

Key LGAT Activity– June 2012

Apart from being busy preparing for our 100th conference and moving buildings, we undertook the following:

Policy/Project Activity

- Water and sewerage - Implementation Steering Committee and Working Group appointed, project plan circulated, role statement for owners' representatives forwarded to councils.
- Consultants appointed to coordinate campaign against Tasmanians for reform and promotion of Local Government.
- Standards Panels.
- Continue to progress Award Modernisation issues.
- Training and workshops as part of the Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project (see outputs).
- Cat Management Act implementation - initial communications activities.
- Initial feedback to the Local Government Division in relation to proposed amendments to the nuisance provisions under the Local Government Act.
- Updated the Mayors' Handbook in preparation for the Mayor's workshop on 27 July.
- Consultation and feedback on proposed changes to legislation in relation to dangerous dogs and animal welfare guidelines for breeding dogs.
- Commenced consultation on draft Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy.
- Sought feedback in relation to priority premises for NBN satellite connection.
- Feedback to the Housing Industry Association on release of documents.
- Consultation on the impact of PD4 on height limits.
- Consultation and submission on the Draft Draft State Special Emergency Management Plan- Recovery
- Consultation on proposed changes to vendor disclosure requirements (Residential Property Transactions Bill)
- Consultation on Derwent Estuary Programs Discussion Paper on Storm Water Management Plans
- Continued liaison with DPIPWE on development of revised draft Drains Act in lead up to formal consultation
- Continued to progress sustainable street lighting discussion with Aurora Energy
- Advice to EPA for Ivan Dean MLC constituent enquiry regarding noise pollution.
- Continued liaison with DIER and Tasmanian Crane Industry in relation to establishing a Local Road Crane Access Network
- Submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation
- Consultation with ALGA and selected councils re participation in State of the Local Roads Asset Report to be conducted by Jeff Roorda and Associates in second half of 2012

Training and Workforce Development

- Think Big Work Local advertisement continues to screen until June 2012.
- Continue to monitor council job advertisements, noting a seasonal decline in vacancies as we approach end of financial year.
- Partnership with the Local Government Association of NSW to allow access to Local Government Webinars.
- Data cleansing and initial modelling in relation to the council workforce database.
- Feedback on the ACELG minimum dataset project.

Meetings and Communication

- Alcohol Advisory Group Meetings on legislative scoping study
- ALGA Board Meeting
- ALGA National General Assembly
- Aurora Energy meeting regarding Customer Capital Contributions
- Awards for Excellence Judging Panels.
- Master Painters Australia - tender and specification guidelines.
- Business Tasmania Online Working Group
- Climate Futures Sea Level Rise workshops
- Crane Industry Reference Group Meeting.
- Digital Switchover Community Engagement Meeting
- Digital Switchover Taskforce Meeting
- DPIWE, RSPCA and Hobart Cat Centre re Cat Management Bill implementation
- Emergency Management Education and Training advisory group meeting
- EPA Meeting on Environmental Dispute Mediation Trial progress
- Forest Practices Advisory Committee
- Household Hazardous Waste Steering Committee
- Interagency Working Group on Mental Health
- Local Government Associations Climate Change Officers Teleconference
- Local Government Rating and Valuation Steering Committee
- MAV Insurance
- Meeting of the President , CEO and Premier
- Meeting with Building Selection Centre and BDG Solutions re online permit product.
- Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators Forums
- National Climate Change Adaptation Research Flagship (NCCARF) Conference (Melbourne)
- Nomenclature Board
- Office of the Economic Regulator Consultative Committee Meeting
- Planet Footprint re emissions reporting for Tasmanian councils

- Special General Meeting on Water and Sewerage Governance.
- Tasmanian Regional Arts Council

Media

- Amalgamations
- Water and Sewerage
- Council rates

Key Outputs and Outcomes

- Successful resolution of Division 81 issues related to waste charges. Continued lobbying in this regard and a submission to the Australian Government has helped to ensure that kerbside waste collection will not attract GST from 2013.
- A marketing survey used to gather information from students and other jobs seekers at careers expos since 2008 will now operate electronically via the www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au website. This survey gathers information on attitudes to council employment, knowledge of council's role, and the effectiveness of our advertising – with a report generating function. Participation in the survey should be boosted by the inclusion of electronic prizes to be drawn in 2013, an offer which will be advertised by the addition of a 'pull through' banner in our Thing Big Work Local TV advertisement.
- Four careers videos have been completed for the www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au website, describing the roles of Human Resources Officer, Outdoor Works Crew, Gym Manager and Museum Curator. These videos will join others on our website describing the roles of Engineering, Town Planning, Environmental Health, Building Surveying, Horticulture and Administration. These videos describe to job seekers the good things a council career brings.
- The Financial and Asset Reform Project continued to provide assistance to councils to produce asset management plans with the second session of NAMS.PLUS training conducted by IPWEA in the north and south.
- Presentations from the project's previous workshops "Towards Sustainable Services" and Talking Each Other's Language" conducted by John Comrie and Jeff Roorda from IPWEA have been distributed to Mayors and GMs.

Outputs

- LG Financial and Asset Reform Project's schedule of training conducted by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) have included:
 - Regional Elected Member workshops "Towards Sustainable Services" in Brighton, Launceston and Burnie;
 - Senior staff workshops "Talking Each Other's Language" in the above regional centres;
 - NAMS.PLUS asset management training Session 1 in Brighton and Launceston (planned session for Burnie was amalgamated with Launceston);
 - NAMS refresher training, including introduction to new software version in Launceston; and
 - A customised Level of Service/ Risk Management workshop conducted in both Westbury and Brighton.
- Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator - Carbon Pricing Mechanism Workshops for Local Government
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Access Issues Meetings (North and South)