I have sent this report from the Australian Local Government Association’s Roads Congress in Bunbury, Western Australia. The focus of the congress is on building the case for transport investment – that is getting more investment into transport to support our communities. The case for greater investment will be supported this year by a report, commissioned by the ALGA, to analyse and consolidate data across the nation.

The key findings of the report include:

- 565 councils manage 650,000 kilometres of road nationally. This is more than 80% of the entire road network.
- Expenditure on roads has been less than is needed to sustain the networks at current levels of service, despite the Roads to Recovery inputs.
- Expenditure nationally will need to increase by $1.2 billion per year for the next 15 years to avoid service level deterioration.
- There is significant growth in Local Government roads with no corresponding addition in revenues.

Report recommendations include:

- A continuing commitment to a whole of Government approach to asset and financial management is required.
- There needs to be more consistent reporting and data inputs.
- There is a need to prepare a national ‘State of the Assets’ report to inform a national road management and funding strategy.

When the Federal Government release the Local Government reform funding to Tasmania, it should eventually allow the Tasmanian Local Government sector to start to build a uniform picture to contribute to the debate at State and Federal levels. We anticipate that funding will be available from the end of November.

Dr. Martin Butcher and the Australasian Facilitators Network are offering one and two-day courses in community and stakeholder engagement planning for project and program managers at the Bahá’í Centre, Hobart on 22 and 23 November. These highly interactive courses are designed for those interested in taking a planned approach to appropriately engaging stakeholders and the community in their projects and programs. Developed initially for the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), these courses have been highly sought after by local authorities, NGO’s and State Government agencies. The cost is $240 for one day and $450 for two days. Contact martinbutcher@mac.com for further information, or visit www.martinbutcher.com.

A recent TasCOSS organisational research project found that feeling valued is a major factor for staff and volunteers in their decision to remain in a job. A workshop which aims to explore the concept of valuing staff and volunteers, and to provide managers, supervisors and team leaders with tools, ideas and processes to help achieve good practice in staff and volunteer retention, will be held in Glenorchy on 25 October, and in Launceston on 26 October. The cost is $25 (TasCOSS members) and $30 (non-members). A light lunch will be provided. Register by 19 October at www.tascoss.org.au/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx.

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2011 Tasmanian Leaders Program (TLP), an exciting program designed specifically to identify and develop leaders from across Tasmania. Participants are offered a life-changing opportunity to enhance and develop their leadership capacity by participating in this unique, challenging and rewarding 10-month program. Places are limited. Applications must be received by 8 November. To download a copy of the information pack and application form, go to http://tasleaders.wufoo.com/forms/tlp-2011-information-pack-application-form.
ChemClear’s Coming to Town
The ChemClear program provides a safe, effective and convenient means for farmers and chemical users to dispose of unwanted and obsolete agvet chemicals. ChemClear has scheduled a collection for Tasmania, to commence in early December. The booking line is open and will accept registrations up to 5 November. Three previous collections in the state have retrieved a total of 8.2 tonne of unwanted chemicals for safe disposal from communities across Tasmania. Twenty councils across Tasmania have partnered the ChemClear initiative and have provided a Host Site for ChemClear to utilise during scheduled collections. All councils will be contacted to ascertain whether the nominated site is still available for re-use. If your council has not previously provided a site, it might consider setting up a Host Site for persons that may have registered for the service in your region. Registrations are essential and can be made by completing an inventory form available at www.chemclear.com.au/bookings, or by calling 1800 008 182. For details, visit www.chemclear.com.au, contact Lisa Nixon on (02) 6230 6712, or at lisa.nixon@agsafe.com.au.

Lifting the Lid - National Forum Rural Regional and Remote Australia
Local Government representatives are invited to attend a national forum, to be held in Dubbo, NSW from 20-21 October. Workshop sessions will cover marketing and branding, Governance and diversity, and equity in the workplace for women, followed by a Q&A session facilitated by Mike Munro. One of the outcomes of the forum, will be the development of a web-based discussion forum that will enable delegates to keep in touch and continue to share ideas and experiences. The event is open to people across all sectors who are interested in personal or professional development. Register online at www.rdaorana.org.au, or phone (02) 6885 1488 for details.

New Treasury Secretary Announced
Premier David Bartlett has confirmed the appointment of Martin Wallace as the new Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance. Mr Wallace will replace retiring Treasury Secretary, Don Challen, on 29 November.

2010-11 Trainee Subsidy Program
Grants of between $2,125 per part-time trainee and $4,250 per full-time trainee, made to clubs, associations, educational institution, Local Government and other providers of sport and active recreation to subsidise the employment of trainees in the sport and active recreation sector. Applications for the Trainee Subsidy Program close on 31 March 2011. For details, go to www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/information_for_organisations/grant_programs.

Special Offer from the LGE Health Plan
The health insurer for the LGE Health Plan, GMHBA, is making a special offer available to employees of LGE Health Plan participating councils during October. New members who join the LGE Health Plan by 31 October will receive a month’s membership free. The offer applies to members who take out hospital cover, extras cover, or a combination of both including package covers. Employees wanting to take advantage of the savings available through the LGE Health Plan, who aren’t sure which cover will best suit their needs, can request a free review of their situation and obtain a personal recommendation online. Visit health-link.com.au/lgehp, or ph 1300 543 7526. To speak with a Health Link Consultant, call 1800 808 026.

Handy Hints for the Novice Conference Presenter
If you hardly ever present to a live audience because the thought of it turns your knees to jelly, then here is a workshop for you. The Handy Hints for the Novice Conference Presenter workshop, to be held in Melbourne on 17 November, will cover all aspects of conference speaking, including hints for successful preparation and delivery. Workshop facilitator, Char Weeks, is a Certified Executive Master Coach, change agent and Chief Executive of the Australian change management company, Change Champions Pty Ltd. A copy of her soon to be released book, Handy Hints for the Novice Conference Presenter, is included as part of the workshop registration. The cost is $312 (incl. GST) if paid before 3 November. For details, phone (02) 9692 0533, or visit www.changechampions.com.au.

Integrating Services to Reduce Homelessness
A session to look at linking services and streamlining transition processes to break the cycle of homelessness will be held from 30 November to 1 December, in Melbourne. This event will be looking at: collaboration across departments and sectors; strategies to implement and improve referral processes between services; pathways on transitioning from state care into sustainable housing; and at case and place management models to ensure efficient comprehensive service delivery. For more information, please contact Matthew Palamara on (02) 9239 5785, or 0411 898 847.

2010-11 Minor Grants Program
Grants of between $500 and $10,000 are available to councils and not-for-profit providers of sport and active recreation for projects which include simple equipment purchases, simple facility developments or upgrades, planning and research studies, participation projects and other development programs. Applicants must contribute at least half of the project funding. Applications close on 31 March 2011. Full details are available from www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/information_for_organisations/grant_programs.
National Skills Survey
The 2010 Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (ACCI) National Workplace Skills Survey collects information about the level of investment by Australian businesses in training their staff as well as information about the level of skills within the current workforce, skill shortages, professional development of teachers, and the quality of educational providers. This information will be used by ACCI to form a statistical evidence base to lobby government in the development of effective workforce development policies. The results will be made broadly available to employers, governments, registered training organisations and the community. The survey, to be completed by 26 November, is designed for all employers, in all industries. The survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DFSRG3Y.

Web Content Management Masterclass
As technology evolves at such a fast pace, internet users are expecting the highest quality online experience and fast web performances. Delivering compelling features and content is essential in order to maximise the gains and to compete in a competitive business environment. Web Content Management Masterclass, to be held in Sydney from 22-23 November, aims to examine what works and what doesn’t in enhancing the overall online reputation. Optimise your web content performance, usability, functionality and accessibility. For more information, visit www.marcusevansassets.com/doc/pdfs/Ep_17059.pdf, or phone (02) 9223 2137.

2010-11 National Sport Championships Grants Program
Grants of up to $3,000 per national sport championship are available to Local Government and state sport and active recreation organisations, clubs and associations to help meet costs associated with hosting national sport championships within Tasmania. Funding is distributed on a first-come first-serve basis to those organisations that meet the criteria. Applications close on 31 March 2011. For details, go to www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/information_for_organisations/grant_programs.

2011 Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women
The Tasmanian Government is calling for nominations for the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women. The Honour Roll recognises women who have made a major contribution to the Tasmanian community. 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 will be accepted. Nominations for the 2011 induction close on 29 October. Nomination forms, selection criteria and general information are available at www.women.tas.gov.au, or by calling 1800 001 377.

Biomass Energy Forum
Andrew Lang from SMARTimbers, and Mark Brown and Mohammad Ghaffariyan from the CRC for Forestry will present at a lunchtime forum, to be held at The Old Woolstore Theatrette in Hobart, from 12.30pm to 1.45pm, on 20 October. Representing the harvesting and operations program at CRC Forestry, Mark and Mohammad will present some systems used extensively in Europe that show promise for application in Australian conditions. Andrew Lang is a farmer and farm forester who is chairman of the innovative SMARTimbers marketing cooperative and represents the Australasia-Oceania region on the board of the World Bioenergy Association. A Churchill and Gottstein Fellow, Andrew’s presentation: Energy from Biomass, will reflect his belief that there is scope for Australia to be producing at least 30% of its primary energy (heat, electricity and fuels) from wastes and residues. To register your attendance, visit http://ffic.com.au/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=99503.

Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Scholarships
The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation is again proud to offer scholarships of $5,000 for up to two potential candidates from the early years sector to participate in the Tasmanian Leaders Program. The Tasmanian Leaders Program offers participants an opportunity to enhance their leadership capacity by meeting, exchanging ideas and working together at regular intervals through the year, as well as offering the unique opportunities to speak with a cross section of today’s leaders, to hear their opinions and learn from their experience. Applications must be received by 8 November. For further information, go to www.tasmanianleaders.org.au/teyf.html.

Upcoming Events

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<td>General Meeting, Launceston</td>
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<td>Mayors’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
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<td>General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart</td>
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