President’s Message

Yesterday I attended a meeting at Campbell Town to discuss issues surrounding the Forestry Roundtable, the Principles and Bill Kelty’s interim report. Perhaps more significantly, we met to document concerns being expressed about the socio-economic impacts and community recovery issues likely to be faced by councils emanating from the present review into the timber industry.

The interim report from Bill Kelty has very little to say on this subject, in fact only five lines in a 200-page report. Councils present expressed concern that no one at the table represents Local Government and what is clearly missing from the process is acknowledgement of the effect any downturn in the industry will have on communities around the state where forestry is a key contributor to the local economy and community.

The Association will continue to actively pursue the possibility of a delegation meeting with Mr Kelty but at the moment this is proving difficult as his availability is limited. Nevertheless, from the information shared at the meeting, a paper is to be compiled highlighting the issues raised and I trust that a delegation will have the opportunity of discussing them with Mr Kelty.

There has been reference to compensation for those involved in the industry however there has been no recognition of the role local councils will be faced with when picking up the pieces after the event. It can be assumed that the expectation is that councils will simply manage the situation of community recovery using their own resources. This is far from a satisfactory outcome and our concerns need to be strongly articulated to Mr Kelty.

Planning Reform Announced

The Minister for Planning, Bryan Green, has announced Tasmania’s biggest single planning reform to streamline approvals and facilitate development. A new statewide template will be incorporated into all future local council planning schemes to provide clear and consistent planning laws, and will deliver the consistency and certainty that local councils, developers and the public have been calling for. The reform has been designed to strike the right balance between providing investor confidence and good planning outcomes and has been described by the Minister as “a major milestone in the evolution of Tasmania’s planning system.” The template will be the new standard for residential, commercial and industrial development and will ease the frustrations of developers. The template is part of a suite of planning reforms to come, including a streamlined approvals process for the residential building code.

Revaluations of Ten Municipalities

Nearly 90,000 properties across ten Tasmanian municipalities have been valued and details were issued to property owners last week. About one-third of Tasmania is valued every two-years under the current valuation cycle. The fresh valuations took place in the Derwent Valley, Dorset, Flinders Island, Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Glenorchy, King Island, Launceston, Sorell, Tasman, and Waratah-Wynyard municipalities. The Land Value, Capital Value and the Assessed Annual Value for each property has been determined as at 1 July 2010 levels of value. The values will take effect from 1 July 2011 for rating and taxing purposes. The previous revaluations for this group of municipalities occurred in the 2003-2005 period, with the Sorell municipality showing the greatest changes in value. Due to the introduction of market-based adjustment factors in 2007, the level of change from adjusted values has been moderated. More information is available online at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/ovg.
Pre-election Information Sessions
Would you, or someone you know, like to nominate as a candidate in the 2011 Tasmanian Local Government Elections? LGAT, in partnership with the Local Government Division and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, will be hosting a series of free information sessions to provide an introduction to Local Government, as well as details of what is expected of a councillor and how to become a councillor. The sessions will be held from 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre, Wilmot Street, Burnie (6 June), Riverside Meeting Room, Eden Street, Riverside (7 June), Beachfront Motel, Bicheno (8 June), and the Mercure Hotel, Bathurst Street, Hobart (9 June). Delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions and to raise any concerns. To register your attendance, please contact LGAT on 6233 5966. Councils are encouraged to promote the information sessions throughout their municipality.

Local Government Conference
Registrations are invited for the 2011 Local Government Conference, to be held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 20-22 July. Themed 100 Years Long: 100 Years Strong, the conference will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Local Government Association. The speakers will explore how far we have come over the last century as a sector and as a State, with a view towards the future and the challenges, trends and influences that lay ahead. Register by 17 June for the chance to win a Special Occasions Package for two people at Wrest Point, valued at over $850. Final registrations are required by 30 June. For full details, head to the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au and download the 2011 Conference Program and Registration Form, or phone 6233 5966.

West Coast Council Seeking New GM
West Coast Council’s General Manager, Peter Harder, has resigned from his position. Alf Mott will serve as Acting General Manager on a part time basis for the next few weeks until the vacancy has been filled.

Draft Regulations for Aerial and Ground Spraying
Draft regulations have been released for public comment to help ensure the safe use of pesticides in aerial and ground spraying in Tasmania. The draft regulations aim to balance the use of agricultural chemicals in the primary industries sector with community expectations over safety. Copies of the draft regulations and the explanatory paper are available online at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

Food-sensitive planning and urban design
The Heart Foundation Victorian division has recently released Food-sensitive planning and urban design – a conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system. Food-sensitive planning and urban design (FSPUD) recognises that access to healthy, sustainable and equitable food is an essential part of achieving liveable communities. It is an approach to planning and urban design that addresses the critical intersect between public health, planning and urban design, and environmental sustainability. It presents the case for prioritising food in the planning and design of our cities. FSPUD provides tools, suggestion and case studies to enable the practical reconciliation of food considerations with planning and urban design objectives. The document can be found at www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Publications/Healthy-Eating/Reports-and-evaluations/Food-sensitive-planning-urban-design.aspx.

Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Consultation
The Inter-Agency Working Group on Drugs (I AWGD) has released two consultation papers in support of the development of a strategic framework for promotion, prevention and early intervention (PPEI) activities in relation to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The discussion paper provides a brief overview of the evidence relevant to implementing effective promotion, prevention and early intervention activities and identifies five potential foundation areas that might encompass a range of strategies and actions in the strategic framework. For detailed information, interested persons are invited to consider the evidence paper and associated links. Feedback will be essential in assisting the development of a strategic framework to recommend a course of action to the Tasmanian Government and guide activities in this space. Responses are required by 24 June. For details, go to http://drugstrategy.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/78151/DISCUS~1.PDF. To complete the online survey, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/ATODPPEI.

Supporting Tasmanian Social Enterprises
A new study has been launched to support Tasmanian social enterprises. Social enterprises are businesses – both for profit or non-profit – that help people in disadvantaged communities by connecting them to things like skills training, social activities and job opportunities. The Tasmanian Social Enterprise Study is the first of its kind in Tasmania and was developed as a partnership between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania’s Institute for Regional Development. The study profiles Tasmania’s social enterprises, to give a clear understanding of their activities, challenges and priorities. To obtain a copy, contact Kylie Eastley on 0439 262344, or visit www.socialenterprisetasmania.blogspot.com.
AEBN Carbon Leadership Forum (Melbourne)
The AEBN Carbon Leadership Forum - Future Directions will provide an insight of what's to come with respect to the
cost of carbon and the final detail of the Federal Government's framework which will impact on all energy users.
Industry case studies will be presented by companies currently working under an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and
the changes made within their company to comply; the challenges experienced, and the message for business
operating in Australia. The forum will explore the likely impacts to your organisation and business operations. The
forum will be held in Melbourne on 29 July. The cost is $495 (AEBN members) and $595 (non-members who book

Awards

2011 Australian Safer Communities Awards
The Australian Safer Communities Awards recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals
that help to build safer communities across Australia. The awards cover all aspects of community safety in the
context of emergency management including: risk assessment; research education and training; information and
knowledge management; and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Award winners will be
recognised throughout the emergency management sector for their outstanding achievement, and may use the
Australian Safer Communities Awards logo on their printed materials. Entries close on 1 June. For further details, go

MobileMuster Local Councils Award
MobileMuster, the official recycling program of the mobile phone industry, is calling on local councils which have
helped promote and collect mobile phones for recycling over the last year to nominate for the 2011 MobileMuster
Local Government Awards. There are five awards up for grabs including Best Promoter, Working with Schools
Award, Top Collector Award Overall, Top Collector per Capita and National Excellence. The awards recognise and
celebrate the outstanding efforts by Local Government in promoting and collecting mobile phones, batteries,
chargers and accessories for recycling. The winning councils will be announced during the Australian Local
Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly of June. Nominations close on 7 June. For more

Banksia Awards for Environmental Excellence
Banksia is once again looking to inspire and be inspired by examples of environmental excellence in Australia’s most
prestigious environmental awards and urge Local Governments leading the way in environmental sustainability to
enter the awards. To find out about the awards, visit www.banksiafdn.com. An information session will be held in
Hobart from 6.15pm on 16 June, to assist award applicants. To find out more, visit http://bit.ly/jvkpNy.

Life Members Award for Meritorious Service
The Life Members of the Local Government Association and LGAT are pleased to announce the inaugural Life
Members Award for Meritorious Service. The award enables councils and communities to recognise significant
achievements by elected members within the most recent electoral term. Nominees will have made a
demonstrable contribution to Local Government in one or more of the following areas: Enhancement of the status
of Local Government; Introduction of a significant new or amended policy; Innovation: Entrepreneurship; New or
improved services; Improved structural or operational outcomes; and Engagement and consultation. Contributions
may be within a community or council area, or at a regional or statewide level, and the award may be presented
posthumously. Nominations close on 27 June. A copy of the Guidelines and Entry Form can be downloaded from
the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards 2011
Do you know of a program that has reduced crime and violence in your area? Are you involved in a project that
works towards a safer community? Nominations for the 2011 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards,
recognising programs to reduce crime and violence in Australia, are now open. Programs of all sizes that help to
reduce crime and violence against children, women, men, Indigenous people or ethnic communities are
encouraged to nominate. Nominations close on 27 June. For details on how to nominate, visit www.aic.gov.au.

Upcoming Events

Pre-election Information Session (Burnie) 6 June
Pre-election Information Session (Riverside) 7 June
Pre-election Information Session (Bicheno) 8 June
Pre-election Information Session (Hobart) 9 June
National General Assembly, Canberra 19-23 June
AGM/General Meeting, Hobart 20 July
Local Government Conference, Hobart 21-22 July

Local Government Association of Tasmania
34 Patrick Street, Hobart, TAS 7000   GPO Box 1521, Hobart, TAS 7001   Ph: (03) 6233 5966   Fax: (03) 6233 5986   Email: admin@lgat.tas.gov.au