), Pitt & Sherry who sponsored the forum lunch.
Participating in the forum were elected members, Council officers and Association staff, as well as senior representatives of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

Despite a somewhat disappointing level of attendance from the Local Government Sector, initial feedback from participants, including elected members, indicates that the event was well received.

A key outcome of the event, which gained coverage in the Tasmanian media, is that it has provided a valuable opportunity for participants from both spheres of government to work collaboratively to find solutions to common problems and pool ideas and resources to improve the management of road networks in the state.

**Budget Implications**
It is proposed that the majority of costs associated with the conduct of the event will be recovered through charging the participants an appropriate fee.

**Current Policy**
The general intent of the forum marries with the present policy of the Association in relation to road funding.

### 3.8 SUBJECT: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

**Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland**

That the appointment of the Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator and the update on progress be noted.

Carried

**Background**
The Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator commenced 4 March 2009 and the Grant Deed was extended to coincide with the two year appointment date.

Information gathering and site visits have been undertaken in Victoria (Sustainability Vic and Darebin CC), South Australia (Zero Waste SA and Dry Creek HHW collection day), and Tasmania (HCC, GCC, Mornington, Dulverton, LCC).

The coordinator attended the “Managing Waste in a Changing Climate Conference” in Launceston in March, and the National Waste Policy public consultation meeting in Hobart in April. The coordinator has initiated discussion with the three regional authorities and plans to address these authorities at meetings during May/June.

**Budget Implications**
Fully funded through project funds (50:50 State:Local Government contribution) as per deed.

**Current Policy**
Where possible, align HHW collection program approach with Regional, State and National Controlled Waste Strategies.
3.9 SUBJECT: STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mayor Graham Bury/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That GMC note the report and in particular the budget implications.

Carried

Background
Following endorsement at the November 2008 General Meeting, the Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change between the State Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) on behalf of Tasmanian councils was signed on 16 December, 2008.

The Partnership Agreement has four Schedules:

- Schedule 1 Future Planning and Action Committee
- Schedule 2 Carbon Pollution Reductions
- Schedule 3 Community Consultations and Education
- Schedule 4 Planning

LGAT has been working towards implementation of the Schedules of the Agreement. Specifically:

Schedule 1 Future Planning and Action Committee
The Future Planning and Action Committee (FPAC) has been established to:

- monitor the implementation of the partnership agreement;
- make recommendations to the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) on the future direction of the agreement; and
- ensure that action is relevant to changing times and needs.

Member organisations include:

- Local Government Division (Chair)
- Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Department of Justice (Land Use Planning Branch)
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office
- Representatives of other organisations as required.

The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held on Thursday 31 March. The terms of reference for the Committee were finalised.

Continuing priorities for the Partnership Agreement are:

- Future Action Planning Committee
- Continuing the Local Government Carbon Emission Reduction Program in 2009-10 and 2010-11. This will require funding of $114,250 annually.
- Continuation of Community Consultation and Education Initiatives. Funding implications have not yet been considered.
- Provision of specific requirements to guide the development of the three regional planning schemes. No additional funding required.
Future priorities 2010 and beyond were identified and included:

- Identification and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies.
- Regional investigations to inform the development of risk management strategies and to assist councils in managing liability in planning decisions.
- Investigating and planning for impacts of climate change on Tasmanian governments specifically in relation to food and water security, climate refugees, mental and physical health, bushfire and drought.
- Identification of a toolkit(s) best suited to Tasmanian circumstances to assist councils adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Schedule 2  Carbon Pollution Reduction

- Planet Footprint has been engaged to provide baseline monitoring and reporting of council’s carbon emission.
- More detail is provided in a separate report.

Schedule 3  Community Consultations and Education

- LGAT commenced the Climate Connect Program involving community screening of the documentary *Telling the Truth* commenced in December with screening in St Helens and St Marys. Uptake has been slow. As a result the format for the program is being reviewed in consultation with Sustainable Living Tasmania.
- LGAT initiated the Local Government Planning for Communities Conference and has been leading in the coordination of climate change initiatives.
- It is proposed that the Association work in collaboration with the Tasmanian Climate Change Office on developing a community web site.

Schedule 4  Planning

- The Tasmanian Local Government Planning for Communities in a Changing Climate was hosted by LGAT at the Baha’i Centre in Hobart on 25 and 26 March, 2009. Refer to Item 3.10.

Budget Implications

Year 1 of the Program for Schedule Two (Carbon Pollution Reduction) is jointly funded by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office and the Local Government Association of Tasmania. Ongoing funding is required to continue the program into years 2 and 3. Indicative costs: Year 2 (2009-2010) $114,550 + GST, Year 3 (2010 – 2011) $114,550 + GST. $3,950 +GST per Council.

Current Policy

Does not apply
That the Committee note the following report.

Resolved

**Background**
LGAT convened Tasmanian Local Government *Planning for Community in a Changing Climate Conference* at the Baha’i Centre of Learning on 25 - 26 March. The conference was attended by over 130 delegates representing the majority of Tasmanian councils, Local Government Associations and councils from other States and State and Territory Government Agencies, industry and academia.

A range of respected national and Tasmania speakers and extensive panel discussions provided delegates with information and tools to assist them in making responsible decisions relating to planning and building responses in a changing climate. Topics covered included adaptive planning, reducing transport emissions, regional planning approaches and risk assessment and management in both non coastal and coastal areas.

The Local Government Carbon Emission Reduction Program was officially launched by Mayor Mike Gaffney and Andrew Wales of Planet Footprint.

LGAT, Antarctic Climate Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) and the Spatial Operations Unit of the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) ran afternoon workshops on the light detection and ranging (LiDAR) program which provides high-resolution height data that can be used by researchers, planners and Local Government to identify and assess areas that may be affected or vulnerable to sea level rise, inundation, storm or tidal surges.

Early feedback on the Conference has been very positive and there was significant media interest. A formal evaluation is underway.

Conference papers are now available on the Association website.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Planning is a focus area under the *Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change*. 
3.11 SUBJECT: CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Graham Bury

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
LGAT has continued to provide policy and program support to the Federal Government’s Natural Resource Management and Caring for Our Country programs despite the withdrawal of Federal funds for the National Local Government Facilitator Program. The aim of the ongoing program is to:

- Complete initiatives commenced under the Natural Heritage Trust Program;
- Provide transitional support to Tasmanian councils on Caring for Our Country; and
- Provide Tasmanian councils with the capacity to deliver timely, effective and efficient outcomes through the finalisation of programs and projects.

LGAT has delivered regional and individual council workshops on environmental sustainability including:

- Caring for Our Country Business Planning Sessions;
- Caring for Our Country Regional Meetings;
- Weeds of National Significance (WONS meeting);
- Sustainability Action Planning Workshops; and
- Regional Climate Change Forums.

Priorities of the Federal Government’s Caring for Our Country Business Plan were addressed at the Planning for Community in a Changing Climate Conference. Speakers addressed topics such sustainable communities in a climate of drought, changing climatic regimes, water security and sustainable agriculture, planning, risk assessment and management.

LGAT convened a meeting for Local Government, State Government, Industry and various other Stakeholders to present funding proposals under the 2009-2010 Caring for Our Country Business Plan. Projects considered were:

- Trials of biochar in the Southern Midlands. The Southern NRM area of Tasmania has been identified under the Business Plan as a high priority region for increasing soil carbon by improved land management practices, reducing the risk.
- Investigation of WoNS as a feed stock for creating biochar. Tasmania has seven species of weeds listed as WoNS. The aim of the project is to reduce the impact and spread of WoNS through collaborative activities that address outliers, containment lines, and the strategic management of core infestations
- A three region approach to the management of WoNS in Tasmania.

LGAT launched the Connector program. The program provides a tool (DVD) for local councils to use when engaging with local communities in the area of sustainability. Several “grass roots” community groups have been initiated. These groups focus on how to build sustainable communities including collective vegetation and weed management programs, community gardens, and bulk buying schemes.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.12 SUBJECT: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Robert Legge

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background

On March 10 2009 the Federal Government released the exposure draft Carbon Pollution Reduction Bill. The consultation period for the draft legislation closed on 14 April 2009. It is proposed that final legislation is introduced into the Federal Parliament in May with the aim of achieving passage of the Bill and associated legislation through Parliament in June 2009.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), on behalf of the Associations in all jurisdictions, commissioned Deacons (a major international law firm with more than 900 lawyers across Australia and Asia) to provide a Briefing Paper on Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill 2009 and Associated Legislation. A full copy of the report is available upon request from LGAT.

ALGA made a submission to the Federal Government on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Exposure Draft on 14 April 2009. A full copy of the submission is available upon request from LGAT.

Key issues include-

Councils with operational control over a landfill that has emissions exceeding 25,000 tonnes of CO\textsuperscript{2}-e per financial year will be a liable entity under the CPRS, and will be required to purchase and surrender eligible emissions units to the Authority by 15 December after the relevant financial year.

The CPRS Bill currently includes provisions which lower this threshold to 10,000 tonnes CO\textsuperscript{2}-e or in two instances:

1. Firstly, if a landfill facility is within a prescribed distance of another landfill facility that accepts similar classifications of waste (this provision is being referred to and the “proximity rule”). The prescribed distance has not yet been determined and will be specified in the Regulations. However there is some discussion around 80 km.
2. The second exception relates to the closure of a landfill facility to which the lower threshold applies. In this instance, the landfill will continue to have a 10,000 CO\textsuperscript{2}-e threshold for the ten financial years following the year of closure, following which it would revert to 25,000 CO\textsuperscript{2}-e.

These circumstances mean that probably all Tasmanian landfills would be captured by the CPRS.

Council owned landfills that closed prior to 1 July 2008 will not be covered by the CPRS and emissions resulting from legacy waste (waste deposited prior to 1 July 2008) will not incur a liability until 2018.

If a Council has operational control over any other facility that has direct emissions exceeding 25,000 tonnes of CO\textsuperscript{2}-e per financial year (for example, a wastewater treatment plant), it will also be a liable entity under the CPRS and have to report under NGERS.

Councils that have a liability under the CPRS will be required to submit reports under the NGERS to the Authority by 31 October following the relevant financial year. Councils that are not covered by the CPRS will not have any obligations under NGERS, unless they are a “constitutional corporation” and trigger the corporate or facility thresholds.
Councils who directly manage waste facilities will not be the only ones facing cost increased. Even those without a direct liability under CPRS are likely to experience increased waste disposal costs, if landfills used by them are covered by the CPRS. Whether these costs are able to be passed on by the landfill operator will depend upon the contractual arrangements between the Council and the landfill operator. Councils will also experience increased costs for electricity and fuel, and any emissions intensive goods and services used by the Council.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
ALGA has responded on behalf of Local Government. Broadly, they have:
- welcomed the Australian Government’s commitment to addressing climate, recognising the technical and political challenges of introducing a comprehensive domestic and international measure to address climate change;
- acknowledged and “accepted that Local Government could play a significant leadership role within the community, and stated their commitment to working with the Australian Government to address climate change;
- asserted that the proposed reduction of the 25kt CO\textsubscript{2}-e threshold from landfills to 10kt CO\textsubscript{2}-e under the proximity rule and the inclusion of legacy waste are of concern to Local Government;
- outlined that these elements add significantly to the complexity of the scheme and will add extra cost to landfill operators without significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### 3.13 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION PROGRAM

| That the Committee note the following report. |
| Resolved                                      |

**Background**
The Tasmanian *Local Government Carbon Pollution Reduction Program* was officially launched on Wednesday 25 March at the *Planning for Communities in a Changing Climate Conference*. The program launch received both local and national media attention (Southern Cross News, ABC News (Local and National).

Planet Footprint has been engaged to provide baseline monitoring and reporting of council’s carbon emission with the program commencing on 1 April 2009. The Program specifically relates to the 23 councils who are not part of the Cities for Climate Protection Program.

Cities for Climate Protection Councils (Glenorchy, Hobart, Launceston, Kingborough, Clarence and Brighton) are able to participate in the program if desired at an additional cost to those councils of $1,950 plus GST.

Councils have nominated a principal point of contact for communications between LGAT and Planet Footprint.
Budget Implications
Year 1 of the Program is jointly funded by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office and the Local Government Association of Tasmania. Ongoing funding is required to continue the program into years 2 and 3.
Indicative future costs:

Current Policy
The Program is being implemented as part of the Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change between the State Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

3.14 SUBJECT : GENERAL MANAGER’S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL PROCESS

Mayor Lynn Laycock/Mayor Robert Legge
That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
It has become clear that there is a reticence, almost reluctance, for many councils to engage with their General Managers in the process of performance appraisal. Many Mayors come to office with little experience in the assessment of managerial performance yet are required to lead the council in such an assessment of the General Manager. Most councils don’t have a formal process with the General Manager often relied upon to prompt the situation.

In a recent discussion at the General Managers’ Workshop, the issue of developing a framework and guidelines for councils was canvassed. It was generally agreed that a detailed document that provided councillors, and particularly the Mayor, with some assistance in the overall process could have some merit.

It has been agreed that the Association would develop a document which would be circulated to councils for comment before being finalised. It is not intended that the document have any formal standing but rather it be used as a tool to effect a more robust and regular process of appraisal of General Managers.
3.15 SUBJECT : COMMUNITY SURVEY

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Robert Legge

That the GMC endorse LGAT progressing to a General Meeting a motion that Statewide Community Satisfaction Surveys be adopted as policy and be incorporated into the LGAT budget/subscriptions.

Carried

Background
LGAT has previously conducted 3 state-wide community surveys about Local Government services in Tasmania. The last was in 2006 and early this year the Association sought expressions of interest (EOI) in conducting a similar survey.

Two EOIs were received and EMRS were the successful proponent based on cost, capacity and experience.

The survey was to involve 1240 residents across Tasmania, with age and regional quotas, with the sample drawn randomly from residents living in each Council area. The survey is to be conducted by phone, using a similar questionnaire to that used previously, although some minor changes to the questions are currently being considered.

The Association provided per council price information to every council and sought advice about participation. Unfortunately five councils decided to opt out affecting the numbers which can be surveyed. This raises an issue for the future as it is not viable to run such a survey when councils can opt out. The cost is relatively small but not currently within the LGAT budget. On a per council basis the break down of payments was –

- 19 paid $374
- 4 paid $748
- 1 paid $935
- 4 paid $1496
- 1 paid $2244

It is proposed that for future years (biannual surveys) an in-principle agreement for biannual or tri annual state-wide satisfaction surveys is sought through a motion to a general meeting with the costs then factored into the general LGAT budget.

There seems to have been a lack of recognition of the potential from positive survey results, particularly when currently the media is focussed on the deficits of councils and amalgamation. Past surveys have shown the community are generally very positive about the role of, and services provided by councils.

Budget Implications
State-wide surveys may need to be factored into future LGAT budgets in order to ensure full participation.

Current Policy
There is currently no formal policy position.
3.16 SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE COUNCILS

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Graham Bury

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
At the August General Meeting it was reported that work under the Financial Sustainability Project had been subsumed under the new PLGC Stronger Councils, Better Services Project (SCBS) with its four subprojects.

Of the $200,000 available to the SCBS Project, LGAT has received $70,000 to progress a consultancy project (refer to Item 3.4), 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.

It is envisioned that this primarily will be conducted as follows:

1) Through guided consultation with all Tasmanian councils, determine the benefits and barriers to implementing a common specified framework for long term financial planning and strategic asset management planning in all councils in Tasmania.
   a. Specifically these are:
      - The Enhanced National Frameworks on “Financial Planning and Reporting” and “Asset Planning and Management”
      - The South Australian Long-Term Financial Plan Template
      - The IIMM Asset Management Plan Structure as detailed at A.1
   b. It is envisaged that this could be implemented via three regional one-day sessions (South, North, North-West).

2) To pilot full implementation of the frameworks in a number (no less than 4) of diverse councils and evaluate those frameworks in terms of ease of use, ability to deliver useful information and effectiveness in supporting quality governance with a view to enhanced financial sustainability.
   a. Pilot councils would be identified by LGAT and represent at a minimum a city, smaller urban, and rural council.
   b. Piloting would entail working through the frameworks in a detailed fashion with relevant staff and aiding in developing systems for data identification and transfer.

3) To deliver a written report to LGAT articulating the outcomes of consultation and pilots and making recommendations in relation to ongoing use of the frameworks and related templates, including ongoing or initial training and development requirements.

The focus on these areas is derived from key findings from the Access Economics report into the Financial Sustainability of Tasmanian Councils. That report highlighted the need for councils to move from annual to medium to long-term service and financial planning periods. The report also indicated that quality long-term financial plans needed to be supported by sound asset management plans documenting services to be provided and the funds required to provide the services.

These areas are also a priority for the Federal Government, as indicated by the Prime Minister when making the $300 million infrastructure funding announcement at the inaugural Australian Council of Local Governments meeting last November and in the enhances national frameworks that have come out of the Local Government and Planning Minister’s Council.
What is becoming clear through the network of Associations is that it is likely that a prescribed format for asset management planning will be a pre-cursor to major funding rounds in the future. It has not been codified at this time but other jurisdictions are moving quickly to have in place a framework that accords with the enhanced national frameworks coming from the Local Government and Planning Joint Committee.

Further, it is likely that the outcomes from the proposed consultancy process will result in a bias for a legislated requirement for councils to have such documents, plans and processes in place in much the same way as they are required to fulfil obligations around strategic plans. From this perspective, the Association is anxious to ensure that the framework is robust without being exceedingly onerous to allow all councils to participate and comply readily.

**Budget Implications**
The Association will continue to have strong involvement in this area.

**Current Policy**
This is an issue of major importance for Local Government and is a PLGC priority.

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**3.17 SUBJECT: WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Mayor Lynn Laycock/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

**Background**
There are quite a number of activities underway at present both at national and state level and at increasing the participation of women in Local Government, both as elected members and staff of councils.

**Getting to 51%**
The State Government, with PLGC endorsement, has launched an initiative to increase the number of women nominating for, and getting elected to, Tasmanian councils in the forthcoming Local Government elections. The Local Government Division is responsible for the initiative and has established a working group. GMC members Mayor Deidre Flint and Mayor Lyn Laycock are members of the working group and may be in a position to provide a verbal update of the working group's first meeting on 1 May, 2009.

**Tasmanian proposals to LGPMC**
The next meeting of Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council (LGPMC) will be asked to consider a Tasmanian proposal to endorse a nationally consistent co-ordinated program to increase the participation of women in Local Government with the following elements:

- A statement of commitment to be adopted by the three spheres of government;
- A recognition and financial support for 2010 Year of Women in Local Government which is a joint initiative of ALGWA and Local Government Managers Australia. (It was recently announced that ALGWA has received a grant for $25,000)
- Regular collection and sharing of data on the participation of women in Local Government across Australia, both elected members and staff. LG Division is currently collating available data.
- An accreditation and awards program aimed at encouraging councils to adopt and implement gender equity policies and programs. LG Division is working with ALGWA and University of Technology Sydney on this project.
2010 Year of Women in Local Government
As mentioned above, ALGWA and LGMA have announced a joint initiative -
2010 Year of Women in Local Government.

A national organising committee has been established, which includes representatives of
ALGWA, LGMA, ALGA, State Associations, Australian Government and State Governments.

In Tasmania, a subcommittee has been established to develop a program of events for
Tasmania for 2010.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

3.18 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARDS *

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the nomination for a Local Government Service Award be approved.

Carried

Background
The nomination including relevant service details will be circulated to the General Management
Committee only and are at Attachment to Item 3.18.

Current Policy
Awards are considered as per the Local Government Service Awards Guidelines and Criteria,
copies of which are included with the attachment.

3.19 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Decision Sought
That the Committee note the Local Government Representative appointments.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Elected Member/Officer</th>
<th>Coordinating Agency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Committee for Dam Construction</td>
<td>Mr Neil Blaikie</td>
<td>Qualified representative</td>
<td>DPIW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT *

Mayor Kevin Hyland/Mayor Robert Legge

That the profit and loss report to 27 April 2009, be received.

Carried

Background
At Attachment to Item 4.1, is a print out of the Profit And Loss Report to 27 April, 2009.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

4.2 SUBJECT: CASH FLOW STATEMENTS **

Mayor Graham Bury/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee receive the reports for the months of February and March 2009.

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.

Mayor Bury left the meeting at 1.40pm.
4.3 SUBJECT: BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009/2010

Mayor Robert Legge/Mayor Kevin Hyland

That the proposed budget for 2009/2010 be tabled at the Annual General Meeting of the Association on 10 June 2009 with a proposed 4% subscription increase.

Carried

Background

The budget process presents some challenges this year but a first draft has been undertaken to assist discussions prior to final presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

As with most councils that rely on income from interest on funds, the Association will realise a reasonable reduction in revenue from that source this year. The Association has also relied on a number of bulk purchasing and agency arrangements as a source of revenue but a number of these have either ceased or significantly dropped off. This creates a shortfall of expected revenue for the upcoming year of some $40,000.

On the expenditure side, Liz Gillam is leaving the Association on 30 June 2009 and I will be seeking to replace her present three day a week role with a full time position. This comes as a result of the significant load on the policy and advocacy function in the organisation. Offering Liz’s role as a full time position will maximise the opportunity of recruiting a quality resource to supplement the present team. The present 2.6 FTE load (+CEO role) for all the policy and intergovernmental activity is simply inadequate to achieve the depth and quality of effort necessary to service the needs of member councils.

In the salaries area, the role of the climate change officer also has to be reviewed. The position originated from the previous NRM role which was funded by the Australian Government. The previous incumbent had a strong climate change background and the NRM role was skewed to allow for some resource allocation to this function. This effort was carried on following her departure and at the completion of the Australian Government funding a decision was taken to extend the role for an additional 12 months focussing purely on climate change and utilising some carryover funds from the Commonwealth and topping those up with funding from Association reserves. Whilst the issue of climate change is acknowledged as important to Local Government it is not possible to continue to allocate one officer to one area of activity on a full time basis. It has been proposed that the position be continued on a part time basis, 2-3 days per week, with one of those days being funded by the Climate Change Office. This latter arrangement is in recognition of the needs of the Partnership Agreement with the State Government on Climate Change.

Also on the climate change front, the Association embarked on a project of auditing the carbon footprint of member councils this year. The 23 councils that were not already doing work in this area are presently being measured and the report will be available by the end of the financial year.

The year 1 cost was in the order of $60,000 of which $40,000 was funded by the Climate Change Office. When initially contemplating this program the expectation was that there would be funding for up to three years from the CCO but given the State Government budget position there is some doubt about continued funding and there was no formal commitment beyond year one. The cost of the year two activity of measurement and reporting and developing action plans would be in the range of $60,000 - $115,000 pa for next year and the ensuing year. At this time, that remains unfunded and has not been included within the Association’s subscriptions. This is a matter which will need to be canvassed with councils to assess support and commitment to the task being undertaken.
Another matter of significance in the budget is the potential for a 10% supplementary increase to ALGA subscriptions to allow for increased resources within that organisation. This would mean an additional $7,800 being required by the Association to meet this obligation. This amount has not been included in the draft budget at this time.

The cost of the President’s travel has been downgraded this year but has been offset by an increase in expenditure on motor vehicles following the decision by the Association to effect savings through the provision of a dedicated vehicle rather than paying his council mileage.

The Association negotiated with the Tasmanian training Consortium a bulk membership this year to replace the per council cost of membership. The TTC provides training and development predominantly to State Service employees but council officers are also frequent users of the services. The subscription cost per council is in the order of $3000 each per year. While this is a minor amount for large councils it is nonetheless expensive for smaller councils. The subscription allows for reduced attendance prices of approximately 25% at training sessions. The Association has negotiated an all of Local Government subscription, payable by the Association, of $6000. This will now give all councils access to training at a significantly reduced rate. The subscription has been included in the budget and councils will no longer be required to fund separate subscriptions from their own budgets.

Building rental is expected to increase again this year following the partial reprieve of last year but there has been some offset through the completion of lease payments for the Association photocopier. A decision was taken to retain the present copier and continue to pay for materials and usage rather than upgrading to a new model. This is likely to effect some savings in the short term but the machine will likely require replacement in the upcoming 24 months.

With all the matters above taken into account, it is anticipated that a 4% increase in subscriptions would be required to operate effectively for the coming year. In the event that the carbon footprint work is to proceed then the call on councils to effect their carbon measurement would be in the vicinity of $2000-$4000 per council on top of subscriptions.

4.4 SUBJECT: EMOLUMENTS REVIEW

Mayor Lynn Laycock/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

Background
Independent advice has been sought on the level of remuneration paid to the President and Vice President. This is in keeping with the standing policy of reviewing these payments following the broader review of elected member allowances.

The review is being conducted by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the results should be available for tabling and discussion at the meeting.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 SUBJECT : GENERAL MEETING DISCUSSION TOPICS

That the Committee consider topics for discussion at General Meetings of the Association.

Resolved

Background
At the General Meeting held on 11 March 2009, a discussion session was introduced to encourage debate and ideas on topics of interest for councils. The first session focussed on Compulsory Voting and the following topics have been raised for inclusion at future meetings -

A Attracting candidates to Local Government
   Fostering ‘Good Elected Members’
B Mergers/Amalgamations
C Media Strategies
D Water & Sewerage Impacts
### 5.2 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Decision Sought**

That the Committee meet on 7 August 2009 in Launceston, following the conclusion of the PLGC meeting.

A list of the meeting dates for 2009 is detailed below-

**2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 – 3 May</td>
<td>Elected Members Workshop</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Pre Election Training</td>
<td>Burnie</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Pre Election Training</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>Pre Election Training</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 June</td>
<td>AGM and General Meeting</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 – 12 June</td>
<td>LGAT Annual Conference</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<td>21 – 24 June</td>
<td>ALGA National General Assembly</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 August</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PLGC Meeting</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Brighton Civic Centre</td>
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<td>14 October</td>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 13 November</td>
<td>2009 National Roads Congress</td>
<td>Mackay</td>
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<td>18 November</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Burnie</td>
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<td>GMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>Mayor’s Workshop</td>
<td>Burnie</td>
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<td>16 December</td>
<td>GMC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PLGC</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Premier’s Dinner</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
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### 5.3 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the President declared the Meeting closed at 2.15pm.