

The Association was deeply saddened by the passing of our President, Mayor Barry Jarvis, last week. Barry was elected to Dorset Council in 2007 and became Mayor in 2009. He had been a representative of the Association's General Management Committee since 2011 and commenced his Presidency in October 2014. As President, he worked collaboratively, engaging positively with the many varied stakeholders and advocating strongly for the best outcomes for the Local Government sector and local communities. He was a well-liked and highly respected leader. Our thoughts are very much with his family, friends and colleagues at this sad time.

Key LGAT Activity – May 2015

Key Outputs/Outcomes

- Submissions on proposed amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulations and the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations.
- Funding allocated in 2015-16 State Budget for key LGAT advocacy areas including:
 - parks and forestry - for high priority infrastructure including roads, tracks and trails - to be allocated in consultation with councils
 - support to be provided to local councils for transport infrastructure including assessment of local road infrastructure for heavy vehicle access
 - allocation of funds for ongoing concessions including rates, water and sewerage
- Finalisation of process for sectoral procurement of energy for unmetered public lighting. All member's contracts successfully executed.

Policy/Project Activity

- Building and understanding of how councils would be impacted if water and sewerage dividends were lost.
- Standards Panel Activity
- Letter to Members of Parliament re Code of Conduct Bill
- Collected and collated initial feedback from the technical reference group on the first draft components of the state-wide planning scheme
- Preparation of a paper for the Good Governance Guide working group on strategic vs operational policy.
- Selection of the preferred provider to undertake the LGAT 2015 Customer Satisfaction Survey – EMRS.
- EMRS surveyed a sample of 1250 residents across all Local Government Areas in the State
- Northern and Southern workshops with council officers to feed into Department of Justice Review into Emergency Management Arrangements.
- Response to Audit office survey regarding implantation of recommendations to come out of the Bushfire Management Special Report 2011.
- Planning for healthy communities grants and free training opportunities advertised.
- Meeting with Mike Paine, General Manager Customer Engagement and Network Operations on private poles.

Training and Workforce Development

- 2nd 2IC Forum which included presentations from Gary Arnold (Kingborough GM), Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG) and the Auditor General.
- Progression of joint planning with ACELG for the researcher's forum to be held in Launceston in July
- Planning for Healthy Communities Forums held in Brighton and Ulverstone. Forums included presentations from Wyndham City Council VIC, Heart Foundation, Irenic Consulting, Tasmania Medicare Local, Clarence City Council, Waratah Wynyard Council and Brighton Community Blitz.
- Planning for pre-conference workshop on Local Government as a change agent to achieve health outcomes (Monday 20 July) underway.

Communication

- Media on Amalgamations, Cat Management, Water and Sewerage Dividends
- Tasmanian Transport Association regarding Local Government road access

Meetings

- Local Government Division regarding Meeting Procedures
- Regional Development Australia (Tasmania) Strategic Planning
- Premiers Local Government Council
- Local Government Technical Reference Group to the Planning Taskforce (Co Chair)
- Discussion on the LG equal remuneration case.
- iPlan Steering Committee
- LGMA regarding joint Financial and Asset Management Forum
- Planning Reform Taskforce
- Local Government Division Monthly Meeting
- State Budget Briefing
- Coordinated council officer webinar regarding site contamination consultant certification scheme.
- Tasmanian Training Consortium Executive Meeting
- Meeting with Volunteering Tasmania, Volunteering Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland regarding implementation of the Spontaneous Volunteers program.
- Direct meetings with various Southern-based road managers and NHVR to discuss access permit case management
- Auditor-General re Report on management of Local Government roads
- ASEA Review of illegal asbestos dumping
- State Government 2015-16 Budget lock-in
- 2015-16 Learner Driver Mentor Program Grant Assessment Panel
- Various meetings with State Growth and National Heavy Vehicle Regulator regarding local road access
- Northern Road Management Group re development of strategic road networks