General Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 12 November 2008

Devonport
Entertainment & Convention Centre
PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
RULES REGARDING CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

10.00am  Coffee on arrival

10.30am  Meeting commences

10.30am  Professor David Adams
Professor in Management and Innovation at the University of Tasmania (UTAS).
David will discuss the findings of a statewide survey conducted by the Faculty of Business in partnership with the LGMA on the organisational and professional development needs of Tasmania's Local Council's and their professional staff especially in relation to recruitment and retention strategies.

12.15pm  Geoff Willis
Chair
Water and Sewerage Corporations

12.30pm (approx)  Lunch

1.30pm (approx)  Ferdie Kroon
Chief Executive Officer
Tasmania Forest Contractors Association
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* Denotes Attachment
The President, Mayor Mike Gaffney, welcomed Members and declared the meeting open at 10.30am.

The Traditional Owners of the land, the Punnilerpanner people were recognised.

Apologies were received from:
Mayor Jock Campbell Clarence City Council
Mr Andrew Paul Clarence City Council
Mayor Tony Foster Brighton Council
Mr Ron Sanderson Brighton Council
Mayor Robert Legge Break O’Day Council
Lord Mayor Rob Valentine Hobart City Council
Mayor Albert van Zetten Launceston
Mayor Deirdre Flint Central Highlands Council
Ms Lyn Eyles Central Highlands Council
Mayor Robert Armstrong Huon Valley Council
Mr Geoff Cockerill Huon Valley Council
Mayor Carmel Torenius Sorell Council
Mr Bill Costin Sorell Council
Mayor Kim Polley Northern Midlands Council
Mayor Tony Bisdee Southern Midlands Council

1. ITEM: MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2008 *

Glenorchy City Council/Devonport City Council

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2008, as circulated, be confirmed.  

Carried

Background
To confirm the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 13 August 2008.

See Attachment to Item 1.

2. ITEM: BUSINESS ARISING *

Glenorchy City Council/Central Coast 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**

Glenorchy City Council/Circular Head 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

Flinders Council/Devonport City 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

Kingborough 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 matrix detailing action taken to date in relation to motions passed at previous meetings is at **Attachment to Item 5.**

Included with **Attachment to Item 5** is a copy of correspondence received from Minister David Llewellyn re cloud seeding.
6. **ITEM: WATER AND SEWERAGE REFORM**

Allan Garcia

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**Circular Head Council/Glamorgan Spring Bay**

That the Meeting note the content of this item.

Carried

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**Background:**

**Due Diligence**

At the time of writing the major component of information and data collection associated with the due diligence process had been completed. Each of the bulk water authorities and councils were required to provide significant detail to the consultants in formats that allow for meaningful comparison and aggregation.

It is understood that the process of data extraction was extremely onerous and resource intensive with many councils providing initial high level contributions and following up with more detailed information on the basis of further guidance provided by the consultants.

Those inputs are presently be analysed and clarified with the intention of developing a draft report by the end of November. Once completed, this document will be circulated to councils to review for factual accuracy.

The final report will be completed by 24 December 2008.

**Board Appointments**

The Boards of the Regional Corporations have now been selected. The following people have been chosen by the Owners’ Representatives to serve the inaugural 3 year terms on the Boards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Geoff Willis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Directors</td>
<td>Dan Norton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Miles Hampton</td>
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<td>Brian Bayley</td>
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<th>Regional Directors</th>
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<tr>
<td>North West</td>
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<td>North</td>
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<td>South</td>
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**Chief Executive Officers**

The first round of interviews for the CEO’s of the three regional organisations have been conducted with shortlisting now complete.

Interviews are expected to be held prior to the end of October with appointments ideally to be made prior to the end of November. It is understood that the field of applicants was very strong with the preferred group of candidates of outstanding quality.

**Constitutions**

The constitutions for the Regional Corporations and the Common Services Corporation have been approved by the Parliament.

**Legislations**
The transitional and consequential amendments Bill is presently in the Parliament and will be considered over the next few weeks.

Other Matters
Councils have been advised of the arrangements in relation to their membership of the regional entities, the need to establish a line of credit via Tascorp for the operational requirements of the new entities before they commence operations proper on 1 July 2009 and the resolution of the Shareholders’ Letters of Expectation.

At the time of writing a number of councils had responded to the membership requirement. It is understood that details are still awaited from Tascorp as to the actual mechanics and requirements of the line of credit and the requisite guarantees from councils.

In relation to the Shareholders’ Letters of Expectation, it is anticipated that the time available for consideration of this important instrument will provide all member councils with the opportunity for detailed consideration and inputs.

Budget Implications
The reform process will impact on each council significantly in the transition process and beyond. Funds are to be made available to assist with transition and the dividend arrangements will address current returns on asset and future equity issues.

Current Policy
This reform represents the most significant change to Local Government in 15 years. The timetable seeks to ensure that the new entities are in place by 1 July 2009.

7. ITEM: AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Katrena Stephenson

Glenorchy City Council/Derwent Valley Council

That the Meeting note the following report.

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.

LGAT continues to support work in this area in currently undertaking the following:

1. Member of the Tasmanian Assessment Panel for the Housing Affordability Fund. Five Tasmanian applications have been received. One relates to enhancing outcomes under the Regional Planning Initiative submitted following conversations between LGAT and the Land Use Planning Department. Three relate to Housing Tasmania land and one is from a council. The panel will meet early December to assess the applications against the mandatory criteria before they are then considered by the Australian Government. The panel comprises representatives from LGAT, the Local Government Division, Housing Tasmania and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

2. Supporting development of a business case to access funding under the Electronic Development Application project.
3. Input into ALGAs Housing Affordability Policy and COAG responses.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
This has been identified as a priority by PLGC.

8. ITEM: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS APPROVAL

Allan Garcia

Kentish Council/Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

That the meeting endorse the Partnership Agreement and its signing by the President of the Association on behalf of Local Government at the December meeting of the Premier's Local Government Council.

Lost

Central Coast Council/King Island Council

That this meeting endorse the signing of the Partnership Agreement by the President on the proviso that the President stresses that Local Government will not accept any statements made by the State Government on matters impacting on Local Government without first going through the process set out in the consultation and communication agreement.

Carried

Background:
This Partnership Agreement originally came about at the behest of the Local Government Association as a result of the long standing problems associated with being provided the opportunity to contribute to or have input into major legislative and policy initiatives and reforms.

In many instances Local Government was totally ignored in relation to key matters impacting on its operations while in other circumstances, cursory or even token gestures of consultation were afforded the Association and councils. It was not the exception to be requested a day or so before legislation was to enter the Parliament on the implications for Local Government. In even more exceptional cases knowledge of the legislation was gained through the media.

It is acknowledged that over recent years there have been some circumstances where timeframes and process have not been met in accordance with the partnership agreement. In light of the myriad of issues that have been subject to exchange between the two sectors, these instances have been relatively few, as important as some of these issues may have been.

At an Association level it is pleasing that most State Government agencies seek guidance on the most effective means to communicate and seek input. Sometimes this will involve direct consultation with councils by agencies and other times the Association will seek to develop a single position on matters.
The Agreement has attempted to ‘de-clutter’ many of the individual council Partnership Agreements, by including them in a specific schedule. These matters will be reviewed within a twelve month period to ascertain their veracity or ongoing need for inclusion. A further schedule highlights specific matters which State Government agencies consider will have some priority over the next twelve months or so. These matters are not binding nor do they set out a process for consultation but they highlight some aspirational areas of endeavour.

The Agreement is considered a formal mechanism to bring parties to account in relation to activities that are not in the spirit of good consultation and communication.

In accordance with current policy, an endorsement at a General Meeting is required to enable the President of the Association to sign the Partnership Agreement on behalf of all councils.

9. ITEM: STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGET SUBMISSION
   Allan Garcia

   Southern Midlands Council/Glenorchy City Council

   That the Meeting note the following report.

   Carried

   Background:
   Despite calls for inputs to this process the Association has received little in the way of contribution from member councils. Three key areas have been identified for pursuit in the Association’s submission.

   The Association has received considerable encouragement from the State Government in relation to the Stronger Councils Better Services project and will be seeking to build upon the $200,000 allocation that was provided in last year’s budget. The funding would seek to build on the work presently being undertaken in relation to financial sustainability of councils and focus on the needs of councils in the post water and sewerage reform era.

   The Association will also be seeking to attract additional funding to support climate change endeavors into the future. With the proposed signing of the Partnership Agreement on Climate Change, an audit will be undertaken of all councils’ carbon emissions and overall carbon footprint. Funding has been secured to progress the initial audit process but it will be important to be able to continue the measurement and monitoring and to assist in the development of strategies to reduce emissions at both a whole of Local Government level and the individual council level. A budget bid to assist councils in this measurement and action process will be developed.
A matter that has been on the books for a few years has been the review of the heritage legislation. Proposed changes to the Heritage Act will potentially require significant local level input. This is not a resource that is generally available at the council level and if the legislation is to progress in the way that the proponents intend then significant effort will be needed to address the resourcing requirements. While some councils have dedicated heritage personnel and others have access to experts, it will be necessary to increase the overall capacity in the heritage area. Although decisions have not yet been made in relation to the specifics of the legislation, it is considered worthy of alerting the budget process to the need to support such capacity if the legislation is to be effective. The budget submission will address this matter in some detail.

**Budget Implications**

The submission to the State Government seeks to attract funding that will directly support councils in their efforts to achieve both general and financial sustainability. In some instances the funds could result in a direct financial flow to councils while in others they may fund operations that will have direct benefit to councils.

**Current Policy**

It is important that the Association targets those areas that are of high significance to Local Government and have some capacity to be taken up. Discussions with State Government representatives in relation to the matters covered in the submission have been favourable but it would be unwise to assume that there are absolute guarantees.

10. **ITEM: WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009**

   Sue Bronstein

   **George Town Council/Derwent Valley Council**

   That the Meeting note a National Waste Management and Climate Change Conference is being held in Tasmania in early 2009, with the Association represented on the conference working group.

   **Carried**

**Background:**

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DED), in conjunction with the Environment Division, the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts (DEPHA) and the Tasmanian Office of Climate Change are jointly promoting and sponsoring a “Waste Management and Climate Change Conference” to be held in Tasmanian in early March 2009.

One of the key conference themes will be “breaking down barriers” to address key waste management issues affecting the development of sustainable solutions for Tasmania.

The conference will provide an international and national focus on key waste management initiatives and provide a forum to address key strategic waste management issues affecting Local Government, industry and businesses and the community in Tasmania.

A working group has been established with representatives of key stakeholders, including industry, the State Government and Local Government with representation by the Association.

The working group is currently in the process of developing a conference program. It has sought some input from key stakeholders, including councils, regarding those issues that
could or should be included in the conference program as well as keynote speakers. The working group is very close to finalising the assessment of the candidates for the conference organiser for consideration by DED’s tender review panel.

It is envisaged the event will be run over two or three days from 4-6 March 2009 in Launceston.

**Budget Implications**

An ‘in kind’ contribution will be made by Association Officers.

**Current Policy**

Local Government will make in-kind contributions to suitable waste management projects as and when considered appropriate and relevant.

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**11. ITEM: ** CAT LEGISLATION

Katrena Stephenson

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**Glenorchy City Council/Hobart City Council**

That the Meeting note the following report.

Carried

**Background:**

The Department of Primary Industries & Water (DPIW) released a position paper on Cat Management in Tasmania with comments due at the end of September.

The Association provided a response on behalf of councils with direct and indirect input from councils. Association staff also met with DPIW, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the Hobart Cat Centre.

Broadly our comments comprised:

- In general Local Government supports the mechanisms proposed for cat management but have concern that unless adequately funded by the State Government the cost to Local Government will be overly burdensome.
- Local Government will need to see detail on the implementation and related costs before being able to whole heartedly support the proposed cat management framework. The transition period is of particular concern as this is likely to be the time of greatest impost for all stakeholders, including Local Government; with increased questions and cat complaints, increased dumping of cats, a likely requirement to hold cats during the transition period or to contact owners identified through tags etc, high level of education for cultural change, the need to establish centres for transporting/holding/disposing of cats across the State, microchip scanning equipment costs and so on.
- LGAT is pleased that the requirement for holding cats has been eliminated since the draft paper but are concerned that transition period holding issues have not been fully thought through.
- Local Government will likely be a user of cat holding and disposal services but cannot be expected to provide that service.
- The issue of penalties for non compliance, especially related to breeders/sellers is of concern.
- Local Government would not support compulsory registration.

The submission is on the LGAT website.
Budget Implications
Resourcing for councils remains an area of concern in this area.

Current Policy
The following motion was carried at the May 2007 General Meeting:

“That LGAT request the State Government, as a matter of urgency, to introduce statewide legislation for the compulsory desexing and microchipping of non breeding registered cats that can be administered by public non government organisation partnerships between the State Government and competent animal welfare organisations, rather than individual Local Government by-laws”.

12. ITEM: 2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Stephanie Watson

Kingborough Council/Circular Head Council
That the Meeting note the following report. Carried

Background:
Arrangements for the 97th Local Government Conference, to be held at Wrest Point in Hobart, are now underway. The conference will be held from 10-12 June 2009.

The Conference Committee met on 15 September to determine the theme which is *Community Conversations – Striving for More*. The theme 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.

The workshops will fall under four sub-themes – *Planning, Performance, People* and *Promotion*. The search for suitable plenary and workshop speakers is currently underway.

The annual Conference Dinner will be held offsite at Hobart’s City Hall.

The Sponsor Prospectus, currently being developed, will be distributed prior to Christmas.

The 2009 Awards for Excellence categories is undergoing a review, based on council feedback, to revisit the existing categories and to streamline the application process. It is anticipated that the nomination forms will be available for distribution by February.

Budget Implications
The Conference is run on a cost recovery basis.

13. ITEM: STRATEGIC PLAN
Allan Garcia
Kingborough Council/Glamorgan Spring Bay

That the Meeting note the Association embarked on its strategic planning process on 5 November 2008.

Carried

Background:
The Association engaged Impact Solutions International Pty Ltd to facilitate a session with the General Management Committee and key staff of the organization to consider the future opportunities and developments impacting on the organization; to generate new ideas that will seed the next five-year direction; identify critical issues of concern in the short term; develop clarity about the key priorities to achieve outcomes for Local Government and describe a preferred future for LGAT.

While the Association is often reactive to the range of policy and legislative proposals generated by councils and other levels of government, it is important that key initiatives, directions and opportunities are considered and explored to ensure that Local Government in Tasmania remains vibrant with the ability to grow and prosper.

Of course, the Association is not the key player in this success regime but it does play a key role in relationships and interface with major stakeholders and is catalytic in many processes that assist with the improved effectiveness and efficiency of councils.

The strategic plan will be discussed as part of the upcoming Mayors’ Workshop with the intention that it be finalized by the end of the calendar year.

Budget Implications
The cost of the facilitator will be met from current budget allocations.

Current Policy
It is necessary for the Association to constantly review its operations and direction to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of its members.

Due to the little time remaining prior to lunch the Meeting moved on to Item 15, ensuring adequate time for discussion of Item 14 following lunch.
The Meeting resumed at 1.30pm with the presentation from Ferdie Kroon and then returned to Item 14 for discussion.

14. **ITEM:** REVIEW OF RATING PROVISIONS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT  
**Liz Gillam**

**Derwent Valley Council/Waratah Wynyard Council**

That the report be noted and discussion held at the meeting if necessary.  
**Carried**

**George Town Council/Glamorgan Spring Bay**

That these proposals be forwarded to State Government for consideration.  
**Carried**

**Background:**
In late 2007, a Working Group was established with the following membership:

- Liz Gillam, LGAT, Chair
- Sandra Ayton, Central Coast Council
- Frank Barta, Clarence City Council
- Andrew Beswick, Burnie City Council
- Greg Davoren, Brighton Council
- Guy Jetson, Dorset Council
- Tony Leary, Devonport City Council
- Ngaire McCrindle, George Town Council
- Marissa Southwell, Launceston City Council
- David Spinks, Hobart City Council
- Michael Tidey, Launceston City Council

A paper detailing the Working Group’s findings and a number of proposals relating to amendment of the rating provisions of the *Local Government Act* was sent to Councils in September, with a request for responses by Friday 31 October.

At the time of preparation of the agenda, insufficient responses had been received from councils to draw any conclusions on Councils’ overall position.

A paper summarising responses will be circulated to Councils prior to the General Meeting, indicating any issues that may need consideration and determination at the Meeting.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
At the August 2007 LGAT General Meeting, the following motion was carried:

“That Local Government establish a high level working group to investigate all other alternate options in relation to this matter and in the event a change is supported the LGAT then make representation to the State Government.”

The Meeting continued with Item 17
15. ITEM: CLIMATE CHANGE
Christine Materia

King Island/Derwent Valley Council

That the Meeting note the following report.

Carried

The LGAT Climate Change Work Plan has been progressed since the last meeting.

Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change
The Draft Statewide Agreement will be tabled for signing in the PLGC on (or around) the 16 December.

Regional Climate Change Forums
Regional climate change forums were held in Oatlands, Burnie and Launceston in October.

The aim of the forums was to:
- provide an update on LGAT’s climate change program including progress against the approved work plan, development of the Stateside Partnership Agreement and proposed communication and consultation processes;
- provide an update on individual council activity around climate change;
- workshop the Draft Tasmanian Local Government Climate Change Strategy; and
- workshop the content of the Tasmanian Local Government Action Pack.

The forums were facilitated by Phil Harrington (Pitt and Sherry) and Christine Materia (LGAT). Phil has considerable knowledge and experience in climate change strategy, policy development and program administration both nationally and internationally.

The Forums were well attended by most council’s with both elected members and council officers present.

The Draft Local Government Climate Change Strategy and Action Pack will be circulated prior to the end of the year.

Representation on national and Statewide Projects
LGAT continues to represent councils on the following committees:
- Integrated Assessment & Response to Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Foreshore Project (Clarence Council)
- Climate Change, Coastal Risk Assessment & Management Project (DPIW)
- Managing Natural Hazards through Land use Planning Project (State Emergency Service)
- National Coastal Vulnerability Assessment – Tasmanian Regional Case Study (Commonwealth Department of Climate Change)

LGAT has initiated a National Local Government Climate Change Network. The Network meets every two months via teleconference on climate change matters of interest to Local Government nationally.

Submissions
LGAT made a Submission to the Department of Climate Change on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) Green Paper July 2008. The submission is available on the LGAT web site.
Local Government Climate Change initiatives Survey

A Local Government Climate Change initiatives Survey was undertaken in September and the Survey report completed in October. The survey provides a summary of current climate change projects, programs and initiatives across councils. All 29 councils responded. There are currently seven councils with dedicated climate change officers and over 45 projects across Tasmania. The survey is available on the LGAT web site (www.lgat.tas.gov.au).

Finalisation of Reports

The following reports have been finalised and are now available on the LGAT website:

- Local Government Climate Change Forum May 2008 Summary Paper; and
- Local Government Association of Tasmania Climate Change Work Plan.

Budget Implications

Does not apply.

Current Policy

Does not apply.

16. ITEM: STATEWIDE AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Christine Materia

West Tamar Council/Burnie City Council

That the Meeting endorse the Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change and its signing by the President of the Association on behalf of Local Government at the December meeting of the Premier’s Local Government Council.

Carried

Background:

The draft Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change (the Agreement) has been developed in consultation with the Department of Premier and Cabinet through the Local Government Division and Tasmanian Climate Change Office and the Department of Justice through the Land Use Planning Branch.

Underpinning the Agreement are the following principles endorsed by the LGAT’s General Management Committee in 2007.

Effective action on climate change will require:

- Combining mitigation and adaptation strategies at all levels of government and industry.
- Commitment to long-term and strategic consideration of climate change across Local Government functions.
- Leadership within the local community in understanding and acting on climate change.
- Flexibility and resilience within Local Government processes to adapt to climate change impacts upon human and natural environments.
- Recognition of shared responsibility and collaboration across all levels of government, industry and community.
At a subsequent meeting of the PLGC it was agreed that the broad principles espoused in the State's Climate Change Strategy (and developed in conjunction with Dr Kate Crowley) would be supported by Local Government and that it would move to develop a Partnership Agreement that furthered these principles.

To this end the Partnership Agreement has been developed with the following objectives –

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.
2. Consult with Tasmanians about and educate Tasmanians on climate change.
3. To share knowledge and information related to climate change.
4. To promote mitigation against and adaptation to climate change through planning.

A key element of the Partnership Agreement is the audit of carbon emissions. The Association has been exploring the costs and processes associated with this activity to determine the practicalities and resources that might be required to effectively undertake the task. There are a small number of providers in this space although few are actually geared to be able to meet the needs of Association Members in a cost effective manner.

The Association is presently assessing the responses from key providers and will be in a position to advise the outcome by the time of the General Meeting. Councils should be aware that in addition to achieving reductions in emissions, these processes are largely cost neutral due to the savings that are achieved through reduced fuel and energy costs. Funding has been assured by the Climate Change Office for the inaugural audit process and further submissions will be made to support an ongoing program of monitoring and strategy development.

It is likely that there may be some call on councils to contribute financially to some of these processes although it is expected that this will be relatively minor and a large part will involve in-kind contributions through staffing efforts.

**Governance:** The PLGC will oversee the implementation of the Agreement.

**Timeframe:** Due to the rapidly evolving nature of climate change, the Agreement has been designed as a living document that can be readily adapted as new information becomes available. The Agreement will be evaluated annually.

The Agreement contains three Schedules focussing on

1) Carbon Emissions Reduction;
2) Community Consultation and Education Programs and
3) Planning and Building.

The Agreement will be circulated separately a week before the General Meeting.

**The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm.**
17. ITEM: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE *
Sue Bronstein

Glenorchy City Council/West Tamar Council

That the Meeting note that LGAT has advertised for a Project Officer to manage the trial Household Hazardous Waste Pilot Project in accordance with the Grant Deed signed between LGAT and the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts (DEPHA).

Carried

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

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.

Depending on the level of interest in the position, the selection process will be implemented as soon as possible. The selection panel will comprise two members of the Local Government Waste Management Reference Group and LGAT’s Policy Officer. The successful applicant will commence work as soon as practicable following confirmation of their appointment.

At Attachment to Item 17 is a copy of the Position Description/Selection Criteria and the position advertisement.

Budget Implications
The position is 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).
18. ITEM: CAREERS UPDATE
Scott Blacklow

Glenorchy City Council/Tasman council

That Members note the appointment of the Careers Development Officer and the update on progress.

Carried

Background:
On 12 March 2008 the General Meeting resolved to fund a careers development project, including the engagement of a part time careers officer to be reviewed after two years from commencement.

Scott Blacklow commenced the role on 2 September 2008. Scott worked for a Tasmanian council through the 1990’s and from 2002 delivered vocational training to Local Government officers throughout Australia.

Budget Implications
A careers special project budget of $97,770 per annum for two years was approved at the General Meeting above. This sum includes salary and on costs, plus an allocation of $35,000 for the implementation of council careers initiatives.

Current Policy
A strategic approach to the issues and appropriate programs are to be developed and implemented.

19. ITEM: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION
Katrena Stephenson

Derwent Valley Council/Glenorchy City Council

That the Meeting note the following report.

Carried

Background:
LGAT hosted a Constitutional Recognition Forum in Launceston on 1 August. A brief summary of forum outcomes was circulated to all Councils with a more detailed paper provided to participants.

Tasmania had nine attendees at ALGA’s expert’s forum on 21 - 22 August. An overview was provided at the Policy Director’s Article in the recent edition of LGAT News.

ALGA have released the program and registration information for the special National General Assembly – Local Government Constitutional Summit to be held 8-11 December. It is anticipated that some of those who attended previous discussions will also take part in this event.

Budget Implications
The Association made a commitment to contribute $250.00 towards air travel per attendee for the experts forum but will not be subsidizing travel to the December Summit.

Current Policy
This is one of the three pillars of ALGA’s strategic ‘3Fs’ agenda and consequently will be a key issue for LGAT in 2008/09.
20. ITEM: STRONGER COUNCILS, BETTER SERVICES PROJECT
Katrena Stephenson

Devonport City Council/Glenorchy City Council

That the Meeting note the proposed uses of project funding within the Stronger Councils, Better Services Project.

Carried

Foreshadowed Motion

Glenorchy City Council/Burnie City Council

That LGAT establish and facilitate a working group to examine the opportunities for improvements to Local Government service delivery efficiency and outcomes through shared services at a sub regional, regional or state wide level with a report due to an LGAT General Meeting within one year

Lost

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.

LGAT has responsibility for leading two sub project working groups, Sustainable Business and Governance. These two groups met for the first time in October to agree priorities and process. The Local Government Board Working Group has also met.

There is $200,000 available to the SCBS Project. The funding allocated for the this initiative are to be distributed in the following areas:

- to develop and implement a long-term financial planning framework across all councils;
- to develop and implement an asset management planning framework across all councils;
- to develop a short course for land use planning for elected members in conjunction with UTAS; and
- to be offered as a grants program to support up to four demonstration or pilot projects associated with shared services.

The first two areas represent 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.
The third fund area identified acknowledges elected members, as key decision makers in the planning process generally have little or no background in the planning system or its related processes when first elected to Council. While LGAT conducts workshops for newly elected members which include planning within a suite of issues covered, the focus is limited and at a high level. LGAT has recently commenced a dialogue with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) about the possibility of developing a short course for planning that could be delivered to councillors over a four day/two weekend period. Curriculum would be derived from the present post graduate diploma but offered at a level that would meet the needs of councillors.

Once developed, the course could be offered twice a year and delivered by either UTAS staff or external providers. The course would be delivered on a cost plus basis to ensure the program could be updated and maintained. The course could also be offered to a wider audience such as non-planning council and State Government officers, members of the public or other professionals.

Finally, around $100,000 from the SCBS initiative is to be offered 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. The grants will cover no more than 80 per cent of the total project costs and eligible projects will have to develop pilot projects which could be applied across the sector or apply best practice in service delivery or develop new and innovative programs supporting reform and growth. The funding round will commence in December 2009 and close in 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.

21. ITEM: AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Allan Garcia

Devonport City/Tamar Council

That the Meeting note the following report.

Carried

Background:
A meeting of all mayors and Association Presidents is to take place in Canberra at the invitation of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese. It is understood that representatives from other Local Government bodies such as Local Government Managers Australia, the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, the Australian Local Government Women’s Association and the Australian services Union will also be in attendance. The total expected attendance is in the vicinity of 500 representatives.
Apart from keynote addresses from the Prime Minister and the President of ALGA it is understood that the day will involve discussion of 10 key areas impacting on Local Government -

1. Engagement of Local Government with Commonwealth, including through constitutional recognition
2. Infrastructure (local and national)
3. Cities (liveable, productive & sustainable)
4. Environment (climate change & water)
5. Efficient & sustainable Local Government
6. National Productivity Agenda including affordable housing in growth regions
7. Developing regional economies, including through broadband and communications
8. Social Inclusion (including remote communities, women, marginalised groups)
9. Indigenous engagement and closing the gap
10. Health and community well-being

Each workshop will be facilitated. There will be a minister to speak to each theme, followed by an expert speaker on particular topics and then two elected Mayors. There will also be an opportunity for the participants to exchange views. The aim is for the participants to identify the three top issues for Local Government within each theme.

The gathering together of Mayors is to be a yearly event. The ACLG will have a core, ongoing group which consists of Association Presidents and representatives of the groups previously mentioned.

The ACLG is intended to meet at least four times in the first year, perhaps dropping back to two times thereafter. One meeting would coincide with the annual Local Government and Planning Ministers Council in mid year and would involve State Local Government Ministers. Another meeting would be the "all mayors meeting" in Canberra. Two other meetings (solely of the smaller group of around 20) are envisaged in Canberra.

The Minister has highlighted two main issues for the ACLG - Constitutional recognition, saying it would be a good forum for the Local Government sector to agree on the nature of the extended and comprehensive campaign over many months/years which would be required if recognition was to be achieved.

The second item is sustainability (including funding) with the need for ACLG (18 November meeting) to open discussion on what to do about unsustainable councils. The Minister has acknowledged that some councils would always be unsustainable but said perhaps some things such as regional sharing of services could be done to help them.

Minister Albanese has indicated that the Government would have a new program which focused on Regional and Local community infrastructure, as announced in the last Budget, which would replace Regional Partnerships, but Government would await the outcome of the House of Representatives Inquiry into the New Regional program before making an announcement. The new program would be funded and announced as part of the Budget process with announcement to be made in May 2009 Budget and funding to start from 2009-2010.

The Minister has said that as part of the need to address the current crisis and given the ability of work to begin quickly on local capital works as part of any stimulus package it was possible there might be a decision to "bring the program forward" - which still raises the possibility of an earlier announcement than the Budget with funding aimed at Local Government infrastructure.
Budget Implications
The establishment of the ALGC is likely to require significant expenditure for travelling additional to that for which allocation is available. While it is proposed that there will be attempts to have the meetings coincide with ALGA Board Meetings, there is likely to be a need for an increased budget allocation for participation.

Current Policy
The establishment of the ALGC represents a significant opportunity for Local Government to forge a strong and enduring relationship with the Australian Government with the opportunity for major programs and initiatives to be undertaken for the benefit of local communities.

22. POWER PRICE PARITY – BASS STRAIT ISLANDS

King Island Council/Central Coast Council

That LGAT advocate the issue of power price parity for the Bass Strait Islands through the Premiers Local Government Council.

Carried

Background Comment
King Island Council and Flinders Council’s have been in formal discussions with the State Government since August 2004 fighting for power price parity with mainland Tasmania.

Bass Strait Island electricity customers currently pay a single tariff of 22.17 c/kWh for total consumption regardless of type of customer (residential or business) or the volume of energy used. This is totally inconsistent with the step down tariffs available to all consumers on mainland Tasmania with varying tariffs ranging from 10.941 c/kWh for residential hot water to 19.066 c/kWh for the first 500 kWh for residential light and power and 17.103 c/kWh for general business customers. The pricing structure on mainland Tasmania provides opportunity for high consumer base load customer to obtain significantly reduced tariffs, a luxury not afforded to base load customers on the Bass Strait Islands.

Telstra are Australia Post are two examples of enterprises that do not disadvantage their customers based on their location and this is a model that should be adopted by the State Government for all electricity users in Tasmania. There are no differential pricing methods to electricity consumers that live in remote parts of Tasmania. A customer in Hobart, Launceston or Burnie is charged the same tariff as a customer at Marrawah, Bruny Island or Muscleroe Bay. So way should King and Flinders Island residents be charged a differential tariff?

It is the view of the Bass Strait Island Councils’, and one that is shared by the Cradle Coast Authority and Northern Tasmanian Development, that power pricing arrangements on the Islands’ should be equivalent to those applying to mainland Tasmania. This is sound policy in the context of liveability and economic progress for the communities of the Bass Strait Islands.

In seeking this outcome, we do not seek to specify the mechanism by which it should be achieved, but would be prepared to work with the State and electricity suppliers on any option that delivers parity within a three-year timeframe.

In the light of our experience over the last four years, however, we believe that such a process can only succeed if it is based on a formal policy commitment to achieve power pricing parity for the Bass Strait Islands by 2012.
23. ITEM: COUNCIL ROUND UPS

Glenorchy City Council/Circular Head Council

That Members determined Council Round Ups should continue with Waratah Wynyard, Kentish and Circular Head Councils to present at the meeting scheduled on 11 March 2009.

Carried

Background:
Councils are asked to conduct a brief presentation on matters that are currently important in their municipality.

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

We have now heard from councils on a variety of issues and initiatives and can continue the process, hearing about further developments in the different municipalities, if councils are willing.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 2.45pm.

24. CLOSURE