General Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 11 March 2009

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

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

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

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

<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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 – 19,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 – 39,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40,000 and above</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to rely upon the raising of a coloured placard as the recording of the vote for the Member and as evidence of the number of votes being cast.
(c) Except as provided in sub-rule (d), each question, matter or resolution shall be decided by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting. If there is an equal number of votes upon any question, it shall be declared not carried.
(d) (i) When a vote is being taken to amend a Policy of the Association, the resolution must be carried by a majority of the votes capable of being cast by Members present at the Meeting or not.
(ii) When a vote is being taken for the Association to sign a protocol, memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement, the resolution must be carried by a majority of votes capable of being cast by Members and by a majority of Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
(iii) When a vote is being taken to amend the Rules of the Association, the resolution must be carried by at least two-thirds of the votes capable of being cast by Members, whether present at the Meeting or not.
GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

9.30am  Coffee on arrival

10.00am  Meeting commences

10.30am  General Discussion
          Approx Topic - Compulsory Voting

12.00  Greg Allomes

12.30  Lunch

1.30  David Adams
      Social Inclusion and the role of Local Government in Social Inclusion

2.15  Debra Rees
      Salvation Army
      'Working with local councils to address communities' illicit drug use, increasing awareness and, understanding of amphetamine related harm and available services'
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* Denotes Attachment
The President, Mayor Mike Gaffney welcomed Members and declared the meeting open at 10.00.

The Traditional Owners of the Land, the Leterremairrener People, were acknowledged.

**Apologies**

Mr Andrew Wardlaw King Island Council  
Mr Frank Dixon Launceston City Council  
Mayor Tony Nicholson Derwent Valley Council  
Mr Stephen Mackey Derwent Valley Council  
Mr Paul West Kingborough Council  
Mr Michael Boyd Flinders Council  
Mr David Metcalf Glamorgan Spring Bay Council  
Mr Geoff Cockerill Huon Valley Council  
Mayor Doug Burt George Town Council  
Mayor Darryl Gerrity West Coast Council

1. **ITEM: MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2008**

Hobart City Council/Glenorchy City Council

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

**Carried**

**Background**

To confirm the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 12 November 2008.

See Attachment to Item 1.

2. **ITEM: BUSINESS ARISING**

Glenorchy City Council/ Kingborough Council

That the Meeting note the information.

**Carried**

**Background**

At Attachment to Item 2 is a schedule of business considered at the previous meeting and its status.
3. ITEM: CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Hobart City Council/Kingborough Council

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

Carried

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

4. ITEM: RATIFICATION OF POLICY

Contact Officer: Allan Garcia

Dorset Council/Circular Head Council

That the General Meeting note that there are no items brought forward from the previous meeting that require ratification as policy of the Association.

Carried

Background comment:
Delegates are invited to endorse policy items brought forward from the previous meeting.

5. ITEM: FOLLOW UP OF MOTIONS *

Contact Officer – Katrena Stephenson

Central Highlands Council/Glenorchy City Council

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

Carried

A table detailing action taken to date in relation to motions passed at previous meetings is at Attachment to Item 5.

6. ITEM: COUNCIL ROUND UPS
Kentish Council were nominated to present at the General Meeting scheduled for June 10 2009.

Background:
Circular Head and Waratah Wynyard Councils have been asked to conduct a brief presentation on matters that are currently important in their municipal area.

The session also allows time for questions and provides an opportunity to briefly share and highlight problems or opportunities facing councils.

7. ITEM: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
   Allan Garcia

Circular Head Council/Waratah Wynyard Council

That the meeting note the arrangements put into place to obtain Local Government input into the broad strategic thinking behind the State Infrastructure Plan.

Carried

Background:
Upon the announcement by the State Government of its intention to develop a State infrastructure Plan, contact was made with the Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Norm McIlfatrick to ascertain the most effective means by which to have Local Government input to the development of the plan. Arrangements were subsequently put into place to conduct three regional forums to obtain input from council participants.

Facilitated by Linda Jones, the sessions were well attended with most councils represented. The sessions focused on high level outcomes and were somewhat aspirational in their outlook. The focus was not so much project specific but more a high level vision of the types of endeavours the state could or should be involved in. The attention was not on individual council infrastructure or even on which level of government should be providing the infrastructure.

These forums were some of several across a range of sectors. The outputs will be included in a first draft document which will form the basis of broader consultation on the Infrastructure Plan. Norm McIlfatrick will be attending the General Managers’ Meeting on 19 March to discuss the process in a little more detail.
8. **Item: Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG)**

Katrena Stephenson

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**Devonport City Council/Glenorchy City Council**

That the Meeting note the report.

_Carried_

**Background:**

On the 18 November 2008 the inaugural meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) was held in Canberra. Amongst the more than 400 Mayors and Shire Presidents, around eighty percent of Tasmanian councils were represented. Heads of Local Government representative organisations and state and territory ministers for Local Government and planning were also present at the inaugural meeting.

The ACLG was first mooted within the Australian Labor Party’s Federal election campaign.

Issues discussed included:

- improving engagement of Local And Federal Governments, including Constitutional recognition;
- investing in local, regional and national infrastructure;
- making our major cities more liveable, productive and sustainable; working towards more efficient and sustainable Local Government; strengthening regional economies, including broadband, communication and tourism;
- adapting to our changing local environments; partnering to improve housing affordability, including more effective planning and development processes;
- facilitating social inclusion in our communities;
- improving wellbeing in our communities; and
- closing the gap: Indigenous engagement in local communities.

Background papers on these issue areas are available on the ACLG website at [http://www.aclg.gov.au/](http://www.aclg.gov.au/).

As a sign of commitment to Local Government, the Prime Minister announced $300 million in infrastructure funding available to councils through the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP). However the timeframes around this funding were regrettably short. It is therefore pleasing that with the second stimulus package passing on 13 February 2009 the RLCIP program has been reopened (see Agenda Item 15). It is a credit to all councils that the Australia Government have noted that every council in Australia were able to submit a credible proposal within the deadline.

On the 5th February the ACLG Steering Committee met for the first time, chaired by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese. President Mayor Mike Gaffney is on the Steering Committee. This meeting was attended by a cross section of Local Government interests, including representatives from various Local Government associations. Amongst the topic discussed was the establishment of the Local Government Centre for Excellence and an ACLG charter and operating arrangements.

The next ACLG meeting will take place in late June in Canberra.

**Budget Implications**
The President and CEO attend the ACLG meetings.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.

9. **ITEM:** HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE OFFICER
   Sue Bronstein

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Launceston City Council/Waratah Wynyard Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>That the following report be noted.</td>
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**Background:**
Establishing a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection was identified as a priority for funding under the State Government’s Living Environment Program. The State allocated an amount of up to $500,000 towards the project and this is to be matched by Local Government through the Regional Waste Authorities/Bodies. The proportions agreed to, and stated in the Grant Deed are 49% (Southern Waste Strategy Authority), 28% (Northern Tasmania Development) and 23% (Cradle Coast Authority).

The Grant Deed has been signed by all parties and the State Government contribution has been released to LGAT.

The project is to be overseen by the Local Government Waste Management Reference Group (LGWMRG).

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

This process took some time as the Statement of Duties was revised and agreed by all parties. Then in September 2008 Launceston Council decided that the dual position would not be workable and consequently, after some delay, LGAT reverted to the original plan of hosting the position.

A Statement of Duties has been agreed with DEPHA and the position was advertised in the state’s three regional newspapers in mid-October. Interviews were held at the Association offices on Monday, 22 December 2008 for a Project Officer (0.6fte) to manage the trial Household Hazardous Waste Pilot Project in accordance with the Grant Deed signed between the Association and the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts (DEPHA).

The selection panel, comprising two members of the Local Government Waste Management Reference Group and LGAT’s Policy Officer, oversaw the selection process and interviewed applicants for the position. The panel assessed Ben Mooney as meeting all of the selection criteria and accordingly, recommended him as preferred candidate for appointment to the position.

Mr Mooney subsequently confirmed his acceptance of the offer of appointment to the above position and commenced in the role at the beginning of March 2009. His standard working days will be Tues, Wed and Thursday for the term of the project.
The Association will host the position as originally envisioned.

**Budget Implications**
Fully funded through the project funds.

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

### 10. ITEM:  TASMANIAN ROAD SUMMIT

Sue Bronstein

West Tamar Council/Devonport City Council

That the Meeting note the following report.

**Carried**

**Background:**
In late 2006, the GMC endorsed a proposal to conduct a Roads Summit to canvass an array of issues impacting the local road network and its interface with the remainder of the state’s transport networks.

Although initially proposed for early 2007, planning for this event was subsequently overtaken by the reform of the State’s water and sewerage sector.

Following significant progress in the implementation of water and sewerage reforms, the original proposal for a Roads Summit was again put forward as an event the Association should pursue and was endorsed by the GMC in November 2008.

The key points in the proposal are that:
- the major thrust of the event is to assess the best means by which to address ongoing freight and transport infrastructure deficiencies in the state;
- a one-day session will focus on and showcase cooperative arrangements that are in place in other states and review options that could be considered by Local Government or in partnership with other spheres of government;
- representatives from other jurisdictions are to be invited to attend to outline particular initiatives in their state that are addressing some of the challenges facing Tasmanian councils. Examples include the Queensland Roads Alliance program, the Western Australian process of sharing vehicle registration receipts to fund road infrastructure and an address by ALGA on national perspectives;
- observations by road users such as the RACT and peak organisations such as IPWEA are also to be encouraged; and
- the State Government’s involvement is the key to any change in the status quo.

Recent discussions between LGAT and the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) indicate the Department’s willingness to be active participants in the joint conduct of such a forum with a view to looking at potential solutions to the shared problem of insufficient funding and juggling priorities.
Arrangements for the forum are now underway. The event will take place on Wednesday 22 April, 2009 at the Launceston Tram Shed Function Centre and Auditorium.

Representatives from a number of national and interstate organisations - including the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the Western Australian Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) - have been invited to speak at the forum and have confirmed their willingness to take part in this event.

A brief overview of the forum is to be circulated to Councils who will also be asked to provide more detailed feedback on key issues for possible inclusion in the program, with a view to ensuring that forum outcomes are as targeted and relevant to Councils as possible.

The Agenda will be finalised following feedback from Councils and distributed prior to the event.

**Budget Implications**

It is proposed that the costs associated with the conduct of the event would be recovered through charging the participants an appropriate fee.

**Current Policy**

The general intent of the summit marries with the present policy of the Association in relation to road funding.

### 11. Item: 2009 Local Government Conference Update

**Stephenson Watson**

**Devonport City Council/Circular Head Council**

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

**Background:**

The 2009 Local Government Conference will be held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 10-12 June. The theme for the 2009 conference will be *Community Conversations – Striving for More* which reflects the need for councils to revisit community and council priorities following the water and sewerage reforms, as well as the need to reconnect with their communities in developing open dialogue and effective partnerships.

Plenary sessions will feature:

- **Allan Tranter**, Director of Creating Communities Australia, presenting *A New Conversation*;
- Brisbane City Council CEO, **Jude Munro**, on staff attraction and retention initiatives;
- Motivational speaker, **Graeme Joy**, presenting *The High Performance Team – Your Culture – Your Success*;
- **Roland Naufal**, Director of 4C Consulting, on *Ageing Friendly Cities*
- A **Panel Event**, made up of representatives of the Local Government, business and community sectors, will explore the question *Is Amalgamation Good for Communities?*

Workshop Presenters include:

- **Allan Tranter** – *The Dialogue Cafe...Methods of Conversing with the Community*
- **Jude Munro** – (session title TBC)
Manager Parks and Urban Design for the City of Melbourne, Rob Moore, on Transforming Australia’s Cities to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change

Mark Olsen, General Manager of Consulting Services at EC3 Global, on Growing Your Local Tourism: The Pathway to Successful and Sustainable Tourism Partnerships

The IPWEA and LGMA workshop speakers are yet to be confirmed.

Conference Dinner
Dinner will be hosted at the Hobart City Hall on 11 June. The evening’s entertainment will include a performance by Tasmanian Aboriginal singer/songwriter, Dewayne Everett-Smith, and dance music by the Giant Hamsters. Return bus transportation will be provided.

Local Government Awards for Excellence
Entry forms for the revamped 2009 Local Government Awards for Excellence will be distributed to councils in early March. The closing date for entries will be Friday 24 April 2009. The winners will be announced at the conference dinner on 11 June.

Budget Implications
Based on previous sponsorship and attendance levels, the conference should be well placed to cover the associated expenses. However, at this stage, it is not known to what extent the global financial crisis will impact on sponsorship revenue for the 2009 event.

12. ITEM: REVIEW OF DOG CONTROL ACT 2000
Liz Gillam

Launceston City Council/Waratah Wynyard Council
That Members note the following report.

Carried

Background:
In September 2007, the State Government announced its intention to amend the Dog Control Act 2000 in relation to the following:

− Controls for keeping and restraining restricted breed dogs.
− Mandatory de-sexing of restricted breed dogs and dogs declared dangerous.
− Restrictions on selling and exchanging restricted breed dogs and dogs declared dangerous.
− Compulsory micro-chipping of dogs.
− Abatement notices
− Dealing with dogs at large

The Government’s decisions were informed by the following process:

− In February 2006 a Working Group (with representation from Local Government Association of Tasmania, RSPCA, Australian Veterinary Association, Animal Management Officers Association of Tasmania, Royal Guide Dogs and Kingborough Dog Walkers Association) was established to consider a number of dog control issues. The Working Group presented its recommendations to the Minister in early 2007.
In May 2007, an Issues Paper was released and submissions invited with 118 responses received from individuals, councils and groups through a public consultation process. LGAT’s response to the Issues Paper acknowledged that there were differing positions taken by councils, in particular in relation to restricting of certain breeds of dogs.

In February 2008, the Local Government Division released proposals for the implementation of the proposed reforms. LGAT raised a number of issues with these proposals, primarily seeking to clarify the extent of Council’s responsibilities and powers.

In December 2008, a draft Bill was released. LGAT is working with the Local Government Division on the Bill to clarify and correct some drafting matters and to ensure the Bill reflects agreed positions.

However, the major overarching concern for Local Government continues to be the onus on Councils of implementation. Clearly, these provisions will place additional responsibilities on Councils, for General Managers or their delegates, administration staff and for Animal Control Officers. The implementation of some will be challenging. It has been clear through the development of these amendments that there are very strong, and differing, positions taken by different parts of the community. It would be most unfortunate if the prospect of protracted and costly arguments with dog owners resulted in reluctance by Councils to use these provisions to their full extent.

LGAT considers that for these provisions to be implemented successfully it is essential that:

− a comprehensive public education program be undertaken; and
− a training program be provided to assist Animal Control Officers with identification of restricted breed dogs.

In States where this was not done at the outset, confusion and aggravation still continues.

LGAT has requested the State Government confirm its previously indicated commitments to practical assistance with implementation, in particular the aspects indicated above.

At the time of preparing this agenda, a response had not been received.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
LGAT has previously passed a number of motions relating to amendment of the Dog Control Act. These are noted in the report on previous motions at Attachment to Item 5.

13. ITEM: CAREERS UPDATE *
Scott Blacklow

Circular Head Council/Waratah Wynyard Council

That the Meeting note the following report.

Carried
Background:
The LGAT developed a Careers Development Strategy in September 2008 designed to assist recruitment, training and retention of council staff. A copy of the Strategy is at Attachment to Item 13.

One key outcome so far, is the delivery of the detailed resource Council Careers to every school careers advisor. This initiative has the potential to promote Local Government careers to all high school students in Tasmania as they chose their training and career pathways.

Other outcomes include progress on a councils and University of Tasmania Honours research program.

To assist communications with various appropriate council contacts the Careers Development Officer has asked for nomination of a person from each council to act as the first point of contact.

Since setting up a council careers project the economic conditions have gone from boom to bust. Unemployment is up to 4-5%, job advertisements are down by 30% from levels 9 months ago. However studies indicate that moderately high skills shortages still remain in most areas previously experiencing trouble. Strategically the time to attract new employees to stable local government employment is now. This will help stave off the crunch of high retirements and low youth entry forecast to affect the Australian workforce from 2009 to 2025.
14. ITEM: **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**  
Christine Materia

**Devonport City Council/Waratah Wynyard Council**

That the following report be noted.  

Carried

**Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change**

The Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change was signed on 16th December, 2008 by President Mike Gaffney and Premier David Bartlett at the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) meeting in Hobart.

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

**Schedule 1 Future Planning and Action Committee**

- Drafting of the Terms of Reference for the Future Planning and Action Committee in consultation with the Local Government Office. The inaugural meeting of Committee will be held in March. The Committee has been established under the Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change to monitor the implementation of the agreement and make recommendations to the Premiers Local Government Council (PLGC) on the future direction of the agreement

**Schedule 2 Carbon Pollution Reductions**

- Planet Footprint has been engaged to provide baseline monitoring and reporting of council’s carbon emission. The Tasmanian Local Government Carbon Emission Reduction Program will commence in March. This Program will see Tasmanian Councils lead the way as the first State/Territory in Australia to have 100% coverage of councils undertaking baseline monitoring benchmarking and reporting of carbon emissions.

- Environmental Action Planning workshops have commenced. Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, Latrobe and Kentish Councils all have plans that will be completed by the end of February.

**Schedule 3 Community Consultations and Education**

- LGAT’s 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

**Schedule 4 Planning**

- The Tasmanian Local Government Planning for Communities in a Changing Climate will be hosted by LGAT at the Baha’i Centre in Hobart. An impressive list of Tasmanian and National speakers will cover adaptive planning, reducing transport emissions, regional planning approaches and risk assessment and management in both non coastal and coastal areas. Sessions will be followed by extended question time and panel discussion to allow participants to fully explore the material presented and its application to their specific professional circumstances. We would like to see all Councils represented

National Local Government Environmental Managers
LGAT will host the National Local Government Environmental Managers half yearly meeting in Hobart in March. The meeting will bring together environmental management staff from Local Government Associations around the country to progress the development of a coordinated, national response to the delivery of Climate Change programs to member councils and the Commonwealth Governments Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

**January 2009 High Tide Event**
LGAT provided overall Local Government coordination of the documentation of the January high tide event. Data was provided to SGC Consulting for processing. All contributing councils will receive a copy of the statewide analysis of observed sites.

“Our Climate . . . On the Edge” Presentation Papers are now available on the Association web site.

LGAT joined NRM South, the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, the Coastal and Marine Branch (DEPHA) and CSIRO to present updates on the current Tasmanian response to climate change as part of Coastcare Week 2008.

**Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) - White Paper released**

Critics have argued that the Australian Government commitments ranging from 5 to 15 per cent across the developed world only provide a chance of stabilising greenhouse gas emissions at 550 parts per million carbon dioxide equivalent (ppm CO2-e) and nowhere near the 25-50 per cent emissions reductions required by 2020, or 80 per cent needed by mid century for the world to aim to avert ‘dangerous climate change’ associated with a global average warming of 20 C or 450ppm CO2-e.

In working toward the 5 per cent commitment, the White Paper indicates a modest increase in overall living costs from when the CPRS is introduced. Electricity bills are expected to increase $4 per week and gas/other fuels by $2 per week. A $6 billion assistance package per year on going, as generated from the sale of emissions permits, is proposed to offset the full costs for low income earners and partially for middle income earners.

The paper identified emissions from landfills to be included in the CPRS from 2010; however, legacy emissions will be excluded until 2018. Emissions from landfill sites closed prior to 30 June 2008 will not be covered.

The Municipal Association of Victoria has produced a brief on the White paper which is available on request from christine.materia@lgat.tas.gov.au. To obtain a copy of the White Paper Summary Report, Full Report and a series of Fact Sheets visit: [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au).

15. **ITEM: STIMULUS PACKAGE**
Katrena Stephenson

West Tamar Council/Waratah Wynyard Council

That the Meeting note the report.

Carried

**Background:**
At the inaugural Australian Council of Local Government meeting in November 2009 the Federal Government announced $300 million in infrastructure funding for Local Government. This funding, comprising $250 million in one-off grants for every Local Government area and $50 million in strategic project funding is to be delivered by 30 June 2009 to ensure the stimulatory effects of this package are delivered to local economies as quickly as possible.

Tasmanian one-off allocations were as follows:

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<th>District</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Brighton (M)</td>
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<td>Central Highlands (M)</td>
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<td>$339,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Coast (M)</td>
<td>$263,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Tamar (M)</td>
<td>$359,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,258,000</strong></td>
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At the time of writing it had been announced that every council had submitted a credible proposal but no further details were available.
Some examples of community infrastructure that would be eligible for the $300 million funding include:

- Social and cultural infrastructure, such as town halls, community centres, libraries, parks, public squares;
- Sport and recreation facilities, such as sporting grounds, stadiums, pools, walking tracks and playgrounds;
- Tourism infrastructure, such as walkways and tourist information centres; and
- Access facilities, such as footbridges, bus shelters, jetties and boat ramps.

On the 13th February a second stimulus package ($42 billion) was passed through Federal Parliament. This included an additional $500 million for community infrastructure like sports grounds, swimming pools, community centres and town halls.

The Government will give local councils and shires the opportunity to submit new or revised applications for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects.

However timeframes, as with the first RCLIP funding, remain short. Councils and shires will have until 4pm AEDST, Friday 6 March 2009 to submit new or revised applications. Projects must be ready to go and able to proceed within six months of signing a contract.

Interested local governments must do one of the following:

- Advise the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government that they wish to continue with their existing applications;
- Submit a new application for a new project; or
- Revise their existing application and resubmit within the deadline.

Existing Guidelines for the Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects will continue to apply. They include:

- Applications are limited only to local governments, and only one application per council;
- Projects must be ready to go and able to proceed within six months of signing a contract;
- Projects must be seeking a Commonwealth contribution of at least $2 million;
- Councils are encouraged to contribute funds or secure partnership funds for projects; and
- Community organisations’ projects are permitted if sponsored by a local government.

The Commonwealth have also stated that where jobs creation projects under the stimulus package involve local infrastructure, funding be quarantined for the building of bike paths and preservation of heritage buildings. $40 million will be quarantined in the first instance for bike paths with a further $60 million for heritage preservation.

Also announced as part of the stimulus package, but without any clear details at this stage were the following of interest to Local Government:

- Around 350 additional safety improvement projects under the Black Spot Program. LGAT has logged a call with Julie Collins as Chair of the Tasmanian Consultative Panel which recommends projects for the AusLink Black Spot Program to seek advice as to whether there will be a call for new projects or simply funding of those which did not get funded in the most recent round. The Black Spot Program targets ‘black spot’ sites that either have a history of serious accidents or have characteristics associated with a high risk of accidents.
- Bringing forward the installation of around 200 new boom gates and other safety measures at high risk rail crossings. This priority has arisen from the 100 accidents at level crossings around Australia every year. High risk rail crossings will be targeted with submissions sought from States and Territories.

- $150 million of critical maintenance works on Australia's national highways – to help fund the backlog of maintenance projects on national highways. The funding will be conditional on States and Territories signing up to the $22.3 billion Nation Building Program for 2009-10 to 2013-14. This funding will allow more projects to be undertaken that address the safety risks posed by sub-standard sections of road, and at the same time, can promote the more efficient use of our road network by allowing higher speed limits in some cases or higher weight loadings, and by lowering vehicle operating costs.

**Budget Implications**

No implications for the Association. Councils will be kept advised of funding conditions as details emerge.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.

16. **ITEM: FIRE SERVICE LEVY**

Allan Garcia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circular Head Council/Launceston City Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>That the meeting note the outcomes of the recent review into the application of the Fire Services Levy and its impact on councils.</td>
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<td>Carried</td>
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**Background:**

Following concerns expressed at a previous General meeting about the seeming anomaly between relative fire service contributions of councils across the state, an Inter-governmental working group was established to review the arrangements in relation to the fire services levy. While the policy position of the Association remains that we do not support the collection of the levy via Local Government, various anomalies associated with the current regime have arisen in recent years with major increases being experienced by several councils.

A working group comprising representatives from the Fire Service, Local Government Division, Office of the Valuer-General, Frank Barta from Clarence Council and the CEO of the Association considered the many issues arising and sought to find mechanisms that would allow an improved and more equitable cross council outcome re the imposition of the fire services levy. The following recommendations were made to the Minister providing the basis for the draft legislation which has been prepared:

- Smooth out the current spikes in valuations by adopting a six year rolling average of assessed annual values.

- Should further smoothing be required, then incorporate a second formula that acts to smooth out peaks and troughs by determining a maximum rise or fall in the Fire Service Contribution for each Council for all land categories.

- Review reporting times in order to provide more up-to-date information for the Commission and Councils to work with. It is proposed that Council information be provided to the Commission by September each year and the fire service contributions be disclosed to Councils by the end of April each year.
– Abolish the gazettal of the minimum assessed annual values of land as Councils independently determine their own minimums based on the minimum fire service contribution.

– Institute a requirement for Councils to reconcile their total assessed annual value and numbers above and below the minimum assessed annual values for each category of land (both exempt and non exempt) with assessed annual value information provided to them by the Valuer-General and provide that reconciliation to the Commission by the end of September each year.

– Undertake a further review which considers alternative methods for determining the contribution payable by individual Councils, recognising that any alternative methodology must be equitable and must provide ongoing stability in the level of the contribution payable by each Council.

The draft legislation was circulated to councils with a number of minor concerns raised about the content and context. These comments were included in a response to the Tasmanian Fire Service where an undertaking was given to include the proposals in amendments to the draft legislation. It is expected that the legislation would be sought to be introduced in the Autumn sitting of Parliament.

17. ITEM: EDAIS
Katrena Stephenson

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<th>Hobart City Council/Devonport City Council</th>
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<td>That the Meeting note the following report.</td>
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Carried

Background:
Housing Affordability has been identified as a priority area for action by both the State Government and the Australian Government.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania, at its general meeting of 12 March 2008, noted potential opportunities for Local Government through the Australian Government’s Housing Affordability Fund. At the November 2008 General Meeting LGAT reported that it was supporting development of a business case to access funding under the Electronic Development Application project.

As electronic business applications play an increasingly important role in all sectors of the economy, the need for a national electronic data exchange standard for development assessment transactions has emerged.

At present most consent authorities, such as local councils and state/territory planning agencies, accept only hard copy development applications. Although some provide electronic copies of their application forms, these generally need to be printed out and manually completed.

The Development Assessment Forum felt that delays resulted from this largely paper based system, costing applicants money and impacting on the efficiencies of referral and consent authorities. This launched the Electronic Development Assessment Project (eDA) project in 2002.
The eDA project is examining and broadly trialling ways to establish an interchange standard that will encourage the on-line (over the internet) lodgement of building and land development applications.

On the 6 August 2008 the Australian Government announced the state-by-state allocation of $30 million in funding to support a common protocol for the electronic lodgement of planning and development assessments (eDA). Up to $500 000 was made available to Tasmania.

Interest was sought from councils and in December 2008, the Business Case was submitted to the Australian Government proposing a pilot involving two councils, Hobart and Northern Midlands. At the end of January 2009 we were advised the business case had been successful and, at time of writing this report, were negotiating a contract with the Commonwealth.

The purpose of the project is to illustrate the benefits and efficiencies of electronic development assessment (eDA) systems that will be compatible with electronic development assessment interoperability system (eDAIS) for Local Government across Tasmania through a pilot project.

The primary objectives are as follows:

− Analyse benefits of existing eDA projects and systems in Tasmania and elsewhere.
− Following an expression of interest process, engage a vendor/consultant to conduct preliminary investigations with selected councils in the State with a view to the potential adoption by all councils over the longer term.

There have been some issues in relation to resourcing participation in national eDA/eDAIS meetings both in terms of availability and capacity. There has been little recognition of the different context in Tasmania (e.g. no direct referrals to State Government) by the National Project Team. The State Government has stated that this is not a priority for them because there are no statutory referral requirements in Tasmania (However they are providing resource to the project steering committee). It is hoped that some common understanding of the implications for all councils might be built through a workshop by the National Project Team.

Budget Implications

LGAT has received the contract from the Australian Government and upon signing (and letter of support from the Land Use Planning Branch of State Government) the first $100,000 will be released. A further $150,000 will be released upon provision of a Project Business Plan due by the 30 March 2009.

The Project Management and administrative costs of LGAT and partner councils will be funded under the project.

Current Policy

Actions to improve housing affordability has been identified as a priority by PLGC. The eDA project is part of the COAG agenda.

18. ITEM: SUSTAINABILITY

Katrena Stephenson

West Tamar Council/Launceston City Council

That the Meeting note the following report
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, $70000 is available to support developing and implementing a long-term financial planning framework and asset management planning framework across all councils.

These areas are 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.

What is becoming clear through the networks 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.

The $70000 will fund a consultancy (a request for quotation is being prepared) with the purpose of assessing 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.

The successful proponent will undertake guided consultation with all Tasmanian councils to 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.

The two frameworks being assessed are:

1. The South Australian Long-Term Financial Plan Template which was circulated to Tasmanian councils last year with overall positive feedback.
2. The International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) outlines internationally accepted best practice in Asset Management (Asset Management Plan Structure – Appendix A). The IPWEA NAMS tools for asset management as recommended by Access Economics have the IIMM as their foundation as do a number of other asset management products. It is likely that adherence to the IIMM will become mandatory for all councils but that flexibility on processes to support implementation of the framework will remain for councils. This may need to be adapted to reflect all of the enhanced national frameworks referred to earlier.
Following consultation the proponent will support the adoption of the frameworks in a number (no less than 4) of diverse councils and evaluate them in terms of ease of use, ability to deliver useful information and effectiveness in supporting quality governance with a view to enhanced financial sustainability.

The final product of the consultancy will be a written report 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.

Further funding of around $100,000 is available from the SCBS initiative as a grants program to support up to four demonstration or pilot projects associated with shared services. These projects will be approved by the Minister on the advice of a grants subcommittee (LGAT is a member). The review of applications will commence on 26 February 2009.

**Budget Implications**
LGAT will continue to have strong involvement with a considerable proportion of the work directed to the Policy Section in this area.

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

19. ITEM: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD REVIEW *
Liz Gillam

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<th>Central Coast Council/Circular Head Council</th>
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<td>That Members note the following report.</td>
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**Background:**
In May 2006, the Local Government Division established a Steering Committee to oversee a review of the Operations and Functions of the Local Government Board. The Steering Committee was made up of staff of the Local Government Division, two representatives of LGAT and a representative of LGMA.

This Review was established to look at a number of proposals that were raised in relation to the Local Government Board during the review of the Local Government Act. It was agreed that consideration of the sections of the *Local Government Act 1993* relating to the Board should be deferred and considered as part of a stand alone evaluation of the Board.

In June 2006, input from a wide range of stakeholders was invited to assist in the preparation of an Issues Paper. An Issues Paper was released for comment in November 2006.

In April 2007, the Steering Committee held a workshop to review responses to the Issues Paper and to consider proposals as to the future operations and functions of the Board.

In September 2008, the Steering Committee was advised of the preferred option of the Local Government Division and the intention to recommend to the Minister that this be considered by Cabinet. There was general verbal agreement that this option was consistent with most of the views of the organisations represented on the Steering Committee.
The Minister for Local Government has recently formally advised that Cabinet has agreed to his recommendations for amendment of the Local Government Act 1993 to modernise the operation of the Local Government Board.

The Minister has advised that the proposed amendments will:

- Include the removal of the requirement for mandated general reviews of councils every eight years, to enable the Board to focus on strategic and systemic reviews of the Local Government sector eg financial sustainability, asset management, regional cooperation, best practice;
- Reduce the standing membership of the board from five to four members, being a chairperson, a representative of LGAT, a representative of LGMA and the Director of Local Government (removing the current position for a member with Local Government experience);
- Create two positions to be filled by specialist members appointed on a review by review basis.

It is understood that a Bill is currently being drafted but that ‘recognising the legislative timeframes for the Bill, it may not be possible to meet the standard timeframes for consultation.’

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

At Attachment to Item 19 is the Association's response to the November 2003 Issues paper.

LGAT has not had the opportunity to formally consider the outcome of the review of the Local Government Board.

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**20. Item:** **ELECTED MEMBERS WORKSHOP**  
Stephanie Watson  
Devonport City Council/kingborough Council

That the Committee note the following report.

Carried

**Background:**

The two-day residential workshop for elected members, initially scheduled for March 2009 at the Tidal Waters Resort, St Helens, will now be held on 2-3 May.

The 2008 Elected Members' Workshops were both very successful events, both in terms of the number of people in attendance and based on delegate feedback.

The program for the May workshop is currently being finalised. Details will be forwarded to all elected members by the end of March and uploaded to the LGAT website.

All elected members are encouraged to attend and need to book their accommodation direct with the resort by phoning 6376 1999.

**Budget Implications**

The workshop is run on a cost recovery basis.
21. ITEM: WATER AND SEWERAGE REFORM

Allan Garcia

Kingborough Council/Launceston City Council

That the Meeting note the progress of the reform.

Carried

Background:
At the corporations level, the Boards are now in place and operational. The four Chief Executive Officers are in place and have commenced work and processes are underway to appoint some senior staff to assist in the transition process.

The due diligence has been completed and the corporations are relying on the data and outputs from this process to build and form the new entities. An issue arose in the due diligence process related to asset valuation and the methodology utilised by the consultants to align assets across councils and bulk water authorities. It has been acknowledged that the result does not necessarily reflect the actual values of assets but provides a working arrangement until such time as new valuations can be undertaken by the corporations on a common basis. The undertaking on the part of the Chairman of the corporations is that this exercise will be completed within the first twelve months of operations and those values “assigned back” to the council assets for the purposes of equity determinations and consequential dividend calculations.

At the time of writing, the CEO’s had commenced discussions with employees that are to be transferred and had also begun discussions with General Managers on the matters that require negotiation and resolution in relation to the transfer order. This will include finalising employee lists for direct and indirect staff, arrangements in relation to facilities and a potential suite of arrangements in relation to service agreements with councils during the formative stages of operations. The corporations have developed their own transition plan with key milestones and activities.

The Implementation Joint Steering Committee (IJSC) continues to meet on a monthly basis to oversee the broad implementation of the reform. Draft transfer orders, shareholders’ letters of expectations and the Interim Pricing Order are key elements of the reform that will be required to be finalised by the end of March.

Following consultation with councils and endorsement by the General Management Committee, the Association is in the process of finalising arrangements to provide start up funding for the new corporations. It is understood that the corporations are conducting discussions with Tascorp to secure funding to fund activities as operations ramp up toward official commencement and beyond.

22. CLOSURE

The President thanked mayors and council staff for contributions made to magazines and local papers highlighting initiatives undertaken by Councils.
There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 2.45pm.