



Key LGAT Activity– June 2014

Key Outputs and Outcomes

The current funding for Think Big Work Local Project comes to an end this month and this phase of the project is largely completed. Since 2008 LGAT has used this project to promote the value of councils to students, parents, teachers, careers advisers and job seekers (through advertising, the website, careers fairs and other forums).

This project also ensured assistance was provided to councils in accessing and funding training, influencing government training policy, as well as analysing Local Government workforce data to produce advice to councils in workforce plans.

Just this month, LGAT obtained \$75,000 of funding from Skills Tasmania's 'Skills Fund'. After an EOI process, a collective application was made on behalf of Clarence, Devonport, Launceston and Meander Valley councils using data and resources from the Think Big Work Local project.

Council staff will be funded to study qualifications in:

- Local Government regulatory services for parking officers;
- Turf management;
- Frontline management;
- Marketing;
- Business administration;
- Tourism; and
- Workplace health and safety.

Since 2010, the Think Big Work Local project has obtained 3 training grants, for 13 councils, from both Commonwealth and State sources worth a total of \$316,000. Training plays an important role in minimising skills shortages.

Other achievements, in brief, have included:

- High impact TV advertising campaign reaching 92% of the adult audience in Tasmania.
- Think Big Work Local website which now has over 1200 visits a month.
- Videos on in-demand roles were created and added to the website
- At least 12 careers expos and presentations were provided to job seekers each year using our branded promotional booth with a touch screen PC.
- Each year the Project Officer has provided a range of advice to council HR officers and staff, helping them understand VET/university systems, options, grants and applications, grant administration and quality assurance processes.
- Content for national core subjects has been produced and disseminated.,
- National and State training policy has been influenced - for example, data obtained by the project has been used to persuade TasTAFE to continue to deliver civil engineering in centres beyond Hobart from 2014.
- In 2012, a database of Tasmanian councils/staff was developed by an electronic survey of HR databases. The analysis enabled LGAT to give the 22 participating councils strategic advice in a Workforce Plan. In 2014 the survey added measurements of actual retirements, resignations and other forms of staff loss, expanding the scope of advice.

Policy/Project Activity

- Award modernisation activity – Municipal Managers Award.
- Awards for Excellence Judging and write up
- Feedback on proposed national survey on Local Representation in Australia.
- Feedback on the draft Guide to Audit Panels (Local Government Division)
- Input into Ministerial Minute on Local Government (Highways) Regulations
- Input to the LGMA Communications and Legal and Property Special Interest Groups
- Panel assessment of request for quotation for Services to undertake a competitive tender process and negotiation for the retail energy price for public lighting on behalf of the Local Government sector.
- Planning for Arts/Community Development Forum on 25 September in Launceston. First speaker secured.
- Preparation of Annual General Meeting and General Meeting papers
- Productivity Commission Submission into Emergency Management Funding
- Standards Panel activity.
- State Bushfire Safety Policy Submission
- Submission on proposed amendments to the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations
- Updated Compliance Register on extranet – takes into account changes to Building Regulations.
- Finalisation of 2 new contractual arrangements under the National Procurement Network. Tasmanian Councils are now able to access these contracts through *Vendor Panel*.
 - BUS 238-081 – Telecommunications Contract and
 - NPN1.11 – 2 – Mobile Garbage Bins (MGB's), Industrial Containers and Bins, Static Compactors, associated products and services
- Discussions regarding the possibility of access to an open spaces contract in collaboration with the Municipal Association of Victoria.
- Inclusion of material about the National Procurement Network, new and existing contracts available to Tasmanian Councils, a Procurement Process Flow Chart, and *Vendor Panel* on the LGAT extranet site.
- Facilitated access to *Vendor Panel* for 3 additional Councils – so that they are able to directly purchase goods through the National Procurement Network via a Request for Quotation system.

Training and Workforce Development

- Pre-election Workshops delivered across the regions.
- Conducted a Think Big careers presentation to St Patrick's College, Prospect Vale
- Participated in the 2014 Skills Tasmania conference workforce planning seminar.
- Received a 2nd Skills Fund grant from Skills Tasmania of approximately \$76,000
- Completed a fourth website video, in which a high school student and Kingborough Council show how learning research partnerships can function as a rich form of work experience, promoting Local Government as a career for academic students.
- The Tasmanian Local Government Workforce Survey data is complete and data analysis has begun.

Meetings and Communication

- Aurora Energy regarding Public Lighting
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Meeting and National General Assembly
- Bushfire Control Implementation Review Meeting
- Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee Meeting
- Cycling Safety Steering Committee
- Improving Access: Age Friendly Communities working group
- *LGAT News Magazine*, June edition
- Fortnightly newsletter
- Judging the 2014 Awards for Excellence nominations
- *LGAT Assist* Board Meeting - 4 loans and 2 funeral grants approved
- Local Government Division regarding shared services survey
- Meeting with State Government re proposed changes to Australian Emergency Management Institute
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulation and ALGA Roads and Transport Advisory Committee Teleconference
- National Local Government Cultural Forum Executive teleconference
- Nomenclature Board
- Online Adaptation Resources Reference Group Meeting
- Page Seager regarding state-wide Award Classification Project
- Presentation of Long Service Awards at Break O Day Council (President)
- Role of Local Government Collaborative Working Group (Chairing)
- Social Determinants of Health Steering Committee
- State Emergency Service (SES) regarding National Disaster Resilience Program Funding
- State Planning Reform Taskforce Meeting
- Veolia regarding a range of waste/Local Government matters. General catch up.

Media

- Media release – Tasmanian Local Government Focus on Building Stronger Councils and Communities (17.6.14)
- Financial Assistance Grants/Budget Impact