President’s Message
This past week as I have travelled around the State and read the daily media, it is certainly very evident that there is a Local Government election just around the corner! Personally I think that the growing number of election posters appearing each day is just a bit early. Suffice to say that today I have also been adding to the number of signs so as not to be left behind!

Election time is always full of interest and I am gaining the impression that a little more interest is being taken by members of our communities this time around. It certainly appears that there is a number of first time candidates prepared to stand for election and this is a positive development.

I think everyone preparing their election campaign is really looking forward to that day in October when the polling closes. After that, the makeup of councils will be known and it is then time for the elected members to get on with the job they were elected to do, as there is a tremendous amount of work to be done and many important decisions to be made.

I think particularly of issues surrounding planning reform, general Local Government reform, financial sustainability, asset management and water and sewerage. Many of these Local Government issues are being ‘pushed’ by sectional interest groups who, in many cases, have the ear of government. We need to be extremely vigilant and positioned to tailor any reform agenda in a way that is advantageous to our sector of government.

Then there are issues that have been raised by Huon Valley Council. All councils should have received a letter from Mayor Robert Armstrong and I commend his letter to you. Many Tasmanian councils would be faced with similar issues and it is therefore important that as a sector we bring to the notice of government the concerns of our communities, and work together in resolving them.

Water Corporations Review
On 7 September, the Chairman of the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporations, Mr Miles Hampton, announced that following a major review of Onstream, the shared service provider to the three water corporations, its operations would be significantly restructured. Where possible, the functions of Onstream will be fully integrated with Southern Water, Ben Lomond Water and Cradle Mountain Water to improve communications between the corporations, promote more efficient use of resources and enable the corporations to achieve estimated savings of $2.3 million each year.

LGAT President, Mayor Barry Easther, welcomed the move on behalf of shareholder councils. “We expressed concerns about the entity when it was first deemed necessary as part of the water and sewerage reform, and consider that the review and resulting actions by the Board are positive measures that will see improved outcomes for both customers and owner councils,” he said.

2011 Local Government Elections
Tasmania’s biennial Local Government Elections will be held next month across the State. Elections will be held for mayor and deputy mayor in each of Tasmania’s 29 municipal areas, as well as for approximately half the membership of each council. There are currently around 145 councillor positions to be contested. This year, nominations will close on 26 September, and voting by post will take place from 11-25 October.

People considering standing can request an Information for candidates booklet by calling the Tasmanian Electoral Commission on 1800 801 701. Candidates are invited to provide their 150 word statements online to provide the opportunity to see their statements in the format in which they will be produced in the brochure to be mailed to voters. Candidates are still required to print and sign their statements and lodge them with the Returning Officer along with their nomination forms. Further information for candidates can be found at www.tec.tas.gov.au/candidatestatements.

LGAT Launches New-look Website
LGAT’s public website has recently received a revamp. The new-look site showcases what Local Government does for local communities and a new page has been added which answers the question ‘What to Councils Do?’ The new site also incorporates the addition of an interactive map of Tasmanian councils, linking users to each Council’s own home website, as well as direct access to the ‘Think Big. Work Local’ Jobs in Local Government website. The images displayed throughout the site reflect the ways in which councils engage with community. A secure site that will be accessible via a member login from the public site, and provides a document resource sharing facility for councils, is under construction. The website can be found at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.
Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Grants Program 2011-12

The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation supports and promotes the wellbeing, development and learning of Tasmanian children up to the age of six years. Council service providers are invited to apply for funding in the latest annual grant program which closes on 28 October. Projects must meet the Foundation’s objectives and address one or more priority areas. A funding pool of $200,000 is available. Grants are available in two tiers: up to $3,000; and between $3,001 and $40,000. Successful applicants must expend the grant by 31 December 2012. Application forms and guidelines are available from www.earlyyears.org.au/grants.

Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards

Nominations are invited for the 2011-12 Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards which recognise the significant contributions and achievements that young people are making in Tasmania, and assist in identifying potential future community leaders. The Awards are open to young Tasmanians aged 14-28, with achievements in eight categories including a Leadership and Innovation Award, a Community Service Award, and an Environment Award. The winner from each of the eight categories will be presented with a trophy and $1,000 prize money. The winner of the Premier’s Young Achiever of the Year Award will receive an additional $1,000, a trophy and an Australian holiday for two. Nominations close on 2 December. Details can be found at www.awardsaustralia.com.au.

Local Government Procurement (Burnie, Riverside, Kingston)

The LGAT has entered into a series of relationships with our interstate counterparts for the supply of goods for Tasmanian councils. Commencing in October there will be three new contracts available to councils for the purchase of:

- Road and bridge making equipment;
- Earth moving and material handling equipment; and
- Tractors, tele-handlers, mowers, blowers, vacuums, chippers, chainsaws, mulchers, work utility, all terrain vehicles and small engine equipment.

Free workshops will be held in Burnie on 10 October, at Riverside on 11 October, and at Kingston on 13 October to provide councils with the information they need to benefit from this contract. For further details, go to www.lgat.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Local_Buy__Registration.pdf.

Infrastructure Financial Management (Launceston)

Finance professionals, engineers and asset managers are invited to attend Infrastructure Financial Management, a new workshop coordinated by IPWEA. The two-day workshop will be held from 13-14 October in Launceston. Gain a better understanding of: accounting for infrastructure; depreciation, valuation, useful life, fair value; managing financial sustainability; integrating asset management planning and long-term financial planning; and meeting national frameworks for financial reporting. The workshop costs $1,210 per participant. Register online at http://higherglogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/IPWEA/e59c9b6e-a7e5-4af0-b809b-e871238973d0/UploadedImages/PDFs/QLD,%20VIC,%20TAS,%20WA%20Brochure.pdf.

2012 Tasmanian Leaders Program

The Tasmanian Leaders Program develops the leadership talent of established and aspiring leaders through an intensive eleven month professional and personal development program. Over the year, participants meet at regular intervals to explore critical issues facing Tasmania through seminars, panels, field trips, case studies and retreats which expose participants to over 200 business and community leaders, experts and critical thinkers. Information sessions for interested participants and employers will be held in Launceston on 21 September and in Hobart on 22 September. A detailed Information Pack and Application Form can be downloaded from www.tasmanianleaders.org.au. To register for one of information sessions, visit https://tasleaders.wufoo.eu/forms/information-sessions/.

Upcoming Events

- GMC Meeting & General Meeting, Brighton: 21 September
- LG & Sponsor Appreciation Event, Berriedale: 21 September
- Local Government Election Nomination period: 12-26 September
- Local Government Procurement Session, Burnie: 10 October
- Local Government Procurement Session, Riverside: 11 October
- Local Government Procurement Session, Kingston: 13 October
- Local Government Election Polling Period: 11-25 October