President’s Message
Well, tomorrow is the big day for our federal politicians and the results of the election will have important outcomes for Local Government across the nation. The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is a member body of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), and the Association has been working diligently to ensure that the successful party will be philosophically supportive of Local Government and also, most importantly, financially.

The 10-Point Plan for Local Communities, released by ALGA in September, highlighted the need for fair funding, fair treatment, formal recognition and a capacity for Local Government to meet future challenges. The document clearly identifies Local Government’s agenda and calls on decision-makers to implement proposals aimed at reinvigorating local communities.

Local Government is struggling to maintain and provide reasonable standards of local infrastructure and related services. As the sphere of government charged with the responsibility of effectively managing vital community resources, remaining sustainable, and positively supporting and progressing our communities, it is necessary for both Federal and State Governments to appreciate Local Government’s role, and to understand our relative limited means of raising much needed finance.

Having heard a plethora of pre-election promises being announced virtually daily over the last few months, one can’t help but be amazed and bemused at the hive of financial generosity around election-time. Whilst the federal parties are able to find significant pools of money to support, or kick-start a number of activities and initiatives, councils can get on with the job of determining their rates, budget and works program, without the hindrance and interference of party elections to detract from the responsible management of community resources. No doubt, at the ALGA conference being held in Darwin next week, the result and impact of tomorrow’s election will be the hot topic of conversation.

National Perspective on Climate Change
A comprehensive assessment of Australia’s climate has been jointly released by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO. Climate Change in Australia provides the latest information on observed climate change over Australia and its likely causes, as well as updated projections of changes in temperature, rainfall and other aspects of climate that can be expected over the coming decades. The full report is available online at www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au.

New Councillor Resource Kit
The Local Government Association of Tasmania has launched a new Councillor Resource Kit containing practical information to assist new councillors to become familiar with their roles and responsibilities in Local Government. The presents information and guidance in the following areas:

- The Role of the Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Understanding the Local Government Framework
- Council Roles and Responsibilities
- Tips for Effective Meetings
- Accountability
- Policy Development and Decision-making
- Understanding Local Government Finance
- Land Use Planning: The Basics
- Councillor Learning and Development
- Skills Checklist
- Other Useful Resources
- Key Organisations and Contacts

President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Mayor Mike Gaffney, said the Councillor Resource Kit is a useful document for all elected members, regardless of their experience in Local Government. “This revised edition is more concise and user-friendly, and will be an invaluable source of information, particularly for newcomers to the Local Government sector,” he said.

All elected members should have now received a copy of the kit, which is also available for download from the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

Biodiesel Report Released
A new report on the current state of Australia’s biodiesel industry is now available from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Oceania. Biodiesel in Australia: Benefits, Issues and Opportunities for Local Government Uptake will be a valuable resource for council officers, managers and councillors wanting to investigate biodiesel uptake further to ensure that their fuel choices have the desired environmental, economic and social outcomes. The report can be downloaded from the Cities for Climate Protection Australia Program website at www.iclei.org/ccp-au. More information on the project is available from www.iclei.org/index.php?id=7076.
Spatial Information Management Toolkit
The second edition of the Local Government Spatial Information Management Toolkit is now available. Prepared on behalf of the ALGA and the Spatial Information Council, the toolkit has been designed to help build the capacity of Local Government staff to use and manage spatial information effectively and to facilitate flows of spatial data and information. The toolkit can be used as a textbook, a teaching aid, or as a series of stand-alone modules. For further information, go to www.alga.asn.au.

New Website Showcases National Trust Properties
A new website, launched by the State Government and the National Trust, will play an important role in promoting historic properties around Tasmania, making them more accessible to visitors and the community. The website includes links to National Trust organisations around the world and nationally, and to a range of related sites. Maps and profiles are also available. The website can be found at www.nationaltrusttas.org.au.

Managing the Performance of General Managers
The New South Wales Government has released guidelines that councils can use to manage the performance of their General Manager. The guidelines offer advice on how to encourage and reward good performance and what to do in cases of under-performance. They also outline how a council can devise a performance management agreement and how a General Manager’s performance can be accurately monitored and reviewed. The guidelines have been developed in consultation with the LGA SA and LGMA. For a copy, visit www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/information/07-52%20Guidelines.pdf.

Tourism Profiles Available for Download
Tourism Research Australia have developed Local Government Tourism Profiles for municipal areas across Australia, containing valuable information for councils. The profiles will be available from the website by the end of November at www.tra.australia.com/.

Change to Threatened Species List Highlights Plight of Tasmanian Devil
The Tasmanian Government has announced that the status of the Tasmanian devil will be changed from ‘vulnerable’ to ‘endangered’, due to declining numbers from the spread of the Devil Facial Tumour Disease. While there will be a reduction in the number of species listed under Tasmania’s Threatened Species Act, the Tasmanian devil is one of 51 species being moved up the list because of increasing vulnerability. Notification of changes to the Threatened Species Schedule will be placed in Tasmanian newspapers.

Australian and International Standards Now Available On-line
Councils can now subscribe to a Standards On-line service, which provides unlimited, 24-hour access from any computer to 7,700 Australian and 34,000 international standards. Standards On-line Select offers a hassle-free way to build and maintain your library of Australian and international standards and is updated daily. For more information, go to www.saiglobal.com/shop, or phone 131 242.

Chartered Secretaries Australia 24th National Conference
From 3 - 5 December, Chartered Secretaries Australia will be holding the 24th National Conference in Melbourne. Experts will discuss and debate the critical issues for governance professionals including climate change and corporate social responsibility, governance regulation and best practice, developments in risk management and more. The program is available at www.CSAust.com/nationalconference.

Engineers Australia Women in Leadership Seminar
A one-day seminar, developed by Women in Engineering and the Centre for Engineering Leadership and Management, will be held on 11 December in Sydney. The seminar will provide the opportunity to network with other professionals from engineering and related industry groups. For further details, visit www.lgma.org.au/national/newsreel.php?display=176.

National Perspective on Climate Change
A comprehensive assessment of Australia’s climate has been jointly released by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO. Climate Change in Australia provides the latest information on observed climate change over Australia and its likely causes, as well as updated projections of changes in temperature, rainfall and other aspects of climate that can be expected over the coming decades. The full report is available at www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au.

Developing Negotiation and Influencing Capacity
An intensive two-day program, that provides the tools to strategically influence and successfully negotiate, will be held on 5-6 December in Hobart. The workshop, coordinated by the Training Consortium, will be facilitated by Frank Kelloway of ENS International. Cost is $1,793 (incl. GST). For details, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>GMC Meeting &amp; PLGC, Launceston</td>
<td>12 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elected Members’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
<td>15-16 March 2008</td>
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