Council gets the Ball Rolling with PM on Local Issues

Burnie City Council aldermen and management had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his Cabinet in May to highlight a number of issues currently affecting the municipality. Topics for discussion included economic development in the face of major industry changes, the upgrade of the Bass Highway west of Burnie, the Burnie Aquatic Centre and new bands facility, and the National Broadband Network rollout. Burnie Mayor Alvwyn Boyd said Council is seeking partnerships with the Federal Government to help transition our economy long-term into a more viable and secure future through a strategic approach to community and economic development. “The projects that we brought before the Prime Minister and his Cabinet will have long-term benefits to our community and that is the most important aspect for Council,” Mayor Boyd said. Council hosted a Civic Reception at the Makers’ Workshop for the Prime Minister, prior to the official opening of the new West Park sports facility.

Toolkit to Help Address the Social Impact of Climate Change

Victorian councils faced with the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change now have an online resource to assist them in implementing basic strategies. The Victorian Local Governance Association has produced a toolkit for councils to address the social and equity impacts of climate change on their communities. The Liveable and Just Tool Kit, funded by the Victorian Government’s Sustainability Fund, includes case studies to highlight examples of best practice in tackling the challenges faced by councils. The tool kit can be found at www.vlga.org.au/Resources/Liveable_Just_Toolkit.aspx.

Energy Efficiency Initiative Takes off

An energy efficiency program initiated in 2005 by Sydney, North Sydney and Parramatta Councils now encompasses councils across Australia and 196 firms.

The CitySwitch Green Office initiative has since achieved reduced energy emissions of 62,000 tonnes of CO2 from firms operating in 1.26 million square metres of office space. Signatories to the program include banking, insurance, financial services, construction and development, IT, property, insurance, media and retail industries.

The CitySwitch Green Office initiative aims to develop a universal culture of energy efficiency and significantly reduced energy bills through the participation of multiple organisations. A target of 700 signatories has been set covering 3.4 million square metres of office space to attain emissions reduction of 162,000 tonnes of CO2 by 2012.

(Centre) Prime Minister Kevin Rudd kicks off at West Park Oval following the official opening of the new West Park sports facility, as Minister Anthony Albanese (left) and Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom (right) watch on.

Photography by Tahnia Creedon
City of Brisbane Appoints
New CEO

Mr Colin Jensen has been appointed as CEO of Brisbane City Council, one of the top executive roles in Australian Local Government, following the retirement of Jude Munro on 18 June. As the Queensland Government’s Coordinator-General and Director-General of the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning since September 2007, Mr Jensen has been responsible for assessing some of the state’s most significant developments and for program management of $18.2 billion worth of capital investment this year. Previously, he served as Deputy Director-General for Queensland Transport and held numerous senior executive roles with the Department of Main Roads. Mr Jensen will commence his term on 9 August.

New Greenhouse Emissions Monitoring Tool

A tool developed by the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to enable councils to track and monitor their greenhouse gas emissions can be used by any local government around the country. The platform provides a simple-to-use interface for councils to input raw data such as electricity consumed or fuel purchased. The platform then completes all required calculations to determine the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from council activities. The emissions data can be analysed using interactive charts, enabling councils to quickly identify trends and highlight emissions or energy intensive parts of their operations. For a copy of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Abatement Platform or further information, contact WALGA Climate Change Co-ordinator, Melanie Bainbridge, on (08) 9213 2039.

Adelaide Set to Transform Iconic Open Space

A draft Masterplan has been released by Adelaide City Council for the regeneration of one of the city’s most iconic open spaces – Victoria Square. The State Government has contributed $2 million towards the project and Adelaide City Council has committed $24 million which will allow the regeneration to begin. The work is likely to take place in stages, with funding sourced as each stage progresses. Highlights of the masterplan include two covered walkways which will provide almost half a kilometre of dappled shade and a backdrop for daily activities. A permanent big screen, events spaces and cafés will be included, while other features will comprise an outdoor sculpture gallery, extensive gardens, a bicycle hub and a tourist information centre. To find out more about the Victoria Square Masterplan, visit www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/development/victoria-square.html.