President’s Message

For a number of years, Local Government has invested heavily in working closely with the State Government in delivering mutually beneficial outcomes for our shared communities.

We cemented a relationship with the former Premier, the late Jim Bacon, which saw the two spheres working closely together on issues that had long been unresolved and seemingly irreconcilable. At the individual council level, we formed partnership agreements to ensure that local agendas were enhanced and that there were authentic communication pathways for local initiatives and the resolution of local problems. We agreed to work in partnership at the regional level on a range of matters ranging from tourism, to economic development and infrastructure. We also aligned ourselves at the statewide level and forged a national framework that was the envy of other jurisdictions.

The formation of the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) and the decision for the Local Government portfolio to be the Premier’s responsibility brought about significant change in the relationship that had been tainted in the past. The current Premier has maintained that closeness and yet now, with water and sewerage raising its ugly head, the relationship with the State Government is quite precariously balanced. It is unclear as to why the Government has chosen not to embark on the same journey on this extremely important issue, as it has with every other matter impacting on Local Government over the past eight years. As the key providers of the service and owners of the assets that deliver water and sewerage services, there is no greater discourtesy than that being demonstrated at the present time. Local Government is effectively locked out of the process and it is an indictment on the partnership ethos that these arrangements are continuing without the appropriate level of input from Local Government at the analytical and decision-making levels.

It is conceivable that if the parties worked together, we could achieve a solution that does meet the needs of all Tasmanians and one that would ensure an ongoing positive working relationship between the two spheres. Unfortunately, that glimmer of hope appears to be fading by the day.

Water and Waste Water Forum

A forum, organised by the Committee of Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), on ‘Water and Waste Water in Tasmania’ is being held in Hobart on 6 July. Topics to be addressed include: the National Water Plan and its implications for water management and water reform in Tasmania (Professor John Freebairn), Tasmanian Reform Options (The Hon. Michael Aird MLC), and the Implications of Water Reform for Local Government (Mr Allan Garcia). Examples of fully integrated regional models will also be provided including the Hunter Valley Story (Mr. Kevin Young) and the Goulburn Valley Story (Mr Laurie Gleeson). A facilitated panel discussion involving all guest speakers, will provide an important opportunity for delegates to be part of a discussion regarding a topic that plays a pivotal role in the Local Government sector. For a copy of the registration form, go to http://ceda.com.au/public/index.html.

Change of General Manager at Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Following the resignation of Mr Gordon Mallet as General Manager of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Mr Ron Sanderson has been appointed as the Acting General Manager for a period of up to three months which he will carry out in addition to his role as General Manager of Brighton Council. We wish Gordon and Malena well for their future endeavours.

Event Registrations Open For Seniors Week 2007

Registrations are now being called for Seniors Week events and activities to be held from 1–7 October. Businesses, local councils and community organisations coordinated almost 350 events throughout Tasmania last year, with more than 30,000 older people joining in the activities. All sectors of the community are encouraged to register with the Seniors Bureau as soon as possible. Registration forms are available from www.seniors.tas.gov.au or by phoning 1300 13 55 13.

CleanBiz Tasmania, Round Two Grants

Grants are now available to support resource efficient practices in Tasmanian businesses and other organisations. The round two funding pool is $250,000. For more information about eligible projects and how to apply for these competitive, merit-based grants, phone 6233 6518 or visit www.environment.tas.gov.au/cleanbiz.
Tasmanian Planning and Landscape Architecture 2007 Awards for Excellence

The Planning Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects welcome nominations for the Tasmanian Planning and Landscape Architecture 2007 Awards for Excellence. A joint launch of the awards will be held from 12.30pm - 1.30pm on 29 June 2007 at the Hobart City Council Atrium. RSVP by 25 June by phoning Lisa Roberts on 6231 1842. The closing date for award nominations is 21 September. For further details, visit www.planning.org.au/tas/.

Marine Corrosion Seminar

A one-day Marine Corrosion Seminar will be held on 7 August in Hobart for engineers, asset owners, maintenance managers, designers, managers, ship builders and anyone who has contact with marine corrosion. Delegates will gain an understanding of the most commonly used methods for providing marine corrosion protection. For further details, visit www.corrosion.com.au or phone (03) 9890 4833.

2007 Economic Development Awards Open


Festivals Funding

Funding opportunities are available through the current round of the Festivals Australia program and the Festivals Australia Regional Residencies program. Funding is primarily available for regional, community and Local Government organisations that run festivals in regional and remote areas. The funding round closes on 16 July 2007, for projects starting after 1 January 2008. Visit the websites for application forms and general information: www.dcita.gov.au/festivals or www.dcita.gov.au/festivals_residencies.

Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA) Conference 2007

FECCA is the Australian national peak body that promotes multiculturalism, community harmony and social justice. It is involved in community education, advocacy for equitable access to services and information for Australians from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as human and cultural rights. From 30-31 July, the FECCA Conference 2007 will be held at Wrest Point in Hobart. The theme of the conference will revolve around the concepts of ‘Empowerment’ and ‘Inclusion’ and how these concepts relate to Australia’s cultural and social diversity. For further information, go to www.fecca.org.au.

Flu in Tasmania: Still Time to Protect Yourself

Public health authorities are urging Tasmanians to get their flu shots now. The vaccine is particularly important for people who have increased risk of developing complications from flu – people aged 65 and over, and those with chronic conditions affecting the heart, lungs, kidneys, blood or immune system, and people with conditions such as diabetes. Workers with flu symptoms are encouraged to stay at home to prevent the spread of the disease. To find out more, visit www.fightflu.com.au/asp/index.asp.

2008 Fulbright Tasmanian Scholarship

Fulbright Scholarships provide excellent opportunities to build, or enhance strategic links with U.S. research organisations. Applications for the 2008 Fulbright Scholarships are now open. Valued at up to $40,000, this scholarship supports a talented Tasmanian to undertake study or research in the United States for three to twelve months. Applications close 31 August 2007. For further details, visit www.fulbright.com.au.

TCCI Training

The TCCI College of Management have limited places available in the following courses: ‘OH&S Awareness’ on 26 June in Hobart, ‘Frontline Reception’ on 27 June in Launceston, and ‘Sensational Customer Service’ on 28 June in Launceston. The TCCI also provides tailored training solutions. For more information, contact Judy Phair on 6236 3666 or visit www.tcci.com.au.

Corporate Wear Solutions for Local Government

Stylecorp, in conjunction with Leigh Kelly Agencies, is the preferred supplier of Local Government uniforms offering: tailored Stylecorp Corporate Wear solutions, new fashion colours and styles, great prices and fast delivery, a trained and professional customer service team, seasonal catalogues, personalised fittings and a free samples service. To find out more about the Local Government Corporate Collection, visit www.leighkellyagencies.com.au and follow the links to Stylecorp’s webpage, or contact Leigh Kelly Agencies in Launceston on 6334 1988, or Stylecorp in Hobart on 6224 2255.

Upcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-election Workshop, Burnie</td>
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<td>7 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-election Workshop, Launceston</td>
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<td>8 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-election Workshop, Hobart</td>
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<td>9 August</td>
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<td>General Meeting, Launceston</td>
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<td>15 August</td>
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