**Water and Sewerage Flows On**

It is my pleasure to again be stepping into the President’s seat for a few weeks while Barry and his wife, Jan, are enjoying their first overseas trip to the United Kingdom. I know that Barry was particularly excited and expect that we will see him venturing offshore more often now that the travel bug has bitten.

The Water and Sewerage Governance Working Group has carefully and thoroughly considered the governance issues associated with moving from the present regional structures to a single entity and presented their findings and reasoning in a consolidated document that has now been forwarded to all owner councils.

A Special Meeting of the Association is to be held on 5 June to fully consider the issues raised by the Working Group and ideally finalise a position on the single entity proposal and preferred governance arrangements. The timing of the Special Meeting has been designed to allow each council to consider the governance documentation in detail and to form a view on the proposals.

It is unlikely that every council will agree on every proposal put forward by the Working Group but it is hoped that a consolidated position can be reached in June that will allow a dialogue to commence with the State Government and any agreed changes to progress. While not as complex as the initial reform process, any shift from the present arrangements will bring around its own set of challenges. It is my hope that the sector can continue to work together to get a robust and beneficial outcome from the perspective of owners, the corporations, the community and customers of the corporations.

At this week’s Premier’s Local Government Council meeting, the Premier again stated her desire to work with Local Government to bring into play the next phase of water and sewerage reform, and she is keen to receive the suite of governance arrangements ultimately agreed by councils. The Premier has indicated a willingness to give the legislation some priority to enable a July 2013 commencement if that is desired.

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**Free, Long-term Asset Management and Financial Planning Training for Elected Members and Senior Staff**

The Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project is a joint LGAT and State Government project, funded by the Commonwealth, to implement strategic, long-term asset management and long-term financial planning in an integrated manner within all Tasmanian councils. This integrated approach is central to training aimed at senior council staff and elected members.

Free workshops, to be conducted regionally by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA), will provide a great introduction to successful asset management and long-term financial planning, and have been well received by elected members in other jurisdictions. The workshops will be conducted for senior staff from 1.00 - 3.30pm, and for elected members from 4.00 - 8.00pm, with a shared afternoon tea on the following dates:

- **29 May** - Brighton Civic Centre
- **30 May** - Launceston City Council Reception Room
- **31 May** - Burnie Arts and Function Centre

Invitations will soon be forwarded to all elected members and councils. For enquiries, please contact Project Manager, Sue Grau at sue.grau@lgat.tas.gov.au.

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**Life Members Award for Meritorious Service**

Do you know an elected member who is doing an outstanding job within their council and/or community? Would you like to see them recognised for their dedication and achievements? The Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Life Members of the Association invite nominations for the 2012 Life Members Award for Meritorious Service, an annual award to recognise exceptional service to Tasmanian Local Government by an elected member. The award winner will be announced at the Local Government Conference Dinner, at Wrest Point on 12 July. The winner will receive a trophy and $250 to donate to their preferred charity. The closing date for nominations is 21 May. For a copy of the entry guidelines and entry form, visit www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=620.
Local Government Awards for Excellence
Tasmanian councils are invited to enter in the 2012 Local Government Awards for Excellence, proudly sponsored by MAV Insurance. The Awards recognise outstanding achievement and aim to inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement among Tasmanian councils. There are three categories this year including: Delivering Excellence for our Communities; Delivering Excellence in Natural and Built Environments; and Achieving Excellence through Innovation. Nominations close on 25 May. Full details are available on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=208 and the entry guidelines have been forwarded to all member councils. The winners will be announced by the Local Government Minister, Bryan Green on 13 July at the Local Government Conference, to be held at Wrest Point in Hobart. For enquiries, please phone LGAT on 6233 5966, or email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au.

100th Local Government Conference
The Local Government Association of Tasmania’s 100th Local Government Conference, themed Treasuring the Past, Transforming the Future, will be held from 11-13 July, at Wrest Point in Hobart. The exciting line-up of plenary speakers includes: Professor Brian Dollery who asks Is Amalgamation the Silver Bullet in Local Government?; Michael McQueen on Winning the Battle for Relevance; Rob Redenbach, who will reveal the 7 Secrets for Dealing with People; the Hon Bryan Green; ALGA President, Clr Genia McCaffrey; and George Williams. Workshops include sessions by: broadcaster, author and communication consultant, Peter Thompson, who will look at How Leaders Communicate; Leah Galvin on Building Food Resilient Communities; Mathew Healey who will talk about Managing Risks from Natural Hazards; and Melanie Brown and John Harkin who will look at the challenges facing coastal communities planning for climate change. The Conference Dinner, sponsored by MAV Insurance, will be held at Wrest Point on 12 July. To book your accommodation at Wrest Point, phone 1800 139 760, quoting Business Block no 523153. If you are a company with an interest in sponsorship or a trade booth, please download a copy of the Sponsor and Trade Prospectus from the LGAT website, or contact Stephanie Watson on (03) 6233 5119. Further details are available at www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=209.

Australia Post State Budget Briefings 2012
TCCI and Australia Post proudly presents the economic calendar event of the year. Gain first-hand insight into Tasmania’s current finances and ask the hard questions of the Premier/Treasurer at one of three regional briefing sessions to be held on 18 May. From 7.00 - 9.00am, a breakfast will be hosted at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart. Cost is $49 (TCCI Members) and $59 (non-members). Phone Adrian Bold on 6236 3600. From 12.00 – 2.00pm, a lunch will be held at the Country Club in Prospect. Cost is $79 (TCCI members) and $89 (non-members). RSVP to Kristen Finnigan on 6331 9364. A dinner will follow from 6.00 – 8.00pm at the Waterfront Function Centre in Devonport. Cost is $65 per person. For enquiries, contact Alice Vernon on 6420 7585. For further information, visit www.tcci.com.au.

Certificate III Water and Wastewater Operation
A public Certificate III course on Water and Wastewater Operation, coordinated by Simmonds and Bristow, will commence in Hobart and places are still available. The course will be conducted over two five-day training blocks to be held from 25-29 June and from 27-31 August. Trainees will gain: skills and technical knowledge to assist with efficient and effective plant process operation; troubleshooting skills and knowledge; and awareness of occupational health and safety issues, and skills which promote safe work habits. For details, phone 6224 8154, or visit www.simmondsbristow.com.au.

Dig Deep for 2012 Red Shield Appeal
Tasmanians are encouraged to dig deep for this year’s Red Shield Appeal (19-20 May), to help the Salvos help people in need. More than 1,800 Tasmanians are also needed to help with the task of collecting donations during the weekend. Each week across Australia, the Salvation Army supplies over 100,000 meals for the hungry, helps over 1,000 people to find employment, provides more than 3,000 elderly people with aged care services, and supplies between 5,000 – 8,000 food vouchers to people in need.

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
It’s time to put on the kettle, get out the teabags and join forces with Cancer Council Tasmania to help to raise money for Cancer Research, Support Services and Prevention Advocacy, and bring us closer to a cancer-free future. Hosting an event is easy and fun and there are handy resources to get you started. Whilst Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea is officially 24 May, you can host your morning tea anytime during May or June and all funds raised, stay in Tasmania! Phone 1300 656 585.
Awards

National Awards for Local Government Category Winners Announced
Two Tasmanian Councils have been recognised at the National Awards for Local Government. The Awards, held on 19 April, recognised innovation and excellence in 16 categories of governance and service delivery. Meander Valley Council was the Small Council Winner (under 15,000 rateable properties) in the Active Arts category. They won the award for their STUDIO BE project - a community arts resource for sound, video, photography and multimedia production, and a creative response to the community’s need to develop principles of partnership, participation, empowerment and equality for the community. King Island Council was commended in the same category for the Cape Wickham Lighthouse 150th Anniversary Celebrations. The overall winner of the 2012 National Award for Excellence in Local Government will be announced in June. For a full list of the category winners, visit www.minister.regional.gov.au/sc/releases/2012/april/sc042_2012.aspx.

Resilient Australia Awards 2012
Councils are encouraged to enter the 2012 Resilient Australia Awards before applications close on 6 July. The Resilient Australia Awards, which replace the Australian Safer Community Awards, aim to recognise innovative practices and achievements across the nation that are making our communities safer, stronger, more resilient and better prepared to manage any emergency situation. The awards cover all aspects of building disaster resilience including: risk assessment; research; education and training; information and knowledge management; prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Further information can be found at www.oesc.vic.gov.au.

Community Achievement Awards
Nominations are now open for the Community Achievement Awards which highlight, acknowledge and reward the valuable contribution that businesses, individuals and community groups are making towards building a stronger and better local community to live in. Awards will be presented in the areas of: Business Enterprise; Events and Tourism; Disability Achievement; Volunteer Management; Environment and Sustainability; Outstanding Achiever; Primary Industry and Agriculture; and Community of the Year. Nominations close on 24 July. For information on how to nominate, phone 1300 556 265, or visit www.awardsaustralia.com.au/CAA_tas.html.

The Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women
The Tasmanian Government is calling for nominations to the 2013 Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women. Organisations and individuals are invited to nominate suitable women from all backgrounds and cultures, and all fields of endeavour including community service, humanitarian, business, science and technology, arts and entertainment, sport, education and environment. Posthumous nominations are accepted. Nominations close on 28 September. To nominate a woman, or a women’s organisation, visit www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/programs_and_services/tasmanian_honour_roll_of_women.

Grants and Scholarships

2012 Linton Kerber Scholarship
Tasmanians keen to influence the future of sport and recreation are encouraged to apply for the 2012 Linton Kerber Scholarship, which provides an opportunity to study best-practice sport and recreation planning. The scholarship provides $5,000 to support any individual currently working in Tasmania to extend their professional knowledge in the area of sport and recreation planning. Applications close 18 May. Further information is available on the Sport and Recreation Tasmania website at www.sportandrecreation.tas.gov.au.

2012 Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants
Do you care about where and how you live? Would you like to make a difference? Do you want to do something about energy efficiency, air quality, water quality, community food gardens, reducing waste, climate change, urban sustainability, sustainable transport, community awareness or local biodiversity? The Hobart City Council’s 2012 Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants are open until 23 May and grants are open to primary schools, secondary schools, community groups, and businesses. Applications can be downloaded from www.hobartcity.com.au.

Cycling for Active Transport Local Infrastructure Development Fund
The Cycling for Active Transport - Local Infrastructure Development Fund is available to support Local Government and not-for-profit community-based organisations to develop local cycling connections and facilities, and deliver programs that support people to cycle to undertake their everyday journeys. Funding of up to $10,000 per project is available for new projects. Funding will be available on a co-contribution basis and projects must be completed by 30 June 2013. For details, go to www.dier.tas.gov.au/passenger_transport/cycling_for_active_transport_local_infrastructure_development_fund.
Conferences, Workshops & Seminars

‘Linking Up’ Conference
The ‘Linking Up’ Conference will be held in Burnie on 1-2 May, providing an opportunity for community service staff, management and interested parties to attend a series of concurrent sessions which will: increase knowledge and understanding of programs and services relating to the disability, aged and child, youth and family sectors which are available in North West Tasmania; identify opportunities; and build communication strategies which will enhance client engagement and foster partnerships between members of the community, local business, all levels of government, services and organisations. Find out more at www.linkupconference.com.au.

Free DIY Marketing Plan Workshop
Events Tasmania has invited Kim Skildum-Reid to present her nationally acclaimed DIY Marketing Plan workshop - a free, team-based, one-day, intensive workshop designed to bring your event’s sponsorship, audiences and communication strategies into focus. Participants will gain new skills and a practical, workable marketing plan for their specific event. One place only is available for two Local Government event organisers to participate and selection will be on a merit-based expression of interest. Single registrations will not be accepted. The workshop will be held in Hobart (10 May) and in Launceston (11 May). Send EOI to info@eventstasmania.com, or ph 6237 6432.

Local Government Forum
A free forum, coordinated by the Premier’s Physical Activity Council (PPAC), and tailored for Tasmanian Local Government and interested community organisations, will be held from 10:00am – 3:00pm, on 18 May, at Okines Community House, 510 Old Forcett Road, Dodges Ferry. The forum will showcase a range of health and wellbeing initiatives and services to encourage and support delegates to get involved with physical activity in their community. RSVP by email to businesspoint@development.tas.gov.au, or phone 1800 440 026 by 15 May. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Rio+20
On 17 May, world leaders will convene at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Melbourne to build global consensus on the green economy as a means to achieve sustainable development: reduce poverty, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection. The seminar explores the role that Australian business can play in advancing sustainable development and the green economy through responsible business practices and collective action with government and civil society. To register, head to the United Nations Association of Australia (Vic) website at www.unaavictoria.org.au, or phone (03) 9670 7878.

eGovernment Forum
On 23 May, Australia’s premier public sector technology summit, CeBIT Australia’s eGovernment Forum, will be held in Sydney. The summit will explore how technology is changing the way that services are delivered across the globe. Governments are not exempt from this transformation. There is a need to transform the way that services are delivered to the community – how we communicate, interact, make decisions and do business. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear and discuss how technology raises community expectations for dealing with government, and impacts on the way governments operate and deliver services. To register, visit www.cebit.com.au.

Upcoming Events

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