President’s Message

Last week, we had what I considered to be one of the better General Meetings of the Local Government Association, with a number of agenda items provoking good debate. One such discussion concerned a motion put forward by Brighton Council seeking support from members for the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources (DIER) solution to protect the Aboriginal cultural and archaeological significance of the Jordon River levee site, on the proposed route of the Brighton Bypass.

From the information provided at the meeting, DIER has investigated eight separate routes, none of which were found to be practical or feasible alternatives. DIER has also concluded that any changed route could cost double that of the current works and result in an unsafe road. They have demonstrated their preparedness to consult and will implement the recommendations of the archaeologist “that the site be preserved and protected .... in the short-term, measures need to be taken to preclude any development activities that would impact directly on the levee....”

DIER recognise the significance of the site and is determined that it will be protected now and into the future. They are confident that the proposed 70 meter bridge to span the levee area will have no physical impact on the deposit. There is no doubt that this is a very difficult and sensitive issue, however, there is a need to be able to strike a balance between the protection and enhancement of this important archaeological site and the need for improved safety and increased efficiency of the national highway system.

The need for a bypass was identified around 40 years ago, so if there was a need then, the need must be even greater now, given the growth in our population and increased freight demands. I know that not all councils were able to vote in favour of this matter and for very good reasons, however there was a very high level of support for the DIER solution.

I certainly look forward to an early resolution of this matter, resulting in the significant cultural and heritage values identified at the Jordon River levee being protected and work on the bypass continuing without further delay.

Healthy Communities Grants

The Federal Government is calling on Local Governments around Australia to apply for more than $23 million worth of Healthy Communities Grants. The funding has been provided for innovative community based programs that encourage and support people to adopt and sustain healthier lifestyles. Local Governments, consortia of Local Governments and established regional organisations of councils can apply. The funding will begin in April 2011 and run to June 2013. For program guidelines and further information, visit www.healthyactive.gov.au.

2010 Medibank Active Tasmania Awards

Central Coast Council’s Opt-in. Wellbeing the Central Coast Way program has been announced as the Overall Winner of the 2010 Medibank Active Tasmania Awards, receiving $11,000 in prize money. The program is based around the key themes of physical activity, nutrition and social inclusion, and features a range of sporting, recreation, social and lifestyle activities. It provides the opportunity to develop and pilot new and innovative ways of generating healthy behaviour change.

Glenorchy City Council was presented the Local Government – City Award for the Glenorchy Older Adults Participation Partnership Project, and the Encouragement Award was presented to West Coast Council for the Zeehan Skate Park. For full details, visit www.getmoving.tas.gov.au.
Free Public Lecture by Prof Jan Gehl
The Hobart City Council and the University of Tasmania will be hosting a free public lecture with internationally-acclaimed architect and urban designer, Prof Jan Gehl, at the University Centre in Sandy Bay, from 6.15pm – 8.00pm on 1 December. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Earlier this year, the Hobart City Council appointed Gehl Architects, based in Copenhagen, to develop stage one of an Inner City Development Plan for Hobart – a city with people in mind. Prof Gehl will talk about his findings. Bookings are required. RSVP by email to UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au, or phone 6226 2521.

Community Development War Memorial and Maintenance Grants Program 2010-11
The Tasmanian Government is committed to supporting the serving and ex-service community in Tasmania, and recognises the contribution and sacrifice made by individuals who have undertaken operational service or local service as members of the Australian Defence Force. The War Memorial Repair and Maintenance Grants Program has been established to provide funding as a contribution to the cost of repairing and maintaining memorials in Tasmania. Funding will be made available through the program to eligible organisations through a competitive application process. Consideration will be given to providing grants up to $5,000 and funding will be approved on a once-off basis. For further details, visit www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/war_memorial_grants_program.

IPAA Tasmania Lunch with Don Challen
The Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) will be hosting a luncheon from 12.00pm – 2.00pm on 10 December, at the Baha’i Centre of Learning in Hobart, featuring guest speaker Don Challen. In his first presentation since commencing his new career, Don will share his observations based on his 25 years experience in the public sector, including the last 17 years heading the Department of Treasury and Finance. Cost is $65.00 (IPAA members) and $80.00 (non-members). For full details, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au/_security/index.htm.

International Anti-Corruption Day Forum
In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day. Global events raise awareness of corruption and how it can be prevented and addressed. As Tasmania’s newly created agency for enhancing integrity in public administration and preventing misconduct, the Integrity Commission invites you to a one-hour forum being held from 12.30pm on 9 December at the Baha’i Centre in Hobart. The forum, chaired by local identity, Judy Tierney, will feature panel members: Journalist, Sue Neales; University of Tasmania Lecturer in Accounting and Corporate Governance, Tom Baxter; Minister for Corrections and Consumer Protection and Greens Leader, Hon. Nick McKim; and former Attorney General, John Bennett. To register your attendance, please RSVP by 6 December to integritycommission@integrity.tas.gov.au.

Have Your Say on Children’s Services
Organisations and individuals around the state with an interest in the future of services for children, are encouraged to have their say by providing feedback on the Government’s landmark Agenda for Children and Young People which outlines proposed new policy directions across a wide range of areas. The agenda will act as the roadmap for delivering services to all Tasmanian children for the next decade and beyond. The public comment period on the Consultation Paper closes on 1 February 2011. The Consultation Paper for the Agenda for Children and Young People can be found at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/agenda_for_children_and_young_people.

Draft Recovery Plan for Tasmanian Devil
Public comment is being sought on the draft recovery plan for the Tasmanian devil. The recovery plan details the actions identified as necessary for the conservation of the species, and maps out the actions that will be undertaken to assist the species’ ongoing survival. The draft plan, prepared by the State and Commonwealth Governments, has received extensive input from the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, as well as the involvement of a range of other stakeholders. It is available for public comment until 11 February 2011. Copies of the plan and information on making a submission are available at www.DPIPWE.tas.gov.au.

Upcoming Events
General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart 16 December