President’s Message

You will recall that I was in Canberra for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Strategic Planning Workshop when I provided my piece for the last newsletter, so it is appropriate that I let you know the results of the Board’s deliberations.

Significant progress was made over the two days and it was agreed that the following issues be ALGA’s major priority policy areas for the year:

- Local Government funding;
- Climate change, water and natural resource management;
- Roads, transport and infrastructure;
- Planning reform and urban policy/affordable housing;
- Constitutional reform and cooperative federalism;
- Population;
- Broadband; and
- Local Government internal reform.

This is a significant and ambitious work plan that will require much effort and resourcing.

I continue to be amazed at the capacity of the ALGA staff to respond to challenges and this work program surely is a big challenge. I strongly believe that, with the assistance offered by the state CEO’s and policy officers, the work program will be delivered in a precise and timely manner. Every advantage will be taken to leverage off significant events occurring this year, such as the release of the Henry Tax Review and the Federal Election.

The Board is indebted to the state and territory associations for their willingness to assist in the delivery of the work program and this will certainly result in ALGA being in a strong position to effectively articulate and advocate the Local Government position on these policy areas at the national level.

The work undertaken by the ALGA, with their small secretariat in Canberra, is of immense importance to Local Government across Australia and I doubt there has ever been a time when Local Government has been so strongly recognised and consulted by a Federal Government. ALGA will continue to foster this positive relationship.

Until next time...

Last Chance to Register for the 2010 Local Government Awards

Don’t miss the opportunity to showcase the good work and special achievements of your Council by nominating one or more projects for the 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence.

Award categories include: Delivering Excellence for our Communities; Delivering Excellence for our People; Delivering Excellence in Natural and Built Environments; and Demonstrating Operational Excellence. The winners will be announced at the Local Government Conference dinner, on 13 May.

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 phone LGAT on 6233 5966.

$100 Million for NBN Tasmania

The Federal Government has announced an equity injection of $100 million into NBN Tasmania, to facilitate the further roll out of fibre-to-the-home broadband in the state. Stage 3 of the National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout will provide superfast broadband via optic fibre to 90,000 premises in the major population centres of Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. The service will result in better education opportunities and enhanced access to health services for Tasmanian families. Community information forums will soon be held in these areas for residents.

Communicating with Communities Workshops

Council marketing and communications staff are invited to attend a complimentary Communicating with Communities information session, hosted by Australia Post. This two-hour session will showcase new communication solutions developed for the sector to: improve communication reach, recognition and recall; consolidate communications; and reduce environmental impact. The workshops will be held in Hobart (24 March) and in Launceston (25 March). For further information, contact Tim Quinn on 6236 3596, or email Tim.Quinn@auspost.com.au. To register, RSVP to Lisa.Free@auspost.com.au.
Make the Switch
From 8.30pm, on 27 March, communities across the globe are encouraged to support Earth Hour by turning off private and public lights for one hour to show how we can work together to help address climate change. This year, the message is *Earth Hour, Every Hour*, reminding us that we need to switch to a sustainable lifestyle, every hour of the day. In 2009, over 4,000 towns in 88 countries participated in Earth Hour, an initiative of WWF Australia. To sign up for Earth Hour 2010, head to www.earthhour.org.au.

Home Energy Audit Toolkit
If you would like to know how to reduce your household’s energy costs and understand how your home uses energy, you can now borrow, free of charge, a Home Energy Audit Toolkit from a participating council. The Home Energy Audit Toolkits (HEAT) have been developed through the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority’s Regional Climate Change Initiative by Hobart City Council. Kits are available for loan from Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman and Launceston City Councils.

Bold Ideas Better Lives Challenge
Got a great idea for creating better lives for people in Australia? Want access to amazing mentors and a bucket of cash (up to $1 million) to get your idea off the ground? The Australian Centre for Social Innovation is offering the chance to turn your big idea into big impact. The program will support up to 10 projects that show the best and brightest ideas in social innovation across Australia. Ideas could deal with anything from healthcare to education, climate change to the internet, but must address a social need faced by communities in Australia. Applications close on 23 April. Get more information at www.tacsi.org.au/challenge, or contact Erin Green at challenge@tacsi.org.au.

International Women’s Day 2010
The 8 March is International Women’s Day - a day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. Individuals, community groups and organisations throughout Tasmania mark the occasion by hosting International Women’s Day events. To see events and activities being hosted in your area, visit www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/women, or contact Women Tasmania on 6232 7052.

Fox Eradication Program Public Information Sessions
Landowners south of Hobart are welcome to attend one of a number of Fox Eradication Program public information sessions to be held in the state’s south. Based on the evidence, a number of areas around the state will be targeted as part of a fox baiting program. Communities in these areas have the opportunity to hear the latest information, provide input and ask questions. The Community Information Sessions will be held from 7.30-9.00pm at: **Southport:** Southport Community Centre - 15 March; **Dover:** Esperance Multipurpose Centre - 16 March; **Geeveston:** Geeveston Community Hall - 17 March; and **Franklin:** Palais Theatre - 18 March. An additional session will be held from 4.00pm – 5.30pm at **Huonville:** Huonville Town Hall on 20 March. All fox sightings and possible evidence of fox activity should be reported to the 24-hour fox hotline on 1300 369 688. For further information, visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fox.

Free Power Sponsorship Workshop
Local Government event organisers are encouraged to attend a free workshop presented by internationally acclaimed presenter, Kim Skildum-Reid, on how to maintain and grow your event’s sponsorship revenue during tough economic times. The workshops, coordinated by Events Tasmania, will be held in Launceston (16 March), and in Hobart (17 March). For further information, visit the Event Development Program at www.eventstasmania.com, email Alan.Rider@events.tas.gov.au, or phone 62335709.

Communication Revolution
Communication Revolution, to be held in Melbourne from 15-16 April, will focus on the challenges faced by communications professionals in proactively responding to changes in the global market, the evolution of the PR role and how communications must lead the way in crisis mitigation, reputation management, internal communication and dealing with the media. For more information, visit www.marcusevansassets.com/doc/pdfs/Ep_16059.pdf.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting and GMC Meeting, Brighton</td>
<td>10 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Managers’ Workshop, Hobart</td>
<td>17-18 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM, General Meeting, GMC Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>12 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Conference, Hobart</td>
<td>12-14 May</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.