President’s Message

The State Government’s announcement last week of $5 million, to be distributed to our 29 councils to assist with maintenance of council roads following the very wet winter, was a welcome announcement. It had been highlighted at the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) that councils across the state had sustained significant damage to roads during winter. The fact that the Government took on board our concerns and have now acted, is very positive.

The distribution of the funds, based on the State Grants Commission formula, could raise questions. It could be that those councils which sustained the most damage may not have necessarily received adequate support. Nevertheless, it was a positive move by the Government and a reasonable distribution method given the lack of any other readily available formula.

I am currently attending an Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board Strategic Planning Workshop, reviewing our concerns over the past two years against our 2007 Election Document and 2007-2010 Strategic Plan.

Although there is much still that remains to be achieved, ALGA has had considerable success over the past two years. Importantly, recognition by the Federal Government of having a close working relationship with Local Government is very possible.

Until next time...

New GM for King Island

Mark Goode commenced work as the new General Manager of King Island Council on 8 February. Mr Goode, who grew up in Frankston Victoria, has a Certificate of Civil Engineering, a Diploma of Applied Science, a Masters of Business Management (Administration), and an Honours Degree in Biological Science. He brings to Council a diversity of experience having spent 15 years as with the Country Fire Authority, five years in Civil Design at the Melbourne Water Authority, two years as Director of Planning and Investment at the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, two years as CEO of the Tiwi Island Shire, and as Shire Engineer and Director of Infrastructure at the Northern Grampians Shire. Mr Goode sees many positives in accepting the position at King Island and is looking forward to contributing positively to the community.

$5 Million Funding for Local Roads

Following one of the wettest winters on record in Tasmania, many councils suffered major damage to roads creating a significant burden on maintenance budgets. Some councils also experienced significant damage to road related infrastructure including the loss of bridges. The Local Government Association directly raised council concerns on this issue with the Premier through the Premier’s Local Government Council and requested that funding be allocated to councils suffering significant damage through activation of the Local Government Relief Policy. The Premier’s initial response was that the storm conditions were not severe enough to justify activation of the policy; however he would discuss the matter with the Treasurer.

On 8 February, the State Government announced an immediate once-off fund of $5 million to assist Tasmanian councils to address affected roads in their municipalities. Funding will be distributed using the traditional Commonwealth formula for road funding that takes into account length, type and usage of roads. The $5 million is welcomed by councils across the state although it is clear that the standard distribution does not take into account the fact that some councils suffered significant damage to critical infrastructure which will create ongoing funding challenges. The Association had also requested financial support for those councils whose infrastructure had been impacted significantly by the storm damage late last year. However, follow-up with the Premier’s office subsequent to the announcement of the $5 million indicates that additional funding for storm related damage will not be forthcoming.

2010 Local Government Awards

Nominations are invited for the 2009 Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence. The annual Awards aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement, recognising initiatives that have, or are delivering, a positive result for communities and the Local Government workplace.

Award categories include: Delivering Excellence for our Communities; Delivering Excellence for our People; Delivering Excellence in Natural and Built Environments; and Demonstrating Operational Excellence. Further information and a copy of the Entry Form can be found on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au, under the headings ‘Meetings & Events / Awards for Excellence’. Nominations are due by 5.00pm on Friday, 19 March. For enquiries, please contact LGAT on 6233 5966.
Infrastructure Strategy Launched
On 10 February, Premier, David Bartlett launched Tasmania's first 10-year Infrastructure Strategy, representing more than $6 billion of infrastructure investment over the next decade and beyond. The strategy highlights the state’s key economic infrastructure sectors of transport, telecommunications, energy and water, and builds on major infrastructure reforms such as water and sewerage, irrigation, broadband and land use planning. The strategy has been developed with extensive input from business, community leaders, Local Government, transport, telecommunications, water, energy and other key stakeholders. The Tasmanian Infrastructure Strategy will be continually updated to reflect emerging issues, new priorities and emerging technologies. It is available online at www.infrastructure.tas.gov.au.

Place Making Workshops
Kingsborough Council and Launceston City Council are hosting internationally acclaimed Place Maker and Urban Thinker, David Engwicht, for a series of three workshops on Place Making. The Art of Place Making beyond design explores ten secrets to creating vibrant neighbourhoods, prosperous shopping streets and magical public spaces. Creative Bureaucracies, Creative Places explores nine modes of thinking that will help you think outside the box about your workplace, and the creation of vibrant public places. The Place Making Clinic is an innovative, hands-on process that helps a team from your city deal with a real-world Place Making Challenge in your city. Participants describe David Engwicht’s workshops as ‘profoundly brilliant’ ‘inspirational’ and ‘thought provoking’. For further details, visit www.creative-communities.com.

Step out with Confidence
‘Step out with Confidence’, a learning and networking opportunity for women, will be held from 11-12 March, in Launceston. Speakers include Management Consultant - Annie Guthrie, Brisbane City Council CEO – Jude Munro, and Life/Business Coach – Celia Bray. The event is being coordinated by Local Government Managers Australia in partnership with the Australian Local Government Women’s Association. Full registration costs $500 (LGMA or ALGWA members), or $600 (non-members). For further details, contact Liz Gillam on 0407 485 607, email lizgillam@lgmatas.org.au, or visit http://tas.lgma.org.au/downloads/File/Tasmania/Step%20out%20with%20Confidence%20Registration%20Brochure.pdf.

Road Engineering and Maintenance Conference
The 5th Australian Road Engineering and Maintenance Conference will be held in Melbourne from 16-17 March. Key conference topics include achieving sustainability on road infrastructure projects, road delivery models and contracts, road maintenance practices and management, good paving and sealing practices, landscape design, and cracks treatment and prevention. Best practice Local Government case studies will be a focus of this conference. For a full list of the speakers and their presentations, please see www.halledit.com.au/roads10.

Linking Policy with Service Delivery in Rural & Regional Communities
Linking Policy with Service Delivery in Rural and Regional Communities, to be held in Newcastle from 23-24 March, unites multiple perspectives on the development of appropriate and sustainable policy for effective service delivery in regional and rural communities. It focuses on the Federal Government’s Regional Development Australia (RDA) initiative and its role in securing the future of our regional centres. Local Government representatives are eligible to a discounted rate. For more information, visit www.ruralservicedelivery.com, or call 1300 316 882.

National Environment Conference
The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) will host the National Environment Conference: Transitioning to a climate resilient future from 15-16 April in Melbourne. Developed and hosted by Local Government, the conference will consider climate challenges and opportunities in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and adjustment. Local Government representatives are invited to attend. For further information, go to www.mav.asn.au/enviro2010, or contact Simone Stuckey on (03) 9667 5582.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elected Members’ Weekend Workshop, Launceston</td>
<td>20-21 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting, Brighton</td>
<td>10 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Management Committee Meeting, Brighton</td>
<td>10 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Managers’ Workshop, Hobart</td>
<td>17-18 March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au and write ‘Unsubscribe LGAT Newsletter’ in the subject line.

To subscribe to the newsletter, email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au and write ‘Subscribe LGAT Newsletter’ in the subject line.