



Mayor Barry Easter OAM
West Tamar Council



2013 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFERENCE SPONSOR

President's Message

There have been some concerns regarding the progress of legislation currently before the Federal Parliament to extend the Roads to Recovery program. I know that Mayors in particular may have received approaches from their Federal members in recent days and therefore I believe it is important for all elected members to be brought up-to-date with the situation as it currently sits.

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) President, Felicity-ann Lewis, has provided the following advice: "The extension of Roads to Recovery (R2R) beyond 20 June 2014 to a new end date of 30 June 2019 is just one of the amendments which the Government is seeking to enact in the current Land Transport Infrastructure Amendment Bill, which has now passed the House of Representatives. The R2R extension is supported by both the Government and Opposition and they have both stated that they will pass a Bill which includes the R2R extension. Unfortunately, however, the Opposition and Government disagree with parts of the Bill dealing with other matters and this is creating concern about the passage of the legislation through the Senate in the next few months. ALGA is acutely aware of the issue and is discussing the matter with both the Government and the Opposition, with the objective of ensuring that there is no impact on the R2R extension as a result of disagreement between the parties on other issues. I will keep you informed of developments on this matter and on any actions ALGA may need to take as events unfold in the next few weeks."

Given the support by both parties for an extension of R2R, I am sure there will be a way found to resolving the present impasse.

2014 Local Government Awards for Excellence

The Local Government Association of Tasmania invites nominations for the 2014 Local Government Awards for Excellence, proudly sponsored by MAV Insurance. The awards promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement among Tasmanian councils. This year, there are two award categories – *Delivering Excellence – Smaller Councils* (populations up to 10,000) and *Delivering Excellence – Larger Councils* (populations over 10,000). Category winners will each receive a trophy and \$1,000 prize money. Entries close on 2 June. Find out more at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

Australia's Tidiest Town Announced

Sheffield, on Tasmania's north-west coast, was named Australia's Tidiest Town at the Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Tidy Towns Awards ceremony. It is the first time since 2007 that a Tasmanian town has won the prestigious title. Sheffield also won the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award and two Highly Commended Awards in Environmental Innovation,



and Protection and Energy Innovation. 2014 marks 46 years of the Tidy Towns Awards in Australia, with Keep Australia Beautiful

receiving 1,300 entries nationally from more than 360 entrants. For details, visit <http://kab.org.au/sheffield-shines-at-australian-tidy-towns-2014-takes-home-the-overall-title>.

State Government's Headworks Policy Welcomed

The State Government's commitment to provide \$10 million over the next two years to implement a waiver on water and sewerage headworks charges has been welcomed by TasWater Chief Owners Representative, Mayor Tony Foster.

Mayor Foster said that the policy would stimulate economic development and jobs growth across the State. "All levels of government need to work together to promote development in Tasmania and I applaud the Government's commitment to implementing this policy without delay," Mayor Foster said. "Providing relief to headworks charges is a timely move by the Government and supports the work which TasWater are currently doing, at the request of the owner councils, to review headworks charges to ensure they send the right signals to encourage new development."

TasWater is expected to finalise its review of headworks charges in the coming weeks. Mayor Foster said councils were looking forward to seeing the findings and were confident that there would be opportunities to build upon the State Government's policy in supporting development in the long-term.

2014 Meritorious Service Award

Nominations are invited for the 2014 Meritorious Service Award, presented by the Life Members of the Local Government Association of Tasmania. The annual award was introduced in 2011 to recognise exceptional service to Tasmanian Local Government by an elected member. The award winner will be announced at the Local Government Conference Dinner on Thursday, 24 July, at Wrest Point. The winner will be presented with a trophy and \$250 to donate to their preferred charity by the Life Members of the Association. Nominations can be made by anyone listed on the Tasmanian Electoral Roll. The closing date for nominations is 30 May. The award guidelines can be downloaded from www.lgat.tas.gov.au. For enquiries, please phone LGAT on (03) 6233 5966.

Trade Opportunities Available at the 2014 Local Government Conference

The 102nd annual Local Government Conference, themed *Building Stronger Councils and Communities*, will be held at Wrest Point in Hobart, from 23-25 July. The conference provides an invaluable opportunity for sponsors and exhibitors to gain direct access to key decision-makers in Tasmanian Local Government and greatly assists in the strengthening of relationships with the sector. Businesses and organisations interested in being part of the extensive trade exhibition are encouraged to register soon, as places are filling fast. A not-for-profit rate is available for charity organisations. To find out more, download a copy of the *Trade and Sponsor Prospectus* from the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au, or contact Stephanie Watson on (03) 6233 5119, or email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au.

2014 Heart Foundation Local Government Awards

Entries are now open for the 2014 Heart Foundation Local Government Awards. The Heart Foundation wants to hear from councils that are providing: opportunities for recreational and incidental physical activity; safe, connected, 'walkable' catchments; accessible, safe and appealing environments and facilities that encourage healthy lifestyles; access to affordable, healthy and sustainable foods; smoke-free environments; opportunities for community members to lead interactive and socially connected lives; and appropriate, well-designed and maintained infrastructure that supports recreation, social interaction and active transport options. Entries close on 23 May. For the application information pack, please visit www.heartfoundation.org.au/lga.



Community Development Grants Program

The Australian Government has established the Community Development Grants Program to support needed infrastructure that promotes stable, secure and viable local and regional economies. A total of \$342 million is available under the Community Development Grants Program for single year or multiple year projects. Funding will commence in the 2013-14 financial year and will cease on 30 June 2017. Multi-year projects must be scheduled for completion on or before 30 June 2017. For a copy of the program guidelines, visit <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/communitydevelopment/index.aspx>.

White Ribbon Workplaces

Violence against women – whether it occurs in or beyond the workplace – impacts on the health and safety of women at work, their wellbeing and their productivity. The White Ribbon Workplace Program aims to support workplaces to prevent and respond to violence against women. The program calls upon organisations to take steps to promote safe workplaces for women by adapting organisational culture, practices and procedures. The program will be rolled out and made available to organisations that have registered interest by June 2014. Find out more at www.whiteribbon.org.au/workplaces.

Launch of New Youth Consultation Resource Launched

The Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) has launched a new resource for young people titled *SYC Top Ten Tips for Consultation: A Guide for Young People*. The resource has been developed to help young people understand what is involved with a consultation, including their rights, what will happen with their information and encourage their participation. The resource is the second in a series of *SYC Top Ten Tips* which the group has produced. SYC is a forum for cross-sector collaboration that responds to issues affecting young people's health and wellbeing in Tasmania. For a copy of the resource, visit www.ynot.org.au.

Survey Findings Reveal the Likely Impacts of Climate Change on the Mining Industry

In 2013, the CSIRO conducted two surveys simultaneously, one of Local Government Authorities and the other of mining companies, investigating their perceptions and actions in relation to adapting to climate change. A report has been released which reveals the findings of the surveys to explore the likely impacts of future climate variability and change on the Australian mining industry and its associated communities, to inform efforts for improving their adaptive capacity. The surveys follow-up on a similar survey study of the two groups conducted in 2010-11. To view the report, visit www.csiro.au/science/adapting-mining-climate-change.

Pregnancy and Return to Work: High Prevalence of Discrimination

A new survey has revealed that one in two women experience discrimination and one third don't return to work because of employer attitudes towards pregnancy. These results indicate that women in Australia still experience discrimination when making arrangements with employers to balance family and work responsibilities. To shed some light on the issue, the Australian Human Rights Commission has released its Headline Prevalence Data for its National Review, entitled *Supporting Working Parents: Pregnancy and Return to Work National Review*. For more information, visit www.security4women.org.au/pregnancy-and-return-to-work-high-prevalence-of-discrimination.

Conferences, Forums, Seminars and Workshops

Public Sector Management Program Information Sessions

The Training Consortium will be holding free information sessions in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie to provide a detailed understanding of the Public Sector Management Program and assist you to decide whether it is the right tertiary-level leadership development program for you. Sessions will be held in Hobart (17 April), Launceston (6 May), and Burnie (7 May). For details, please visit www.psmprogram.tas.gov.au, or phone 6232 7544.

2014 Research Forum

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) will host its 2014 Research Forum on 30 April in Melbourne. The forum will: showcase examples of current research which relates to pressing policy issues for Australian Local Government; provide opportunities for Local Government practitioners to present work alongside academic researchers; and discuss the implications of the research for policy and practice. The forum is free to attend but places are limited. View the provisional program and registration information at www.acelg.org.au/forum2014.

From Conflict to Co-operation

Is someone causing you grief at home or work? Do you have difficulty keeping your emotions in check when a disagreement occurs? Are you looking for ways to improve your relationships in your life, or workplace? Learn valuable skills for handling the difficult behaviours and attitudes of others in a one-day seminar with Australia's pre-eminent speaker on the subject of handling difficult people, Gavan Podbury. Communicate, influence, persuade, live and work more successfully with the challenging behaviours and attitudes of difficult personality types. No role-plays / no group hugs / no butcher's paper / no self-introductions. The cost is \$65 per person. For details, please visit www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=74709.

Women in Leadership Masterclass

While Australia has made some progress in getting more women into the workforce and into senior leadership positions, there is still a long way to go. A Leadership Masterclass for women will be held in Melbourne in May to provide the practical tools to excel at the top. Take advantage of your strengths, develop a powerful brand, excel at staff leadership and managing performance, communicate with influence, and improve your negotiation and influencing skills. The cost is \$1,799 (+ GST). Register at www.konnectlearning.com.au/event-landings/leadership-for-women.

Sustainable Transport Seminar

Join the United Nations Association of Australia (Victorian Division) at an upcoming seminar entitled *Sustainable Transport in Victoria: Developing, Financing and Implementing a State Plan*, hosted by Russell Kennedy Lawyers. The seminar will be held in Melbourne, on 8 May. Registrations must be received by 5 May and costs \$180 (incl. GST). For more information, visit www.unaavictoria.org.au.

Outcomes Measurement Workshops

The need to articulate and measure the social outcomes of the work we do is becoming increasingly important. TasCOSS will be running one-day Outcomes Measurement Workshops in Burnie (19 May), Launceston (20 May), and Hobart (21 May). Led by Les Hems, the workshop will assist businesses, government and not-for-profit organisations to develop and implement robust social outcome measurement frameworks. Cost is \$825 (Private/Government), \$242 (TasCOSS members) and \$352 (non-member NFPs) and includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea. For more information, contact Tim Tabart on (03) 6231 0755, or visit <http://tascoss.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db23a6b53535f285c9da58dd7&id=d79683549e&e=d739ec6a96>.

Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop

IPWEA will be hosting a one-day Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop in Launceston on 20 May. Plant and fleet managers, works engineers and asset managers are invited to attend. Key topics to be explored include load and haul principles in a public works engineering application, the latest technology in road sweeping, getting the most from IPWEA's online best practice tools, and a simple methodology for costing downtime. Register online at <http://ipwea.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT05OTY1NjUmcD0xJnU9NTAwOTAYMjYzJmXpPTYwMDI3MTC/index.html>.

Upcoming Local Government Events

General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart	14 May
ALGWA Meeting, Clarence	31 May
Pre-election Workshop, Burnie	2 June
Pre-election Workshop, Launceston	3 June
Pre-election Workshop, Hobart	5 June