President’s Message

The recent release of the Australian Local Government Association’s (ALGA) 10-Point Plan to Reinvigorate Local Communities is an important document for councils and communities throughout the nation, especially in the lead-up to the Federal Election. This is reinforced by the Pricewaterhouse Coopers report, which highlighted a backlog of $14.5 billion needed for community infrastructure. The 10-Point Plan reinforces the importance and continuation of the goals encapsulated by the Triple F campaign (Fair Funding, Fair Treatment and Formal Recognition) and introduces a fourth goal - Meeting Future Challenges.

ALGA staff have been working tirelessly and, as evidenced by the results of the Triple F campaign, have effectively lobbied the Federal Government to address some of the needs and concerns of Local Government. For instance, ‘Fair Funding’ to provide finance through the Roads to Recovery strategy which has greatly assisted councils in their ability and desire to maintain high-quality, safe roads. ‘Fair Treatment’ has been recognised by the signing of an Intergovernmental Agreement addressing cost shifting which has previously been to the detriment of councils, and ‘Formal Recognition’ has resulted in continuing work (including time frames) for the progression of the recognition of Local Government through legal processes, including the constitution.

ALGA representatives realise that there is still a long way to go to advance the three goals however, a positive relationship does exist between the local and federal spheres of government, which creates an opportunity for meaningful dialogue. The fourth goal, ‘Meeting Future Challenges’, highlights issues such as climate change, water resources, planning for regional sustainability and improving communication networks for Information Communications Technology development.

ALGA is urging both major political parties to support Local Government by addressing the 10 points outlined in the plan, as it seeks to meet the challenges on behalf of its communities. To view the 10-Point Plan, go to www.alga.asn.au.

On a different topic, I would like to congratulate the LGMA, UTAS and individuals who recently organised and contributed to the very successful Emerging Leaders Program for council staff held in Burnie. The 23 participants clearly demonstrated the variety of leadership opportunities and emerging talent in Local Government, and feedback from the inaugural undertaking has been positive and beneficial. Well done to all involved. No doubt, participants will provide feedback to councils.

Draft Waste Management Strategy for Tasmania

A Draft Waste Management Strategy for Tasmania, prepared on behalf of the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment, has now been released for public review. The draft has been developed with input from public consultation carried out from May to June, including a number of public forums, meetings with stakeholders and written submissions. Interested parties are invited to provide written submissions in response to the draft strategy by 5 October. A series of stakeholder forums will be held during September to discuss the draft strategy on the following dates:

- **Hobart** 24 September
  - 9.45am - 12.00 noon and
  - 12.45pm - 3.00pm
  - Visitors’ Centre, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

- **Launceston** 25 September
  - 10.15am - 12.30pm
  - Tailrace Function Centre, 1 Waterfront Drive, Riverside

Comments will be considered prior to completion of the final draft, to be completed by November. The Draft Waste Management Strategy and background report can be downloaded from www.environment.tas.gov.au.

Local Government Youth Forum

On 10 October, the annual Local Government Youth Forum will be held at the Tram Shed Function Centre in Launceston, from 10.00am. The free forum, convened by the Office of Children and Youth Affairs (OCYA), provides council staff with an opportunity for professional development, networking and information sharing around initiatives for young people. Please RSVP by 24 September to Vlasta Collins on 62337945, or email vlasta.collins@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Submissions Sought on Future for Public Housing

As part of a major shake-up of the delivery of public and community housing across Australia, the Australian Government is seeking expressions of interest from interested parties by 28 September. For details, phone 1800 047 482 or email socialhousing@facsia.gov.au.
Wildcare - 10th Anniversary National Conference

Wildcare, a national conference to be held in Hobart from 23-25 November, will present an opportunity for volunteers, community organisations, program managers and staff to develop better methods of working together. The program will focus on ways to rehabilitate and foster a healthy reserve system, protect our cultural heritage and wildlife, and community education. Field trips will be held on day two. For more information, visit www.leishman-associates.com.au/wildcare2007/.

Communications Program

Turn around challenging staff or customers and improve communication among your employees by increasing their self-awareness of communication styles through LG Performance’s Communications Program. Understanding communication styles increases individual tolerance, self-esteem and contributes to a harmonious and efficient working environment. Individual assessment and feedback will be provided. The course will be conducted over two half days in Hobart on 26 September and 31 October, and in Launceston on 2 and 23 October. To register, contact High Performance Management on 6236 9055.

Walk to Work Day

Friday, 5 October is Walk to Work Day, an annual, national event to encourage all Australians to walk all, or part of the way to work every day for the sake of their health and that of the environment. This year, participants who register will be supporting four major Australian charities. Registration costs $20. To find out how to become involved, go to www.walk.com.au.

International Forum for the Alliance of Healthy Cities

The International Forum for the Alliance of Healthy Cities will be held on the Gold Coast from 26-29 September. The two-day forum will provide an opportunity for participants to interact on the health issues facing our cities including the structural determinants of health, state-of-the-art regional infrastructure planning, active and healthy cities programs, and climate change adaptation. To register, visit www.goldcoastcity.com.au/healthycities.

New Willows Best Practice Management Guide

Willow trees have invaded riverbanks and wetlands around the country and are dramatically altering the natural biodiversity of many of Australia’s waterways and wetlands. A new Willows Best Practice Management Guide, offers practical solutions to fight infestations of these destructive trees. Free copies of the Willows Best Practice Management Guide are available from www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows.

Free Succession Planning Seminars For Tasmanian Business

Free seminars addressing the vital ‘how to’ strategies of business succession planning are now available to owners and advisers of small businesses in Tasmania. The seminars, coordinated by Ernst & Young under the Australian Government’s Building Entrepreneurship in Small Business Program, will be held in Hobart on 1 October, in Launceston on 2 & 3 October, and in Burnie on 4 October. To reserve your free place, visit www.sbsp.com.au or call 1800 048 855.

Tasmanians Urged to Have Their Say on the State Budget

Tasmanians are encouraged to have their say on the 2008-09 State Budget and to highlight their priority issues and how they might be addressed. Submissions must be received by 12 October. For guidelines to assist the preparation of submissions, visit www.treasury.tas.gov.au/budget.

Streetscaping and Urban Design Presentation

Nextgen has extended an invitation to interested persons to attend a slide show of streetscaping and urban design by Peter and Lesley Brenner. The event will be held from 6.00pm at TAFE, Clarence Campus on 26 September and costs $10 per person. To register, phone Nursery and Garden Industry Tasmania on 6244 7977.

Nominations Sought for Adult Learning Awards

Organisations that have participated in Adult Learners Week, are encouraged to submit nominations for the following national adult learning awards - Australian Adult Educator of the Year, Australian Learning Community of the Year, Australian Adult Education Program of the Year, and Australian Indigenous Community Provider of the Year. Nominations close on 19 October. For full details, visit www.ala.asn.au/conf/2007/ALA_Awards_2007.asp.

Designing for an Accessible Website

On 19 October, Vision Australia will be hosting a workshop in Hobart to provide an introduction to online accessibility issues within Australian policy contexts, internationally recognised requirements, and assessment tools and techniques. For details, email tania.mortensen@visionaustralia.org or phone (03) 9864 9249.

Upcoming Events

- General Managers’ Workshop, Hobart: 26-27 September
- General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart: 26 October
- General Meeting, Launceston: 14 November
- Mayors’ Workshop: 15 November
- General Management Committee Meeting: 12 December